

Where Did Windows 10 Photos put my Pictures? (AND WHAT HAPPENED TO PHOTO VIEWER?)

One common complaint from people who moved to Windows 10 is that they can't find their pictures. Your photo files have not moved, but the Photos app hides the complexities of your photo folder names by default. The app automatically catalogs every image file it finds in the **C:\Users\yourname\Pictures folder** on your computer.

If you store photos in other folders, you will have to add those folders to the Pictures folder before the Photos app will catalog them.

Add Folders to the Photos App

1. Open the Photos app (from the All Apps menu).
2. Go to Settings (the cog wheel in the lower left corner).
3. Under the Sources section, click Add a folder.
4. Find the folder you want to add, select it, and click Add this folder to Pictures. The new folder will appear as a Source, complete with its original path name.

Note that if you have a Microsoft OneDrive cloud storage account, the Photos app will probably catalog its image contents too. If you don't want OneDrive images to appear in Photos, go to Settings and turn off that option.

Can You get Win 7's Photo Viewer back?

If you upgraded from Win 7 or 8.1 to Win 10, the familiar Photo Viewer is still there, hidden as an option. Here is how to make Photo Viewer your default app for viewing images in Windows 10 instead of the Photos app:

1. Open File Explorer (Windows + E).
2. Navigate to the folder where your pictures are stored.
3. Open the target pictures folder.
4. Right-click on any individual image. Move to "Open With."
5. Select "Choose Another App" from the dropdown menu.
6. Click the "More apps" option.
7. Select "Photo Viewer" from the list of apps.
8. Click on the "Always use this app to open image files" checkbox to leave it checked.
9. Then click OK.

If you have a computer that came with Win 10 already installed, or if you did a “clean installation” on your existing computer, then you won’t see Photo Viewer anywhere. Microsoft really, really wants you to use Photos, so it omitted from Windows 10 the registry keys that point to the old Photo Viewer. Getting Photo Viewer back can be a challenge that may not be worth it, since the process includes making modifications to the registry. There is always a risk in attempting to change the registry.