

NAME

rm – remove files or directories

SYNOPSIS

rm [*OPTION*]... [*FILE*]...

DESCRIPTION

This manual page documents the GNU version of **rm**. **rm** removes each specified file. By default, it does not remove directories.

If the *-I* or *--interactive=once* option is given, and there are more than three files or the *-r*, *-R*, or *--recursive* are given, then **rm** prompts the user for whether to proceed with the entire operation. If the response is not affirmative, the entire command is aborted.

Otherwise, if a file is unwritable, standard input is a terminal, and the *-f* or *--force* option is not given, or the *-i* or *--interactive=always* option is given, **rm** prompts the user for whether to remove the file. If the response is not affirmative, the file is skipped.

OPTIONS

Remove (unlink) the FILE(s).

-f, --force

ignore nonexistent files and arguments, never prompt

-i prompt before every removal**-I** prompt once before removing more than three files, or when removing recursively; less intrusive than **-i**, while still giving protection against most mistakes**--interactive[=WHEN]**

prompt according to WHEN: never, once (**-I**), or always (**-i**); without WHEN, prompt always

--one-file-system

when removing a hierarchy recursively, skip any directory that is on a file system different from that of the corresponding command line argument

--no-preserve-root

do not treat */* specially

--preserve-root[=all]

do not remove */* (default); with *'all'*, reject any command line argument on a separate device from its parent

-r, -R, --recursive

remove directories and their contents recursively

-d, --dir

remove empty directories

-v, --verbose

explain what is being done

--help display this help and exit**--version**

output version information and exit

By default, **rm** does not remove directories. Use the **--recursive** (**-r** or **-R**) option to remove each listed directory, too, along with all of its contents.

To remove a file whose name starts with a *'-'*, for example *'-foo'*, use one of these commands:

```
rm -- -foo
```

```
rm ./-foo
```

Note that if you use **rm** to remove a file, it might be possible to recover some of its contents, given sufficient expertise and/or time. For greater assurance that the contents are truly unrecoverable, consider using **shred**.

AUTHOR

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REPORTING BUGS

GNU coreutils online help: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>>

Report rm translation bugs to <<https://translationproject.org/team/>>

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SEE ALSO

[unlink\(1\)](#), [unlink\(2\)](#), [chattr\(1\)](#), [shred\(1\)](#)

Full documentation at: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/rm>>
or available locally via: info '(coreutils) rm invocation'