

# Find Cheatsheet

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## Quick reference for common Linux find command patterns

Find searches for files and directories based on name, type, size, time, and permissions. This cheatsheet covers practical find patterns for everyday Linux administration.

### Basic Search

Find files and directories by name.

<code>find . -name "file.txt"</code>	Find an exact filename
<code>find . -iname "readme.md"</code>	Case-insensitive name search
<code>find /etc -name "*.conf"</code>	Find by extension
<code>find . -type d -name "backup"</code>	Find directories by name

### Filter by Type

Limit results to file system object type.

<code>find . -type f</code>	Regular files only
<code>find . -type d</code>	Directories only
<code>find . -type l</code>	Symlinks only
<code>find . -type f -name "*.log"</code>	Files with a specific extension
<code>find . -maxdepth 1 -type f</code>	Search current directory only
<code>find . -type f -empty</code>	Find empty files
<code>find . -type d -empty</code>	Find empty directories

### Size Filters

Find files by size.

<code>find . -type f -size +100M</code>	Larger than 100 MB
<code>find . -type f -size -10M</code>	Smaller than 10 MB
<code>find . -type f -size 1G</code>	Exactly 1 GB
<code>find /var -type f -size +500M</code>	Large files under /var

## Time Filters

Filter by file modification, access, and change times.

<code>find . -type f -mtime -7</code>	Modified in last 7 days
<code>find . -type f -mtime +30</code>	Modified more than 30 days ago
<code>find . -type f -atime -1</code>	Accessed in last 24 hours
<code>find . -type f -ctime -3</code>	Metadata changed in last 3 days
<code>find . -type f -mmin -60</code>	Modified in last 60 minutes

## Permissions and Ownership

Find files based on permissions and owners.

<code>find . -type f -perm 644</code>	Exact permission match
<code>find . -type f -perm -u+w</code>	User-writable files
<code>find / -type f -user root</code>	Files owned by user
<code>find /srv -type f -group www-data</code>	Files owned by group

## Excluding Paths

Skip directories from search results.

<code>find . -path ./node_modules -prune -o -type f -print</code>	Exclude one directory
<code>find . \( -path ./node_modules -o -path ./git \) -prune -o -type f -print</code>	Exclude multiple directories
<code>find . -type f ! -name "*.log"</code>	Exclude one filename pattern
<code>find . -type f ! -path "*/cache/*"</code>	Exclude by path pattern

## Actions ( `-exec` , `-delete` )

Run commands on matched files.

<code>find . -type f -name "*.tmp" -delete</code>	Delete matches
<code>find . -type f -name "*.log" -exec gzip {} \;</code>	Run command per file
<code>find . -type f -name "*.jpg" -exec mv {} /tmp/images/ \;</code>	Move matched files
<code>find . -type f -name "*.conf" -exec grep -H "listen" {} \;</code>	Search text in matched files
<code>find . -type f -name "*.log" -exec rm {} +</code>	Batch delete (faster than <code>\;</code> )

## Safer Bulk Operations

Use null-delimited output for safe piping.

<code>find . -type f -name "*.txt" -print0   xargs -0 rm -f</code>	Safely remove files with spaces
<code>find . -type f -print0   xargs -0 ls -lh</code>	Safe batch listing
<code>find . -type f -name "*.log" -print0   xargs -0 du -h</code>	Safe size report for matches
<code>find . -type f -name "*.bak" -print0   xargs -0 -I{} mv "{}" /tmp/backup/</code>	Safe batch move

## Common Options

Useful flags to remember.

<code>-name</code>	Match filename (case-sensitive)
<code>-iname</code>	Match filename (case-insensitive)
<code>-type</code>	Filter by file type
<code>-size</code>	Filter by size
<code>-mtime</code>	Filter by modification time (days)
<code>-maxdepth</code>	Limit recursion depth
<code>-mindepth</code>	Skip top levels
<code>-prune</code>	Exclude directories
<code>-exec</code>	Execute command on matches
<code>-empty</code>	Find empty files/directories
<code>-mmin</code>	Filter by modification time (minutes)
<code>-delete</code>	Delete matched files