

### 13.2.6. DROP DATABASE Syntax

```
DROP {DATABASE | SCHEMA} [IF EXISTS] db_name
```

`DROP DATABASE` drops all tables in the database and deletes the database. Be *very* careful with this statement! To use `DROP DATABASE`, you need the `DROP` privilege on the database.

In MySQL 3.22 or later, you can use the keywords `IF EXISTS` to prevent an error from occurring if the database doesn't exist.

`DROP SCHEMA` can be used as of MySQL 5.0.2.

If you use `DROP DATABASE` on a symbolically linked database, both the link and the original database are deleted.

As of MySQL 4.1.2, `DROP DATABASE` returns the number of tables that were removed. This corresponds to the number of `.frm` files removed.

The `DROP DATABASE` statement removes from the given database directory those files and directories that MySQL itself may create during normal operation:

- All files with these extensions:

.BAK	.DAT	.HSH	.ISD
.ISM	.ISM	.MRG	.MYD
.MYI	.db	.frm	

- All subdirectories with names that consist of two hex digits `00-ff`. These are subdirectories used for `RAID` tables. (These directories are not removed as of MySQL 5.0, when support for `RAID` tables was removed. You should convert your `RAID` tables and remove these directories manually before upgrading to MySQL 5.0. See [Section 2.10.1, "Upgrading from Version 4.1 to 5.0"](#).)
- The `db.opt` file, if it exists.

If other files or directories remain in the database directory after MySQL removes those just listed, the database directory cannot be removed. In this case, you must remove any remaining files or directories manually and issue the `DROP DATABASE` statement again.

You can also drop databases with `mysqladmin`. See [Section 8.4, "mysqladmin. Administering a MySQL Server"](#).