



# Nintendo 3DS SD Card Replacement / Troubleshooting

The 3DS' SD card is vital nowadays, from...

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# INTRODUCTION

The 3DS' SD card is vital nowadays, from backing up game data to running an application with update data. In the case that something goes wrong, this guide can help you diagnose a simple issue in the card itself.

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## TOOLS:

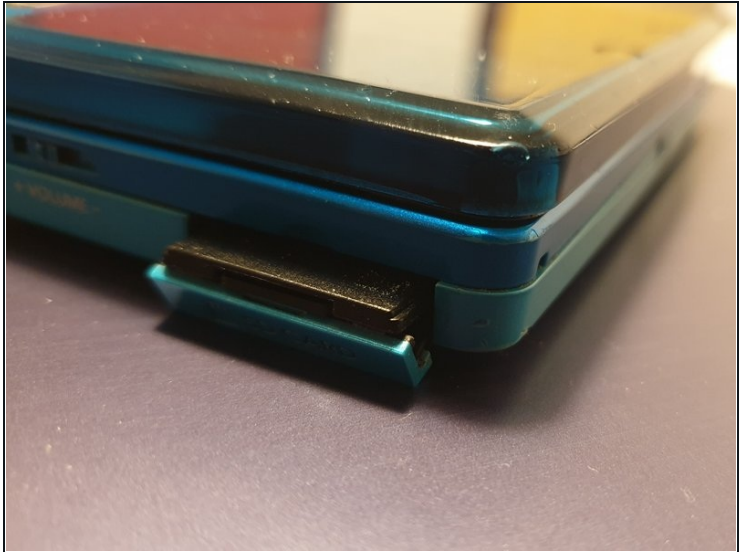
[Compressed Air](#) (1)  
[Soft Cloth](#) (1)  
[Needlenose Pliers](#) (1)

## PARTS:

[SD Card](#) (1)

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### Step 1 — Remove the SD card



- On the left hand side of the system, you should find a small plastic piece saying SD card. Open it via the notch at the top and press in the SD card until it clicks. Then just pull it out.
- If the card is stuck, use pliers to pull the card out. Do so slowly and with a constant force so that it comes out smoothly.

## Step 2 — SD card checks



- Another pretty simple step: check that the card isn't locked. There should be a small switch at the side of the card which, shockingly, says "lock". Make sure the switch is the farthest away that it can be from that word, and you're good to go.
  - **If the system tells you that the card is locked when it shouldn't be, use tape to hold down the lock switch securely.**
- ☒ While we're doing that, also look for any dirt or dust on the SD card or in its slot. If there is, try cleaning it with a soft cloth, or blowing it out with some compressed air.

### Step 3 — Find the problem



- Now it time to really look into things. First suspect is the SD card. Slip it into a PC and see if it can detect the SD card.
- Is it blank? Does it refuse show up? If so, there is probably an issue with the card itself. See if you can find/buy a spare one, and copy over any backup you may have made beforehand.
- Does the computer read the SD card? It may be time to crack it open and replace the SD card reader.
- ① If you're really squeamish about cracking things open before knowing for sure, try another SD card in the 3DS. The card you're using may just be faulty.

By following through the previous instructions, you should now know what the issue is. Either you really had nothing to worry about, you need a new SD card, or you'll have to replace the 3DS' SD card module. The first two are easy, and if necessary you can run out to Walmart to pick up an SD card.

In regards to replacing the SD module though, that can be found here: [Nintendo 3DS SD Board Replacement](#)