

File Recovery Guide

by [Data Recovery Systems Ltd.](#)

By taking the time to read this, you're already increasing the chances of successfully recovering your lost files.

Let's get straight to the point. To maximise your chances of a 100% successful file recovery, before attempting to recover any of your lost files with [Media Investigator](#) or any other file recovery tool, there is **ONE THING YOU MUST DO**.

- **STOP!!!** Don't save anything else to the drive which contains your lost files.

Unfortunately, this is difficult to do for your C: drive as Windows (and many other programs) constantly writes and deletes temporary files to this drive so very urgent recovery is recommended if you've lost files on your C: drive.

Before continuing, please stop using the drive (whether it's a memory card, USB stick, external drive, writeable CD / DVD, etc). We can't stress this enough. If you keep using it, you are reducing the likelihood of a fully successful recovery.

Now that you've stopped using your "source" drive (the one with the lost files), there are only a few other things you should be aware of before attempting to recover your lost files.

1. **Save** the file recovery program to a drive other than the source drive. Saving it to the source drive could overwrite the data of your lost files.
2. **Close** all unnecessary programs. File recovery uses a lot of computing power. The more power you free up, the sooner you'll get your files back.
3. Only **select** the file types you need to recover. Selecting additional file types will result in the recovery taking longer than needed.

Now that you know what to do before recovering your files, here's what you need to recover your files:

- A powerful file recovery program like [Media Investigator](#).
- Two drives – one with your lost files (the "source" drive) and one to save your lost files to (referred to as the "destination" drive).

There's one final thing you may need to recover your files – time.

"How long will it take to recover my lost files?"

This is understandably a common question but without an easy answer because it depends on so many factors.

Depending on how you lost your files, you may simply be able to undelete them. This will be a very quick process – usually only taking a matter of minutes with a decent computer.

For more complicated recoveries, a Low Scan is often required which will take much longer to analyse your drive, possibly several hours depending on the size of your drive and number of file types you wish to find as the file recovery program will need to read every bit of data on the drive.

Your patience will often be rewarded by recovery all of your lost files if you've followed our

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advice above.

That's everything you need to know to recover your files. We hope you found this guide helpful and wish you every success in recovering your lost files.

If you want to know more about why we suggest the above, more technical information as to how file recovery works and even more things you can do to maximise your chances of a successful recovery, please see our free article on file recovery which you can download by [clicking here](#).

If you have any doubts, concerns or questions about how to recover your files with our file recovery tool – [Media Investigator](#), please contact us by clicking [here](#).

Our goal at Data Recovery Systems Ltd. is simple – to ensure all of our customers recover as many files as possible.

Wishing you a successful file recovery,
Data Recovery Systems Ltd.

P.S. Don't forget our powerful Media Investigator file recovery program will scan your drives absolutely free. Go to <http://www.DigitalFileRecovery.com/download.html> to download your copy and find your files now.

This guide was written by Data Recovery Systems Ltd., creator of the file recovery program [Media Investigator](#) which can be downloaded at <http://www.DigitalFileRecovery.com>.

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