

■ Quick Guide: Securely Erase Drives on Linux

■■ Safety First

Erasing a disk destroys all data permanently. Confirm target disk before continuing.
`lsblk`

1. Overwrite with Zeros

Replace sdX with your target device.

```
sudo dd if=/dev/zero of=/dev/sdX bs=1M status=progress
```

2. Overwrite with Random Data

Slower but more secure.

```
sudo dd if=/dev/urandom of=/dev/sdX bs=1M status=progress
```

3. Use shred

-n 3 writes random data 3 times; -z writes zeros after.

```
sudo shred -v -n 3 -z /dev/sdX
```

4. NVMe Drives

Fast secure erase for NVMe devices.

```
sudo nvme format /dev/nvme0n1 --ses=1
```

5. Verify

Output should show only zeros or random data.

```
sudo hexdump -C /dev/sdX | head
```