

Duplicate Finder

Review identical files before removing unwanted copies.

Identical names are not identical content

Duplicate Finder compares file contents to identify exact copies. Photos that look similar but have different saved content may not be grouped as duplicates. Always check which file will be kept before cleanup.

Step by step

1. Select a local folder in the scan area. Begin with a small test folder containing copies of sample files.
2. Adjust size, extension and excluded-folder filters if needed. A restrictive filter can leave files outside the scan.
3. Start scanning and check result and error counts. Do not assume every file was scanned if access errors are reported.
4. Review each group in Results. Compare paths, sizes and dates.
5. Mark the file you want to retain as KEEP. Exclude any group you are unsure about; keep multiple copies if needed.
6. Read the cleanup confirmation and review both retained and selected copies. Start cleanup only after checking the selection.
7. Check History and the remaining files. Do not empty Windows Recycle Bin until you are satisfied with the result.

Example: Two copies of a downloaded PDF

If the same PDF appears in Downloads and an archive subfolder, decide which location is permanent. You might retain the archive copy and select the temporary download copy. Do not accept a suggested selection without reviewing its paths.

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Recovery and unexpected results

Where do removed copies go?

The confirmed source workflow sends selected copies to Windows Recycle Bin rather than permanently deleting them. Recovery depends on Windows settings, later actions and whether the bin has been emptied. This is not a replacement for a backup.

If you selected the wrong copy

1. Stop any new cleanup and review the completed operation in History.
2. If the installed version provides Undo, read its scope first. Otherwise locate the file in Windows Recycle Bin and use Restore.
3. Open the restored location. If another file has the same name, do not overwrite it without comparing both copies.
4. If Recycle Bin was emptied, do not assume the app can recover the file. Check your backups.

Problem and solution

1. No duplicates found: Files may be similar rather than identical. Check scan scope and filters.
2. Files skipped: Access restrictions, open files or changes during scanning may prevent processing. Read error details.
3. Group skipped during cleanup: A retained file or selected copy may have changed. Rescan and review the new result.
4. Cleanup unavailable on USB/network storage: The source version has safe-cleanup restrictions for removable and network locations. Do not try to force the operation by changing permissions.

Final check

Verify that at least one correct file remains in each group. Reported reclaimable space may differ from immediately free disk space because removed files can still occupy Recycle Bin.

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Reference: supplied Studio v0.3.25 source bundle and module interfaces. Some labels/options may differ in your installed version. Check Microsoft Store for current prices and license terms.