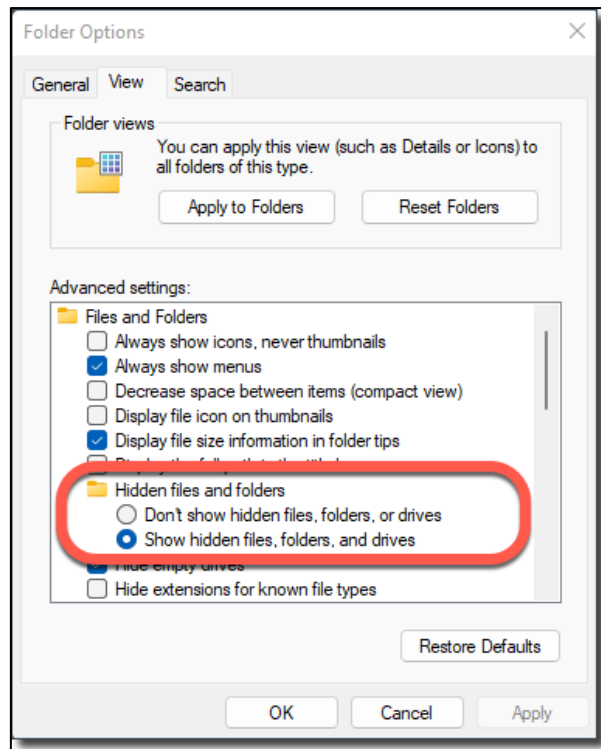


Show Hidden Files and Folders is missing or deselects itself in Windows

If you find that in your windows computer the “Show hidden files, folders, and drives” option is either missing or unchecks itself every time you try to check it in the Folder Options dialog box, then here are a few steps you can try to enable it.



What is causing the “Show hidden files and folders” option to stop working?

When attacking computers, certain types of cyber threats disable the system’s ability to display hidden items to better camouflage themselves on Windows. This is why even if you go into your folder options, access the View tab, and select the “Show hidden files, folders, and drives” radio button, the changes reset upon closing the dialog box.

Solution

Step 1 – Scan your PC for malware

If the “Show hidden files, folders, and drives” option does not work, the first and easiest solution is to check if your computer has a virus.

To scan your Windows PC for malware with Bitdefender, click the [System Scan](#) pane in the middle of the interface.

Step 2 – Restart the computer

Some disinfection routines performed by Bitdefender require a restart to complete. Therefore, if the hidden files settings are still missing after a Bitdefender scan, please restart your PC to make your hidden files visible again.

Click the Windows **Start**  menu, click the  power button, and then select **Restart**.

Step 3 – Show hidden files, folders, and drives

If, for some reason, scanning and rebooting does not fix the problem, follow the instructions below to [display hidden files and folders in Windows](#):

For **Windows 10, Windows 11**

- Click on the Windows  menu on your taskbar at the bottom of the screen and type **folder**.
- Select **File Explorer Options** from the search results.
- Select the **View** tab.
- Under **Hidden files and folders**, select **Show hidden files, folders, and drives**. Then click **Apply**.

For **Windows 8, Windows 8.1**

- Point to the upper-right corner of the screen, move the mouse pointer down, and then select **Search**.
- Type **folder** in the search box and select **Folder Options** from the search results.
- Select the **View** tab.
- Under **Advanced settings**, select **Show hidden files, folders, and drives**, then click **Apply**.

For **Windows 7**

- Click the Windows 7 **Start**  button, then select **Control Panel**.
- Click on **Appearance and Personalization**.
- Select **Folder Options**, then select the **View** tab.
- Under **Advanced settings**, select **Show hidden files, folders, and drives**, then click **Apply**.