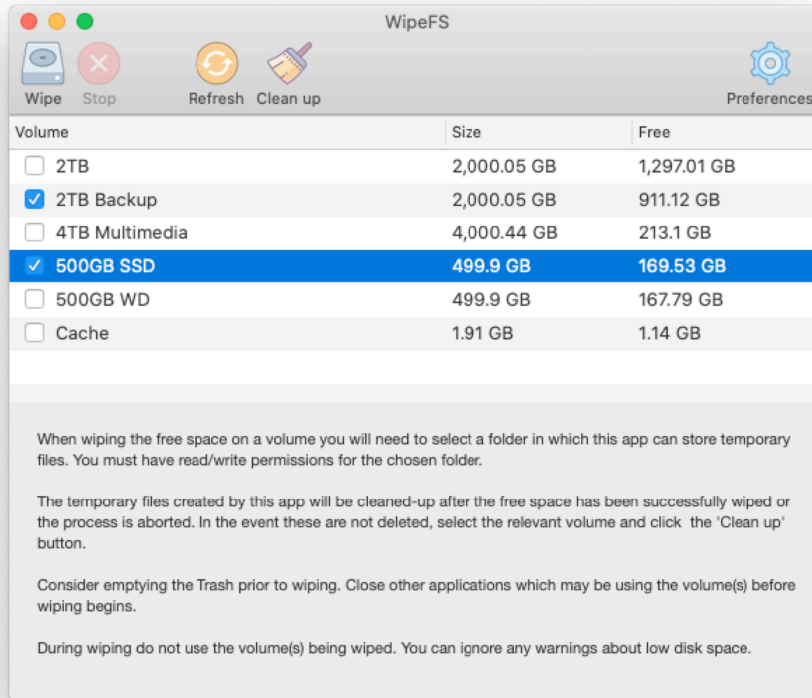


# WipeFS

## User Manual



## Introduction

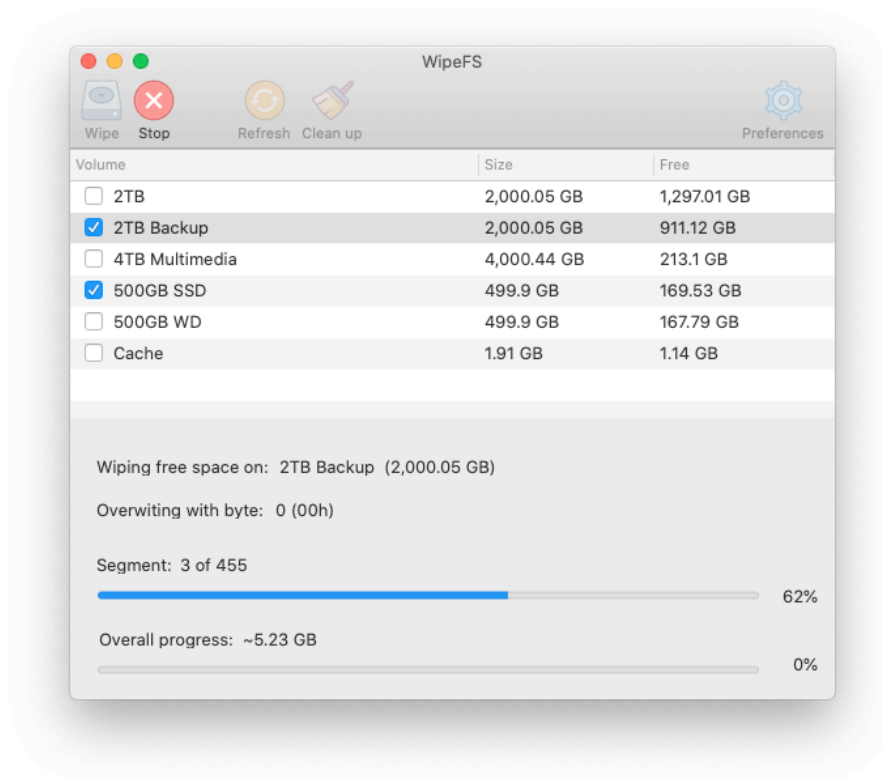
WipeFS erases unused space on hard disks, USB flash drives etc, to prevent the recovery of deleted files. Any data which still resides in that unused space, albeit marked 'free', can be properly and securely deleted by overwriting it. As you may know, simply deleting a file does not actually delete the content of the file. Instead, the space that file occupied on the disk is simply marked as being 'free', and may exist for a long time until another file is allocated that space (or part of it).

Simply check the drive(s) you want to work on, the number of passes you want to perform (see Preferences) and click the "Start" button.

(You can use the "Refresh" button to manually refresh the drive list if you mount/dismount any volumes while the application is running).

When wiping begins, you are shown the following information:

- The name of the volume whose free space is currently being wiped.
- The value being used to overwrite the data (see Preferences).
- The segment number and total number of segments (segments are files the application writes to your volume, they are temporary and deleted after wiping has completed successfully).
- The current pass of the segment (see Preferences), if applicable.
- The overall progress.



The time it takes to wipe a volume depends on the size and type of the volume, the speed of your Mac (and amount of RAM), and how many passes you specify. Obviously, 8 passes will take eight times longer than 1 pass. Solid State Drives are quicker than conventional hard drives.

When wiping the free space on a volume you will be asked to select a folder in which this app can store temporary files. You must have read/write permissions for the chosen folder. We suggest you use the folder you are presented with.

The files created by this app will be cleaned-up after the free space has been successfully wiped or the process is aborted using the "Stop" button.

In the event the temporary files created by the application are not deleted, select the drives and then click the "Clean up" button. You will then regain any lost disk space.

Before wiping the free space on a drive you should:

- Close other applications using the volume(s) before wiping begins.
- Do not use the volume(s) while wiping is in progress.
- Consider emptying the Trash prior to wiping.

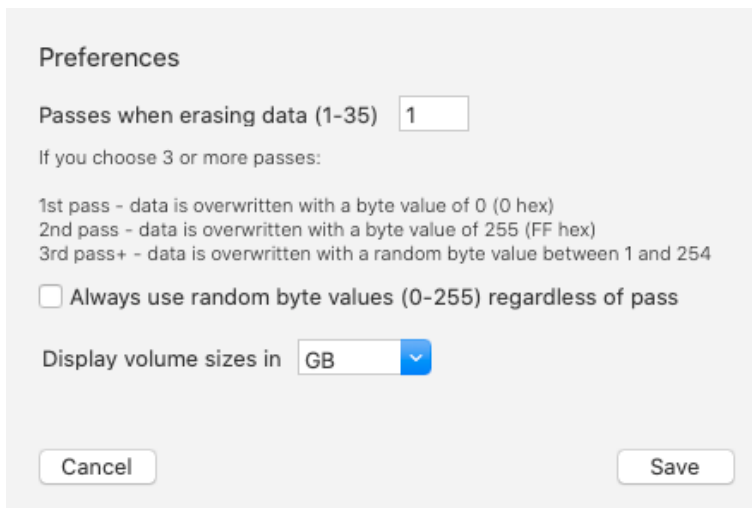
You can ignore any warnings about low disk space while wiping is in progress.

You should not empty the recycle bin while wiping is in progress.

### Disclaimer

The author of this application/software cannot be held responsible for any loss of data you might incur. You use this application at your own risk. Proper use of the application cannot result in unwanted data loss.

## Preferences



The screenshot shows a 'Preferences' dialog box with a light gray background. At the top, the title 'Preferences' is displayed. Below it, there is a label 'Passes when erasing data (1-35)' followed by a text input field containing the number '1'. Underneath this, a note states 'If you choose 3 or more passes:'. This is followed by three lines of text describing the overwrite process: '1st pass - data is overwritten with a byte value of 0 (0 hex)', '2nd pass - data is overwritten with a byte value of 255 (FF hex)', and '3rd pass+ - data is overwritten with a random byte value between 1 and 254'. Below these descriptions is a checkbox labeled 'Always use random byte values (0-255) regardless of pass', which is currently unchecked. Further down, there is a label 'Display volume sizes in' followed by a dropdown menu showing 'GB'. At the bottom of the dialog, there are two buttons: 'Cancel' on the left and 'Save' on the right.

### Passes

As shown in the screenshot above, the number of passes can range from 1 to 35. The value used to overwrite the free space depends on the pass:

- 1st pass - data is overwritten with a byte value of 0 (0 hex)
- 2nd pass - data is overwritten with a byte value of 255 (FF hex)
- 3rd pass - data is overwritten with a random byte value between 1 and 254

The first and second passes ensure that all bit values are changed at least once. One pass will overwrite the data securely.

**Always use random byte values (0-255) regardless of pass**

If you don't want to follow the default pattern for writing byte values (1st pass = 0, 2nd pass = 255, 3rd pass = random 1 to 254) you can check this option to write a random byte value between 0 and 255 for every pass.

**Display volume sizes in...**

Determine how the size of volumes is shown in the drive list. You can select TB (terabytes), GB (gigabytes) or MB (megabytes).

## Contact

If you have any questions about this product please contact us:

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