



Windows PowerShell Get-Help on Cmdlet 'Clear-Item'

PS:\>Get-HELP Clear-Item -Full

NAME

Clear-Item

SYNOPSIS

Clears the contents of an item, but does not delete the item.

SYNTAX

```
Clear-Item [-Credential <System.Management.Automation.PSCredential>] [-Exclude <System.String[]>] [-Filter  
<System.String>] [-Force] [-Include <System.String[]>]
```

```
-LiteralPath <System.String[]> [-UseTransaction] [-Confirm] [-WhatIf] [<CommonParameters>]
```

```
Clear-Item [-Path] <System.String[]> [-Credential <System.Management.Automation.PSCredential>] [-Exclude  
<System.String[]>] [-Filter <System.String>] [-Force]
```

```
[-Include <System.String[]>] [-UseTransaction] [-Confirm] [-WhatIf] [<CommonParameters>]
```

DESCRIPTION

The `Clear-Item` cmdlet clears the content of an item, but it does not delete the item. For example, the `Clear-Item` cmdlet can delete the value of a variable, but

it does not delete the variable. The value that used to represent a cleared item is defined by each PowerShell provider. This cmdlet is similar to ``Clear-Content``, but it works on aliases and variables, instead of files.

PARAMETERS

`-Credential <System.Management.Automation.PSCredential>`

> [!NOTE] > This parameter is not supported by any providers installed with PowerShell. > To impersonate another user, or elevate your credentials when running this cmdlet, > use `Invoke-Command` (`../Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/Invoke-Command.md`).

Required?	false
Position?	named
Default value	Current user
Accept pipeline input?	True (ByPropertyName)
Accept wildcard characters?	false

`-Exclude <System.String[]>`

Specifies, as a string array, an item or items that this cmdlet excludes in the operation. The value of this parameter qualifies the `Path` parameter. Enter a path element or pattern, such as `` .txt``. Wildcard characters are permitted. The `Exclude *` parameter is effective only when the command includes the contents of an item, such as ``C:\Windows*``, where the wildcard character specifies the contents of the ``C:\Windows`` directory.

Required?	false
Position?	named
Default value	None
Accept pipeline input?	False
Accept wildcard characters?	true

`-Filter <System.String>`

Specifies a filter to qualify the `Path` parameter. The `FileSystem` (`../Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/About/about_FileSystem_Provider.md`) provider is the only installed

PowerShell provider that supports the use of filters. You can find the syntax for the FileSystem filter language in [about_Wildcards](#)

(../Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/About/about_Wildcards.md). Filters are more efficient than other parameters, because the provider applies them when the cmdlet gets

the objects rather than having PowerShell filter the objects after they are retrieved.

Required?	false
Position?	named
Default value	None
Accept pipeline input?	False
Accept wildcard characters?	true

-Force <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

Indicates that the cmdlet clears items that cannot otherwise be changed, such as read-only aliases. The cmdlet cannot clear constants. Implementation varies from

provider to provider. For more information, see [about_Providers](#) (../Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/About/about_Providers.md). The cmdlet cannot override security restrictions, even when the Force parameter is used.

Required?	false
Position?	named
Default value	False
Accept pipeline input?	False
Accept wildcard characters?	false

-Include <System.String[]>

Specifies, as a string array, an item or items that this cmdlet includes in the operation. The value of this parameter qualifies the Path parameter. Enter a path

element or pattern, such as ``" .txt"`. Wildcard characters are permitted. The Include * parameter is effective only when the command includes the contents of an

item, such as ``C:\Windows*`, where the wildcard character specifies the contents of the ``C:\Windows`` directory.

Required?	false
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Position?	named
Default value	None
Accept pipeline input?	False
Accept wildcard characters?	true

-LiteralPath <System.String[]>

Specifies a path to one or more locations. The value of LiteralPath is used exactly as it is typed. No characters are interpreted as wildcards. If the path

includes escape characters, enclose it in single quotation marks. Single quotation marks tell PowerShell not to interpret any characters as escape sequences.

For more information, see [about_Quoting_Rules](#) (../Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/About/about_Quoting_Rules.md).

Required?	true
Position?	named
Default value	None
Accept pipeline input?	True (ByPropertyName)
Accept wildcard characters?	false

-Path <System.String[]>

Specifies the path to the items being cleared. Wildcard characters are permitted. This parameter is required, but the parameter name Path is optional.

Required?	true
Position?	0
Default value	None
Accept pipeline input?	True (ByPropertyName, ByValue)
Accept wildcard characters?	true

-UseTransaction <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

Includes the command in the active transaction. This parameter is valid only when a transaction is in progress. For more information, see [about_Transactions](#)

(../Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/About/about_Transactions.md).

Required? false
Position? named
Default value False
Accept pipeline input? False
Accept wildcard characters? false

-Confirm <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

Prompts you for confirmation before running the cmdlet.

Required? false
Position? named
Default value False
Accept pipeline input? False
Accept wildcard characters? false

-WhatIf <System.Management.Automation.SwitchParameter>

Shows what would happen if the cmdlet runs. The cmdlet is not run.

Required? false
Position? named
Default value False
Accept pipeline input? False
Accept wildcard characters? false

<CommonParameters>

This cmdlet supports the common parameters: Verbose, Debug, ErrorAction, ErrorVariable, WarningAction, WarningVariable, OutBuffer, PipelineVariable, and OutVariable. For more information, see [about_CommonParameters \(https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=113216\)](https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=113216).

INPUTS

System.String

You can pipe a path string to this cmdlet.

OUTPUTS

None

This cmdlet returns no output.

NOTES

Windows PowerShell includes the following aliases for ``Clear-Item``:

- ``cli``

- The ``Clear-Item`` cmdlet is supported only by several PowerShell providers, including the Alias , Environment , Function , Registry , and Variable providers. As

such, you can use ``Clear-Item`` to delete the content of items in the provider namespaces. To list the providers available in your session, type

``Get-PsProvider``. For more information, see `about_Providers` (`../Microsoft.PowerShell.Core/About/about_Providers.md`). - You cannot use ``Clear-Item`` to delete the

contents of a file, because the PowerShell FileSystem provider does not support this cmdlet. To clear files, use the ``Clear-Content``.

----- Example 1: Clear the value of a variable -----

```
Clear-Item Variable:TestVar1
```

```
Set-Location Variable:
```

```
PS Variable:\> Clear-Item TestVar1
```

----- Example 2: Clear all registry entries -----

Clear-Item HKLM:\Software\MyCompany\MyKey -Confirm

RELATED LINKS

Online

Version:

https://learn.microsoft.com/powershell/module/microsoft.powershell.management/clear-item?view=powershell-5.1&WT.mc_i

[d=ps-gethelp](#)

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[Get-Item](#)

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[about_Providers](#)