

Image Cleaner for Joomla – User Manual

Developed by PUBLIK Internetservice



1. Introduction

Welcome to **Image Cleaner**! Over time, Joomla websites accumulate a significant amount of unused images and documents. These "orphaned" files consume valuable storage space and slow down server backups.

The Image Cleaner component acts as a smart storage manager. It scans your entire website, identifies files that are no longer linked to any content, and allows you to safely archive or permanently delete them with just a few clicks.

2. Key Features

- **Smart Content Scanner:** Analyzes Articles, Modules, and Categories to find active images () and linked documents (e.g., for PDFs).
- **Live Storage Calculation:** Instantly calculates the exact amount of storage space you can recover.
- **Safe File Archive:** Includes a built-in "Recycle Bin." Files moved here are safely stored with their original path logged, ensuring nothing is lost by accident.
- **1-Click Restore:** Bring archived files back to their exact original location at any time.

3. Step-by-Step Guide: How to Clean Your Website

Step 1: Run the Scanner

1. Log in to your Joomla Administrator dashboard.
2. Navigate to **Components -> Image Cleaner**.
3. The scanner runs automatically upon opening. You will immediately see a list of all files in your /images/ folder that are currently *not* used in your Joomla content.

Step 2: The Safe Archiving Process (Recommended)

We highly recommend archiving files before permanently deleting them.

1. Review the list of unused files. You can click on the preview image/icon to view the file.
2. Select the files you want to clean up using the checkboxes on the left.
3. Click the green **"To File Archive"** button at the top or bottom of the list.
4. The files will be moved to the hidden `/images/archive/` folder, instantly freeing up visual clutter in your media manager.

Step 3: Restoring or Permanently Deleting Files

If you realize a file is missing on the frontend, or if you are completely sure the archived files are no longer needed:

1. Click the dark **"To File Archive"** button to open your safe storage.
2. Select the files you wish to manage.
3. **To Restore:** Click the green **"Restore Selected"** button. The files will instantly return to their original folders.
4. **To Delete:** Click the red **"Permanently Delete Selected"** button. *Warning: This action cannot be undone and will remove the files from your server.*

4. Configuration & Settings

You can customize how the Image Cleaner works by clicking the **"Options"** button in the top right corner of the Joomla backend.

- **Ignored Folders:** Add folder paths (e.g., `images/phocagallery`) that the scanner should completely ignore. Put one path per line.
- **Allowed Extensions:** Choose which file types the scanner should look for. By default, it scans for common image formats (JPG, PNG, GIF, WEBP, SVG) and PDFs.

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