

Safe Delete

The *Safe Delete* refactoring allows you to safely remove the following symbols from the code:

- Class
- Method
- Field
- Interface
- Parameter

IntelliJ IDEA checks for the remaining usages of the deleted symbol. The refactoring allows you to make the necessary corrections of the code before the symbol is actually deleted. The procedure of removing a symbol slightly differs depending on the type of the symbol to be deleted.

This refactoring is also available from [UML Class diagram](#).

To safely delete a symbol

1. Select the symbol to be deleted.
2. Choose **Refactor | Safe Delete** on the main menu or in the context menu of the selection. Alternatively, press **Alt+Delete**.

You can also press **Delete** in the [Project](#) tool window. Then you can either perform a *Safe Delete* or simply delete the symbol.

3. In the **Safe Delete** dialog box that opens, specify additional settings for the refactoring:
 - To have the changes applied to comments and strings, select the **Search in comments and strings** check box.
 - To have the changes applied to text files (such as documentation, HTML, JSP and other files included in your project), select the **Search for text occurrences** check box.
4. Click **OK** to continue. If no usages of the symbol are found, the refactoring removes the symbol. If IntelliJ IDEA finds any occurrences of the symbol in the code, the **Usages Detected** dialog box appears.
5. In the **Usages Detected** dialog box, do one of the following:
 - To proceed with refactoring and delete the symbol, click the **Ignore** button, leaving all the usages of the symbol intact. In this case, to make your code compilable, you have to manually inspect the code and make the necessary corrections.
 - To view the list of direct usages of the symbol, click the **View usages** button. IntelliJ IDEA stops the refactoring procedure and displays a list of direct usages of the selected symbol in the [Find](#) tool window. Navigate to each usage location and manually correct the code. When ready, click the **Rerun Safe Delete** button to invoke the refactoring again.

See Also

Reference:

- [Safe Delete Dialog](#)
- [Find Tool Window](#)

Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#) 

