

Removing Case Covers - A guide to opening your PC case

Safety First Before opening the case of your PC disconnect the power supply, it is also advisable to unplug anything else from the computer including any network connections.

If you have an anti-static strap then wear it throughout the installation process, if one is not available then touch a metal part of the case to discharge any static before touching any static sensitive devices (memory, video cards, modems, etc).

Types of computer cases

There are many different types of cases available, far too many to be covered in one tutorial so we will concentrate on the standard types and the way they open.

Tower Cases

This type of case normally opens one of two ways, either separate panels on each side or one big sleeve that covers the top and both sides.

Separate Panels

This type of tower case is usually opened by removing 2 or 3 screws on each side of the back of the case (see fig 1.1), when you have removed the screws you will be able to slide the panels back to release them from the chassis of the case (see fig 1.2).

Single Sleeve

This type of case is opened by removing 4 or 6 screws (depending on case) from the back in a similar position to those in fig 1.1 and then sliding the whole sleeve backwards (you may have to lift the back end of the sleeve slightly).

Desktop Cases

The most common desktop case is opened by removing 2 screws from each side of the case and around 3 from the back of the case, then slide the cover backwards (you may have to lift the back end of the sleeve slightly) to remove it. Whichever type of case you have if you are not sure about the way it opens then consult the manufacturer's literature, some manufacturers have special systems for opening their cases.