

**nixCraft**

Linux and Unix tutorials for new and seasoned sysadmin



# Linux / Unix: Find And List All Hidden Files Recursively

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I am a new Unix system shell user. I need to find and list all hidden files including directories on a Linux or Unix-like system. How can I recursively list all hidden files and directories? How do I save result in a text file?

**UNIX**

You need to use the `find` command to list all hidden files recursively on a Linux or Unix like systems.

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## Syntax: Recursively list all hidden files and directories on Linux/Unix

The basic syntax is as follows:

```
find /dir/to/search/ -name ".*" -print
```

OR

```
find /dir/to/search/ -name ".*" -ls
```

OR search only hidden files:

```
find /dir/to/search/ -type f -iname ".*" -ls
```

OR search only hidden directories:

```
find /dir/to/search/ -type d -iname ".*" -ls
```

OR

```
find /dir/to/search -path '*/.*' -print
```

```
find /dir/to/search -path '*/.*' -ls
```

In this example, search \$HOME for all hidden files and dirs:

```
find $HOME -name ".*" -ls
```

Sample outputs:

```
6553607    4 -rw-r--r--    1 admi    admi          100 Sep 22  2004 ./csh
6553664    4 -rw-----    1 admi    admi       1024 Nov 17  04:40 ./rnc
6553604    4 -rw-r--r--    1 admi    admi         18 May 20  2009 ./bas
6553665    4 drwx-----    2 admi    admi       4096 Dec 18  2012 ./gnu
6553671    0 -rw-----    1 admi    admi         0 Dec 18  2012 ./gnu
6553669    0 -rw-----    1 admi    admi         0 Dec 18  2012 ./gnu
6553673    4 -rw-----    1 admi    admi        899 Dec 18  2012 ./gnu
6553667    8 -rw-----    1 admi    admi       7856 Dec 18  2012 ./gnu
6553668    4 -rw-----    1 admi    admi       1200 Dec 18  2012 ./gnu
6553602   20 -rw-----    1 admi    admi      17462 Apr  7 10:55 ./bas
6553610    4 drwx-----    3 admi    admi       4096 Jan 16  2013 ./cor
6553660    4 drwx-----    2 admi    admi       4096 Jan 16  2013 ./cor
6553681    4 -rw-r--r--    1 admi    admi        597 Apr 11  2013 ./cor
6553723   12 -rw-----    1 admi    admi       9629 Mar 30 23:56 ./vir
6553615    4 drwxr-xr-x    3 admi    admi       4096 Nov 29  2012 ./ori
```

To save the results to a file called foo.txt, use a redirection as follows:

```
find $HOME/projects/ -name ".*" -ls > foo.txt  
cat foo.txt
```

See find(1) for more information.

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### Posted by: Vivek Gite

The author is the creator of nixCraft and a seasoned sysadmin and a trainer for the Linux operating system/Unix shell scripting. He has worked with global clients and in various industries, including IT, education, defense and space research, and the nonprofit sector. Follow him on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Google+](#).

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 5 comment

**Vinoth** April 8, 2014 at 5:15 am

Please try below with ls command.

ls -lRa > List.txt

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**Chris F.A. Johnson** April 8, 2014 at 8:05 pm

There is no point to using -iname since there are no alpha characters to match, and since it is non-standard, it will only work with GNU find.

[REPORT COMMENT](#)

**daniel andrade** April 10, 2014 at 2:51 pm

```
find . -name ._* -print0 | xargs -0 rm -f
```

to remove all hidden files recursively! :D

[REPORT COMMENT](#)

**beware** June 16, 2015 at 3:11 pm

@daniel andrade

Why would you ever remove all hidden files recursively?

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**rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr** November 9, 2016 at 8:48 pm

directions unclear, my computer gave me a message to press alt + f4

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Tagged as: [CentOS](#), [find command](#), [Easy](#)



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