

[<Back](#) [Print](#)

Tepato Systems offers software consulting services to help you, the small business owner. If you want to make better business decisions, software and other technology tools should be key parts of your business strategy.

Power Users - Help with Excel

Search & Replace Special Characters

If you've ever had special characters (like a carriage return) in one of the cells in your excel spreadsheet, you know that they can be frustrating. I've recently discovered a tool that will show you the cell contents, including special characters. It works well along with a macro that will let you do a global search and replace to get rid of those pesky special characters.

This tool is free and is available using the links below. Here is the macro you'll need to do the Search and Replace:

Option Explicit Sub cleanEmUp()

*Dim myBadChars As Variant
Dim myGoodChars As Variant
Dim iCtr As Long*

myBadChars = Array(Chr(13)) ' <--What showed up in CellView?

myGoodChars = Array(" ")

*If UBound(myGoodChars) <> UBound(myBadChars) Then
MsgBox "Design error!"
Exit Sub
End If*

*For iCtr = LBound(myBadChars) To UBound (myBadChars) ActiveSheet.Cells.Replace
What:=myBadChars(iCtr), _
Replacement:=myGoodChars(iCtr), _
LookAt:=xlPart, SearchOrder:=xlByRows, _
MatchCase:=False Next iCtr
End Sub*

If you've never created a macro before, call or email me for help with this function.

- [Excel Cell View](#)

Need to Create a PDF?

Free Tool!

Check out the link below for a great, FREE tool to generate PDF documents from any Microsoft product (Word, Excel, etc.). This tool is free, but it doesn't add a watermark to your document (unlike some other free tools I've found). You use it just like another printer, because it's added to your list of printers when selecting File-Print from the menu.

Each time you use this tool, a promotional screen will be displayed. For \$9.95, you can get a license which will eliminate the ad. If you only use it infrequently, it's not that annoying, and you can continue to use it for free indefinitely.

- [PDF 995 Tool - Select the Printer Driver](#)

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