

*rar.exe* compresses and *unrar.exe* uncompresses files. Both are located in the “C:\Program Files\WinRAR” folder in the installable version. Although WinRAR is shareware, it can be used on a trial basis for 40 days. Using WinRAR’s command-line tools is similar to those for IZArc and 7-Zip. The syntax for using the WinRAR executables is:

```
RAR or UNRAR <command> -<switch1> -<switchN> <archive> <files...> <@listfiles...>
<path_to_extract\>
```

To get a listing of the options for the rar and unrar commands, open a command window, cd to the WinRAR directory, and type rar or unrar and then press enter (rar /? or rar help may also be used, use rar >rar\_cmds.txt or unrar >unrar\_cmds.txt to print the command options to a file). For more detailed information, open the rar.txt file in the WinRAR directory which contains the RAR console version user’s manual.

## Examples to compress a folder:

```
rar a -r yourfiles.rar *.txt
```

*creates archive yourfiles.rar and compresses all .txt files in the current folder*

```
rar a -r C:\yourfolder\yourfiles.rar *.txt
```

*creates archive yourfiles.rar in C:\yourfolder and compresses all .txt files in the current folder and its subfolders*

```
rar a -r C:\yourfolder\yourfiles.rar C:\otherfolder\*.txt
```

*creates archive yourfiles.rar in C:\yourfolder and compresses all .txt files in otherfolder and its subfolders*

```
rar a yourfiles
```

*creates archive yourfiles.rar and compresses all files in the current folder, but doesn’t include subfolders (note lack of extension; WinRAR will use the default extension .rar)*

*“a” command. Adds to the archive*

*“-r” switch. Recurses subfolders*

## Examples to uncompress a folder:

```
unrar x c:\yourfile.rar *.gif c:\extractfolder\
```

We use cookies to ensure that we give you the best experience on our website. If you continue to use this site we will assume that you are happy with it.

Ok

*extracts all files in c:\yourfile.rar to the current folder (folder structure ignored)*

*“x” command. Extracts with full paths*

*“e” command. Extracts and ignores paths*

## **Compression example using Multiple Switches:**

```
rar a -r -ep -u -df -x*.bat e_archive.rar c:\test\*.*
```

compresses all new or updated files from c:\test and its subfolders to e\_archive.rar, deletes the files after they are added to the archive, and excludes any files with a “bat” extension,

*“a” command adds to the archive*

*“-r” switch. Recurses subfolders*

*“-ep” switch. Adds files to the archive without including the path information. Multiple can exist in the archive with the same name.*

*“-u” switch. Equivalent to the “u” command when combined with the “a” command. Adds new files and updates older versions of the files already in the archive*

*“-df” switch. Deletes files after they are moved to the archive*

*“-x” switch. Excludes the specified file(s) from the operation*

## **Basic rules for WinRAR:**

- When files or listfiles are not specified, all files in the current folder are processed
- When specifying all files in a folder, yourfolder or yourfolder\\*.\* are equivalent
- Folder structures are automatically saved in archives (but not automatically extracted)
- WinRAR uses the .rar extension by default, but that can be overridden by specifying the zip extension in the archive name
- Switches and commands are not case sensitive and can be written in either upper or lower case

Another point is that WinRAR doesn’t appear to install to the Windows path environment variable, so it must be specified either at a command prompt, set permanently in the environment variable settings, or specified in a batch file (WinRAR v3.71.0.0 was used for this guide and that may not be the case for all versions).

To set the Windows path environment variable *temporarily* at a command prompt or in a batch file, use the following command:

```
set path="C:\Program Files\WinRAR\";%path%
```

To set it *permanently* in the Windows path for your PC:

We use cookies to ensure that we give you the best experience on our website. If you continue to use this site we will assume that you are happy with it.

Ok

