

Can't uninstall Bitdefender Antivirus for Mac? Here's what to do

If you encounter errors while trying to uninstall Bitdefender Antivirus for Mac or if the file /Library/Bitdefender/Central/Agent/Bitdefender Uninstaller.app is missing on your Mac, this article will help you resolve the issue. Uninstalling a program from a Windows system can be an easy step for many users (beginner or expert level), but things can be a little different on a Mac. Regardless of your reason for wanting to delete Bitdefender from your system, we'll show you exactly how to successfully uninstall it.

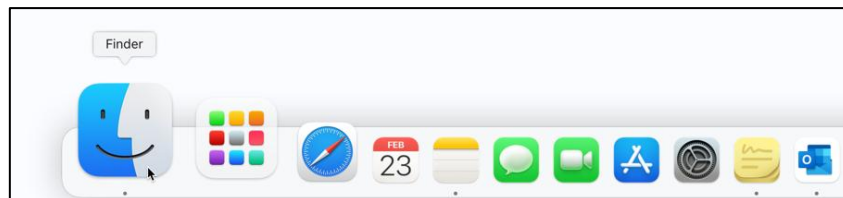
① **Note:** Before proceeding with the instructions below, make sure to read and follow first the steps from this article – [How to uninstall Bitdefender Antivirus for Mac](#).

Uninstall Bitdefender Antivirus for Mac – 2 methods to help you complete the process

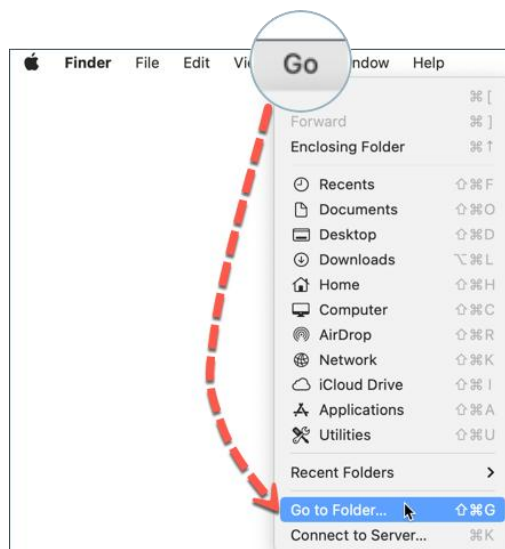
If you can't uninstall the Bitdefender antivirus app from your Mac, try one of the following uninstall methods:

Uninstall method 1 - Difficulty level: Easy

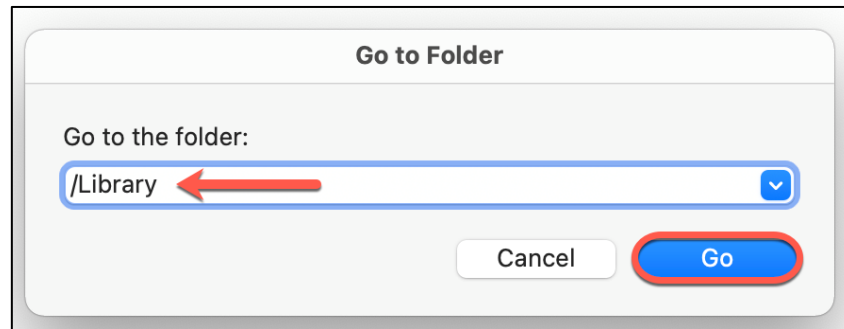
1. Click on an empty area of your desktop or click the Finder icon  in the Dock. Finder is the icon that looks like a blue square with a smiley face.



2. Next, click **Go** at the top left of the screen, on the menu bar, and select **Go to Folder...** from the menu.

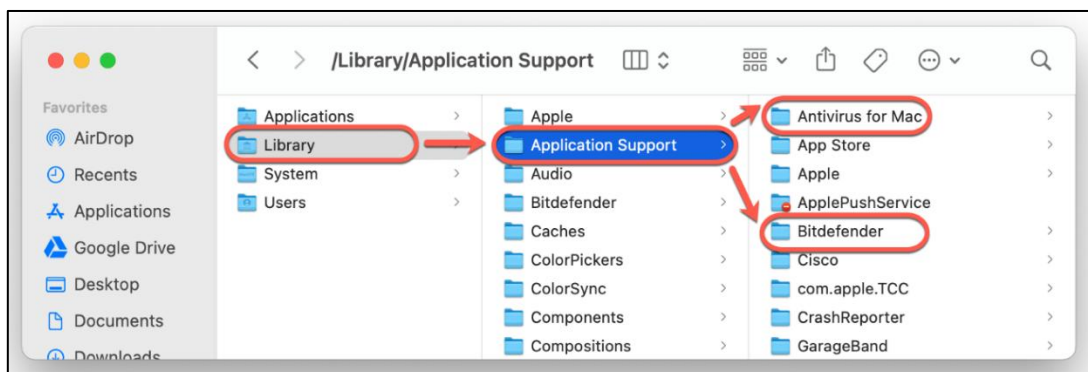


3. Type in **/Library** and click **Go** or press **Enter/Return** on your keyboard. The Library folder will open.

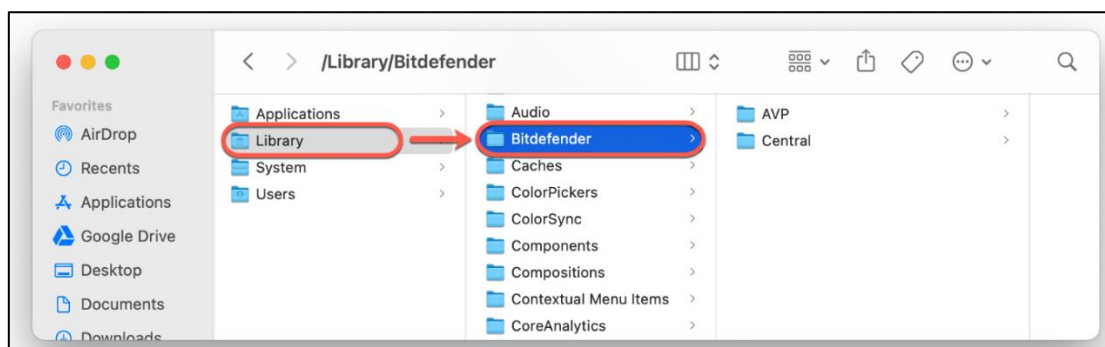


Note:

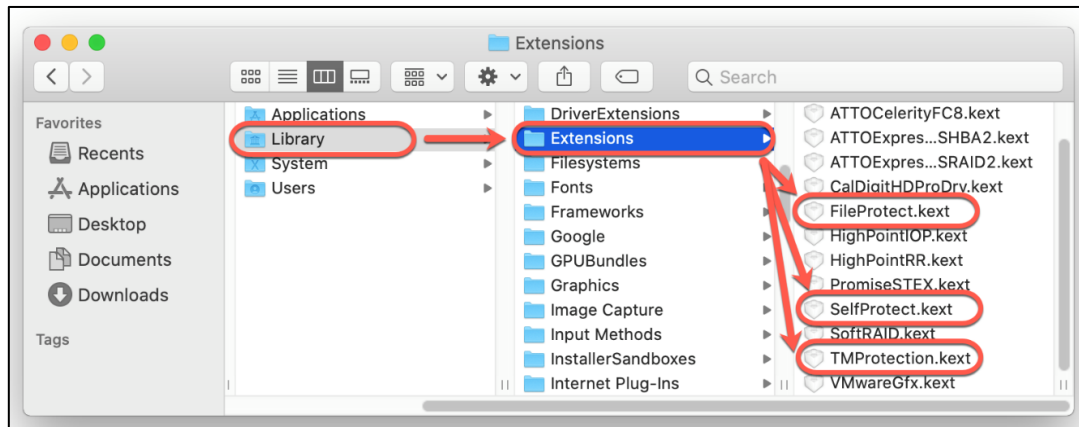
- If some Bitdefender files and folders we are going to mention below no longer exist on your Mac, only delete the ones still available.
 - If you encounter errors while trying to delete any of these Bitdefender items, continue with the [Uninstall method 2](#).
4. Inside the Library folder, open **Application Support** and delete **Antivirus for Mac** and **Bitdefender**, highlighted in the image below.



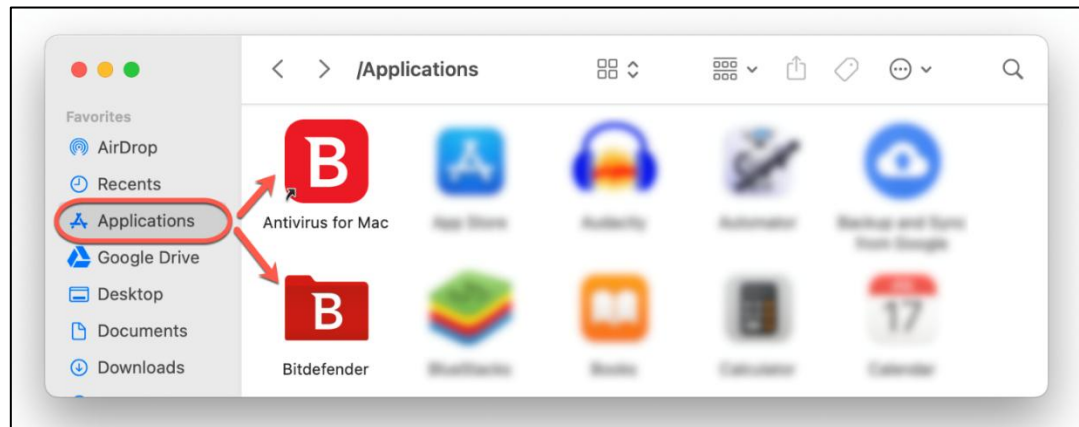
5. Go back to the **Library** folder and delete the **Bitdefender** folder.



6. While still inside the Library folder, open the **Extensions** folder and delete these three files: **FileProtect.kext**, **SelfProtect.kext** and **TMProtection.kext**.



7. Next, open the **Applications** folder and delete **Antivirus for Mac** and **Bitdefender** folder.



That's it! You've successfully removed Bitdefender Antivirus for Mac.

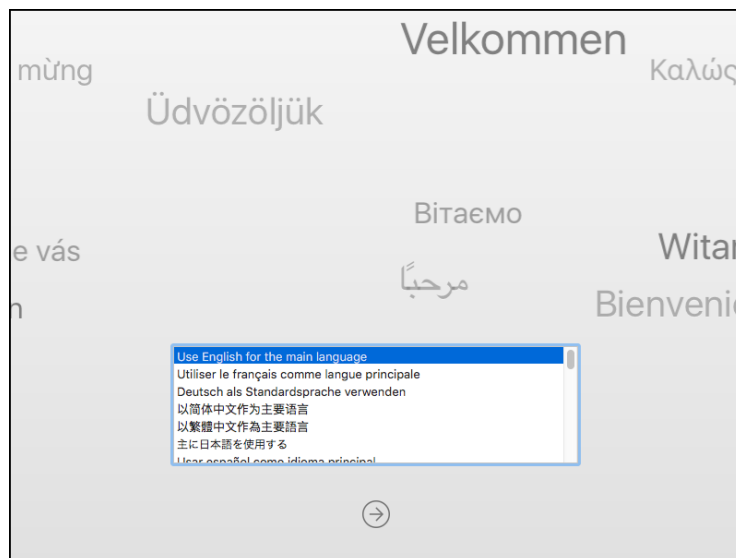
Uninstall method 2 - Difficulty level: Medium

① **Note:** The steps below work only on macOS Catalina 10.15 and older macOS versions. [Find out which macOS your Mac is using](#). On Big Sur 11.5 and more recent macOS versions, please use the [first uninstall method](#).

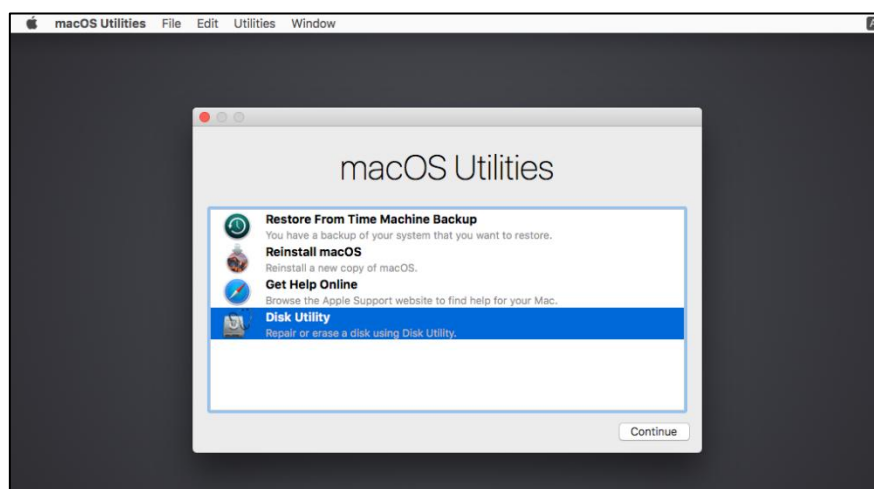
If you have a backup disk, we recommend you make a fresh backup before proceeding any further. Check out this article for more details – [How to back up your Mac with Time Machine](#)

VIDEO – How to remove Bitdefender Antivirus for Mac when it fails to uninstall

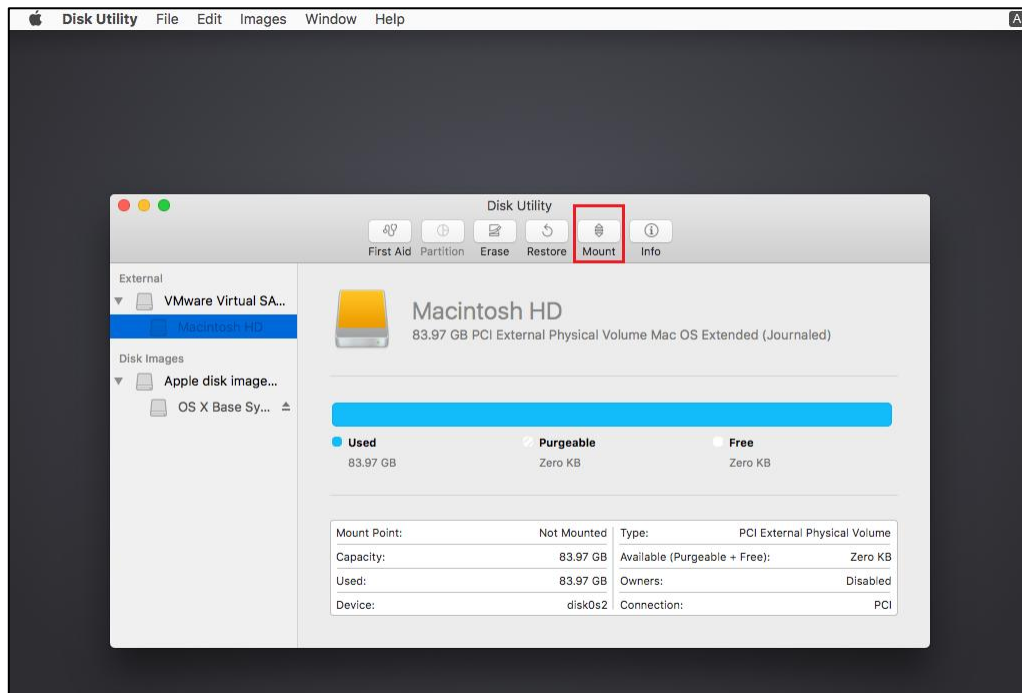
1. Restart your Mac and press **Command (⌘)-R** during the restart until you see the Apple logo. In some cases, you will be prompted to choose the language. Choose your desired language and click on the arrow at the bottom to continue.



2. The **Utilities** window will be displayed (this example is for Sierra OS, but it looks very similar to the previous OS versions).



3. Select **Disk Utility** and then click on **Continue**
4. Select your startup disk (in the example Macintosh HD):
 - If it's already mounted, you will see the **Unmount** option. In this case, proceed with step 5.
 - If it's not mounted, click on **Mount**. If it's locked by FileVault, you will be prompted for your administrator password to unlock it. Enter the same password you use at Mac login.



5. Quit **Disk Utility** to return to the **Utilities** window: click on Disk Utility in the menu bar (next to the Apple logo) and select **Quit Disk Utility** or simply close the window.
6. In the menu bar click on **Utilities** and select **Terminal**.



7. In the Terminal window type the following set of commands.

① **Warning:** Make sure you type the commands exactly as you see them below. Failure to do so may result in data loss.

Press Return/Enter on your keyboard after entering each command line:

```
LS /Volumes/
cd /Volumes/Macintosh\ HD/Library/Extensions/
LS
rm -rf SelfProtect.kext
LS
cd /Volumes/Macintosh\ HD/Library/
LS
rm -rf Bitdefender
LS
```

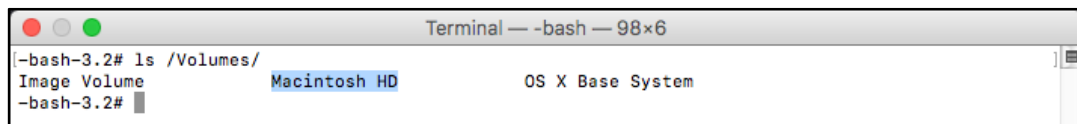
That's it! Bitdefender Antivirus for Mac has been successfully removed. You can now restart macOS in normal mode. To do that, click on the Apple logo in the top menu bar and choose **Restart**.

Below you can find detailed information about what each command in the set does.

- a) First, we want to use the “**ls**” command from LIST (you can use lower letters for this command, as you can see in the screenshots below) to make sure the startup disk (Macintosh HD) is mounted. So, we type (there is a space after the “ls” command):

```
ls /Volumes/
```

and press Return. This will display all the mounted volumes like in the picture below. If you see your startup disk (Macintosh HD) you may continue with step b). Otherwise, it is possible that you haven’t mounted the startup disk. In this case, quit the Terminal window, go back to **Disk Utility** and mount the disk. You may also run a **First Aid** to fix any potential disk errors.



Quick Tip! Type the first characters of the argument (in this case, **/Volumes/**) and then press the **TAB** key on your keyboard. This will auto-complete the name of the argument. For the example above type **ls /Vol** and then press **TAB**.

- b) Now let’s see if we have the **SelfProtect.kext** extension in the **Extensions** folder. We will use the same “**ls**” command.

① **Note:** You can notice that after Macintosh we put a back slash “\” and a space followed by HD. This is because the startup disk name has two words. If the startup disk name had one word, we would use the forward slash “/” and no spaces. For example, if the name was **MacintoshHD**, the command would be:

```
cd /Volumes/Macintosh\ HD/Library/Extensions/  
ls
```

① **Note:** Remember to use the auto-complete function (**TAB** key) for each directory name in the command string. It will help you avoid typos.

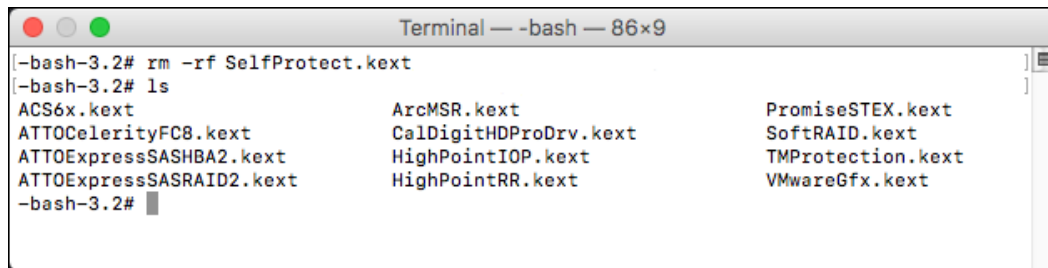
- c) If **SelfProtect.kext** is present, the next step is to delete it. To do that we will use the “**rm -rf**” command (from REMOVE). We will enter the command below:

```
rm -rf SelfProtect.kext
```

Now let’s check if the file was deleted. Use the command below.

```
ls
```

① **Quick Tip!** Use the Up arrow to use the previous command (navigate through the history of commands) and the Down arrow if you wish to go back to the latest commands. Use the Left and Right arrows to navigate to the left or right of the command line.



```
Terminal — -bash — 86x9
[-bash-3.2# rm -rf SelfProtect.kext
[-bash-3.2# ls
ACS6x.kext          ArcMSR.kext         PromiseSTEX.kext
ATTOCelerityFC8.kext  CalDigitHDPProDrv.kext  SoftRAID.kext
ATTOExpressSASHBA2.kext  HighPointIOP.kext    TMPProtection.kext
ATTOExpressSASRAID2.kext  HighPointRR.kext     VMwareGfx.kext
-bash-3.2#
```

- d) The **SelfProtect** extension was removed, and we can move to the next step: check if you have the Bitdefender folder and remove it. Let's try all the commands at once (you still have to press Return/Enter after each one).

```
cd /Volumes/Macintosh\ HD/Library/
```

```
ls
```

```
rm -rf Bitdefender
```

```
ls
```

- e) The Bitdefender folder has been removed. You can now restart in normal mode. To do that, click on the Apple logo in the menu bar and select **Restart**.
After completing the steps in this guide, Bitdefender Antivirus for Mac will be uninstalled on your device.

If you want to keep the Bitdefender Antivirus for Mac subscription, and you only need guidance to reinstall the app follow the steps from this article – [How to install Bitdefender Antivirus for Mac](#).