

Top 20 Malware Removal Tools



No matter how hard you work at securing your network and computers, someone, somehow, somewhere will eventually unknowingly invite malware into their system.

So when it happens, here are some of our best “go to” tools. Check them out.

Reminder: Always proceed with caution. It is possible to make a bigger mess of the computer than the malware, if you are not careful and understand what you are doing.

1. **RKill** should precede any removal attempt. RKill’s job is to search out known malware processes and registry entries and kill them. This is needed so the anti-malware tools can do their job of removal. You can download RKill from <http://www.bleepingcomputer.com>. *Important to note:* Since RKill only terminates processes and does not remove the offending files, when it is finished you should not reboot your computer, but immediately run your anti-malware tool of choice.
2. An old favorite, **Malwarebytes** can serve as 2 tools: real-time prevention and removal. It is a cross platform tool and once installed, you just follow the instructions as provided. It can be downloaded at <https://www.malwarebytes.org>.
3. **ComboFix** is a powerful tool that allows for manual manipulation of the removal process. It can be downloaded here: <http://www.bleepingcomputer.com/download/combofix>.
4. **AdwCleaner** is a program that searches for and deletes Adware, Toolbars, Potentially Unwanted Programs (PUP), and browser hijackers from your computer. It can be downloaded here: <http://www.bleepingcomputer.com/download/adwcleaner>.
5. **Roguekiller** is an all-around malware scanner from Adlice software. It comes in a downloadable installer version, or you can get 32-bit or 64-bit portable versions (preferred). Download it directly from Adlice at <http://www.adlice.com/software/roguekiller/>.
6. **Rootkitbuster** is a rootkit scanner from Trend Micro. It comes in a 32-bit and 64-bit version. You can download it from Trend at <http://goo.gl/F4fkaC>.
7. **TDSSkiller** (<http://usa.kaspersky.com/downloads/TDSSkiller>) is a reliable Rootkit scanner from Kaspersky. Rootkits are their own level of bad-ness. If you suspect a rootkit infection, run multiple scanners against the machine.
8. **ClamWin** (<http://www.clamwin.com/>) is a nice little on-demand virus scanner / cleaner for windows. It doesn’t have a real-time scanner, so it’s not a good choice for everyday use, but is

another option for scanning and cleaning a suspect computer.

9. **Spybot** (<https://www.safer-networking.org/>) Spybot - Search & Destroy is a **free** internet security program provided by Safer-Networking Ltd which specializes in the removal of malware, spyware, and adware. It has been around along time.
10. **Emsisoft Emergency Kit** (<https://www.emsisoft.com/en/software/eek/>) includes the powerful Emsisoft Scanner complete with graphical user interface. It scans the infected PC for Viruses, Trojans, Spyware, Adware, Worms, Dialers, Keyloggers and other malicious programs.
11. **SUPERAntispyware** (<http://www.superantispyware.com/>) will do a good job detecting spyware and malware.
12. **DrWeb's CureIt!** (<http://free.drweb.com/cureit/?lng=en>) is a quick tool that does one thing, detects and neutralizes viruses, rootkits, Trojan horses, spyware, and other malicious objects that have gone undetected by your anti-virus software.
13. **HijackThis** isn't a malware scanner per se, but it's a great tool for finding malware in all the nooks and crannies of your system's configuration files, like the registry, hosts file, browser add-ons, etc. If you have a really persistent infection and go to the web for help, most experts will require you post the output file from your HijackThis scan. HijackThis is now open source and available at <http://sourceforge.net/projects/hjt/>.
14. **Zemana AntiMalware** (<https://www.zemana.com/AntiMalwareFree>) is a cloud based engine that detects and removes malware.
15. **Emsisoft AntiMalware** (<https://www.emsisoft.com/en/software/anti-malware/>) is a great little anti-malware cleaner, though not free.
16. **Junkware Removal Tool** is a security utility that searches for and removes common adware, toolbars, and potentially unwanted programs (PUPs) from your computer. It can be downloaded here: <http://www.bleepingcomputer.com/download/junkware-removal-tool>.
17. **Malwarebytes Anti-Rootkit** (<https://www.malwarebytes.org/antirootkit/>) removes and repairs the latest rootkits and the damage they cause.
18. Some malware works by hijacking the system's Hosts file and redirecting traffic to malicious sites. Often the malware will remove security permission to the file so that it can't be fixed. **Hosts-perm.bat**, available at <http://www.bleepingcomputer.com/download/hosts-permbat/dl/87/> resets the permissions to their default so that the host file can be cleaned.
19. **Vba32 AntiRootkit** (<http://www.bleepingcomputer.com/download/vba32-antirootkit/>) is a free scanner and will search for kernel-mode rootkits, suspicious autoruns, and hidden processes.
20. **McAfee Stinger** (<http://www.mcafee.com/us/downloads/free-tools/stinger.aspx>) is a standalone utility used to detect and remove specific viruses. It is not a substitute for full anti-virus protection, but a specialized tool to assist administrators and users when dealing with infected system.