

Hide, Show, and Minimize Applications and Windows



Tips

Quickly minimize multiple windows

If you have multiple windows open in one application, and you want to minimize all of them, hold down the Option key while clicking the yellow button in the upper-left corner of any of the windows. This sends all of the windows to the Dock.

Use the keyboard to hide applications and minimize windows quickly

If you have many applications open, pressing Command-H quickly hides the active application, and Command-M will minimize the active window of an application. If you want to hide the other open applications, use the Option-Command-H key combination.

Hide one application when opening another

If you want to keep your desktop tidy you can hold the option key when you open or switch to another application using the Dock. This will hide the application you were working in and bring forward, or open, the application you want to work in next.

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When you work with multiple applications at once, your desktop can quickly become cluttered. Hiding applications is one way to keep your desktop neat and tidy. If you're working with multiple windows in one application, minimizing a window might work better than hiding the application.

Hiding an application or minimizing a window removes the application or window from the desktop and stores it in the Dock. A hidden application is still open, and the contents of a minimized window are intact. Both have simply been moved out of your way, so you can get other work done.

Step-by-Step

Hide applications, show applications, and minimize a window

1. Click the Practice Files item in the Sidebar of the Finder window and then open the Pictures folder.
2. Double-click several of the image files to open them.
3. In one of the image windows, click the yellow button to minimize it. Watch how the window shrinks into the Dock.
4. Move your pointer over the minimized image in the Dock, and notice how its title appears.
5. Click the image in the Dock to expand the window to its full size.
6. From the Preview menu, choose Hide. Notice how all of the windows disappear from the desktop.
7. Click the Preview icon in the Dock and watch all of the windows appear again.