

Recovering From A Formatted Hard Drive

"Fast Format Recover"

If you are trying to recover a formatted hard drive it is always worth trying a "Fast Format Recover" as this search will only take a short time to complete. A Fast Format Recover is usually successful when the partition on a drive has been lost (i.e. Windows no longer displays it as a drive letter or shows it as "unavailable"), but the drive has **not** been re-formatted.

At the end of the search look in "Folder View" of the search results screen. You should see your full file and folder structure here. Click on the files to preview their content in the preview window at the bottom of the results screen. If you can see the contents of your files, then you can purchase a product activation key to save the search results.

If the Fast Format Recover does not recover files then try the "Complete Format Recover" described below.

"Complete Format Recover"

A Complete Format Recover is used when a partition has been lost and the drive has been reformatted. It will also recover files when Windows has been re-installed, however any of the old partition that has been overwritten by the new Windows installation has been permanently destroyed.

1. Run Recover My Files and select the "Complete Format Recover" option;
2. Select the "physical drive" that is the closest match to the size of your entire hard drive;
3. In the File Type selection screen use only the default selected file types '.doc', '.xls', '.ppt', '.wav', '.bmp', '.avi', '.jpg', '.pdf' and '.zip' (selecting more file types is NOT required and will slow down the search - Recover My Files will use the default list to identify and rebuild the entire file system and display ALL file types, not just the default list).

During the Complete Format Recover: Recover My Files will identify the above file types selected and place them in "File View" of the results screen. These files will not have their original name, and will be called "Recovered_FileType_X".

At the end of the Complete Format Recover: Recover My Files will rebuild the old file system and display the results in "Folder View" of the search results screen. You should see your full file and folder structure, including ALL file types. Note that folders with a red X indicate that the folder name has been destroyed, but any sub files or folders will still have their full file and folder names.

In the results screen, click on the files found to preview their content in the preview window. If you can see the contents of your files, purchase a product activation key to save your files.

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