**How to Rebuild the Icon Cache in Windows 10**

***information   Information***

The icons that display for files in Windows are saved in an icon cache so they can be displayed quickly instead of having to manually scan and slowly load them each time.  
  
The icon cache can sometimes become corrupted causing the icons of files to display incorrectly or distorted. When this happens, the icon cache needs to be deleted to reset and automatically recreate it.  
  
This tutorial will show you how to **rebuild the icon cache** to clear and reset it for your account in **Windows 10**.

***Note   Note***

**Rebuilding the icon cache will not help with the following icon issues:**

* + The icon of a shortcut not displaying properly due to the target source of the shortcut was moved or deleted. You may need to recreate a new shortcut directly from the source (ex: program's exe) file to replace it instead.
  + All icons for a specific file extension display the wrong icon. This may be due to setting the wrong association for what app to open the file type instead. If so, restoring the default association of the file extension will fix this issue.
  + Thumbnails of folders, pictures, videos, and documents.

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**Icon Cache - Rebuild in Windows 10OPTION ONE Icon Cache - Rebuild in Windows 10**

**To Rebuild the Icon Cache using a BAT file**

**1.** Click/tap on the download button below to download the file below.

**Rebuild\_Icon\_Cache.bat**  
  
[download](https://www.tenforums.com/attachments/tutorials/86123d1466514454-icon-cache-rebuild-windows-10-a-rebuild_icon_cache.bat)

**2.** Save the .bat file to your desktop.  
  
**3.** Close and save anything that you are working on before proceeding. The next steps will involve killing explorer and restarting the PC.  
  
**4.** Run the .bat file.  
  
**5.** If prompted, click/tap on **Run** to approve. If you like, you can [**unblock**](https://www.tenforums.com/tutorials/5357-unblock-file-window-10-a.html) the .bat file to no longer get the Run (Open File - Security Warning) prompt. (see screenshot below)

Name:  Run_Open_File_Security_Warning.png
Views: 139790
Size:  23.6 KB

**6.** Follow the instructions in the command prompt to rebuild the icon cache. If you do not **restart the PC** now, you will need to later to finish rebuilding the icon cache. (see screenshots below)

[Click image for larger version. 

Name: Rebuild_icon_cache_command-1.png 
Views: 1930 
Size: 28.0 KB 
ID: 17857](https://www.tenforums.com/attachments/tutorials/17857d1430190592-icon-cache-rebuild-windows-10-a-rebuild_icon_cache_command-1.png)  
[Click image for larger version. 

Name: Rebuild_icon_cache_command-2.png 
Views: 782 
Size: 22.9 KB 
ID: 17858](https://www.tenforums.com/attachments/tutorials/17858d1430190592-icon-cache-rebuild-windows-10-a-rebuild_icon_cache_command-2.png)

**7.** If the icons are still not displaying properly after rebuilding the icon cache, then download and merge the .reg file for the **.ico** (ICO) option [**here**](http://www.eightforums.com/tutorials/8486-default-file-associations-restore-windows-8-a.html) to restore the default associations of .ico (icon) files in Windows 10.

**Icon Cache - Rebuild in Windows 10OPTION TWO Icon Cache - Rebuild in Windows 10**

**To Rebuild the Icon Cache in the Command Prompt**

**1.** Close and save anything that you are working on before proceeding. The next steps will involve killing explorer and restarting the PC.  
  
**2.** Open a [**command prompt**](https://www.tenforums.com/tutorials/3288-command-prompt-open-windows-10-a.html).  
  
**3.** Copy and paste each command below one at a time into the command prompt, and press **Enter** after each command.

***warning   Warning***

The last command will instantly restart the PC.

https://cdn.tenforums.com/images/smilies/arrow.png**ie4uinit.exe -show**   
  
https://cdn.tenforums.com/images/smilies/arrow.png**taskkill /IM explorer.exe /F**   
  
https://cdn.tenforums.com/images/smilies/arrow.png**DEL /A /Q "%localappdata%\IconCache.db"**   
  
https://cdn.tenforums.com/images/smilies/arrow.png**DEL /A /F /Q "%localappdata%\Microsoft\Windows\Explorer\iconcache\*"**  
  
https://cdn.tenforums.com/images/smilies/arrow.png**shutdown /r /f /t 00**

**4.** If the icons are still not displaying properly after rebuilding the icon cache, then download and merge the .reg file for the **.ico** (ICO) option [**here**](http://www.eightforums.com/tutorials/8486-default-file-associations-restore-windows-8-a.html) to restore the default associations of .ico (icon) files in Windows 10.