

NIST Guidelines for Media Sanitization

Hard Drives	Clear	Purge	Destroy
Operation	Overwrite media using agency-approved and validated overwriting technologies/methods/tools.	Degaussing and executing the firmware Secure Erase command (for ATA drives only) are acceptable methods for purging	Shredding, Pulverizing, or Incineration
Architecture	Various	Windows, ATA	All
Tool		Secure Erase	
Location		http://cmrr.ucsd.edu/people/Hughes/SecureErase.shtml	
Endorsements		NSA, NIST	
Architecture		All	
Tool		DBAN (Darik's Boot and Nuke)	
Location		http://www.dban.org/	
Endorsements		RCMP, Canadian Gov't	
Architecture		All	
Tool		Degausser (Will render drive permanently unusable)	
Location			
Endorsements		NIST	
USB Drives	Clear	Purge	Destroy
Operation	Overwrite media using agency-approved and validated overwriting technologies/methods/tools.	Degaussing and executing the firmware Secure Erase command (for ATA drives only) are acceptable methods for purging	Shredding, Pulverizing, or Incineration
Architecture		Windows, ATA	All
Tool		Secure Erase	
Location		http://cmrr.ucsd.edu/people/Hughes/SecureErase.shtml	
Endorsements		NSA, NIST	
Architecture		All	
Tool		Degausser (Will render drive permanently unusable)	
Location			

Source: NIST SP 800-88

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Endorsements		NIST	
SCSI Drives	Clear	Purge	Destroy
Operation	Overwrite media using agency-approved and validated overwriting technologies/methods/tools.		Shredding, Pulverizing, or Incineration
Architecture		All	All
Tool		Degausser (Will render drive permanently unusable)	
Location			
Endorsements		NIST	
Optical Media	Clear	Purge	Destroy
Operation	N/A	N/A	Shredding, Pulverizing, Melting, or Incineration
Architecture			All
Hand Helds Cell/PDAs	Clear	Purge	Destroy
Operation	Manually delete personal entries and logs, then perform (hard) reset to factory defaults	Same as Clear	Shredding, Pulverizing, or Incineration
Architecture	Various		All
Tool			
Location	See manufacturer's recommendations	See manufacturer's recommendations	
Copy/Fax Machines	Clear	Purge	Destroy
Operation	Perform full manufacturer's reset.	Same as Clear	N/A
Architecture			
Tool			
Location	See manufacturer's recommendations	See manufacturer's recommendations	
Networking Devices	Clear	Purge	Destroy

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Operation	Perform full manufacturer's reset to default settings.	Same as Clear	Shredding, Pulverizing, or Incineration
Architecture	Various	Various	All
Magnetic Tape	Clear	Purge	Destroy
Operation	Re-record, or re-write (using comparable recorders) or degauss.	Degauss	Incinerate or shred
Architecture	Various	All	All
Flash/SD Drives	Clear	Purge	Destroy
Operation	Overwrite media using agency-approved and validated overwriting technologies/methods/tools.	See physical destruction	Shred, Disintegrate, Pulverize, Incinerate
Architecture	Various	All	All