

How to merge two columns in Excel without losing data

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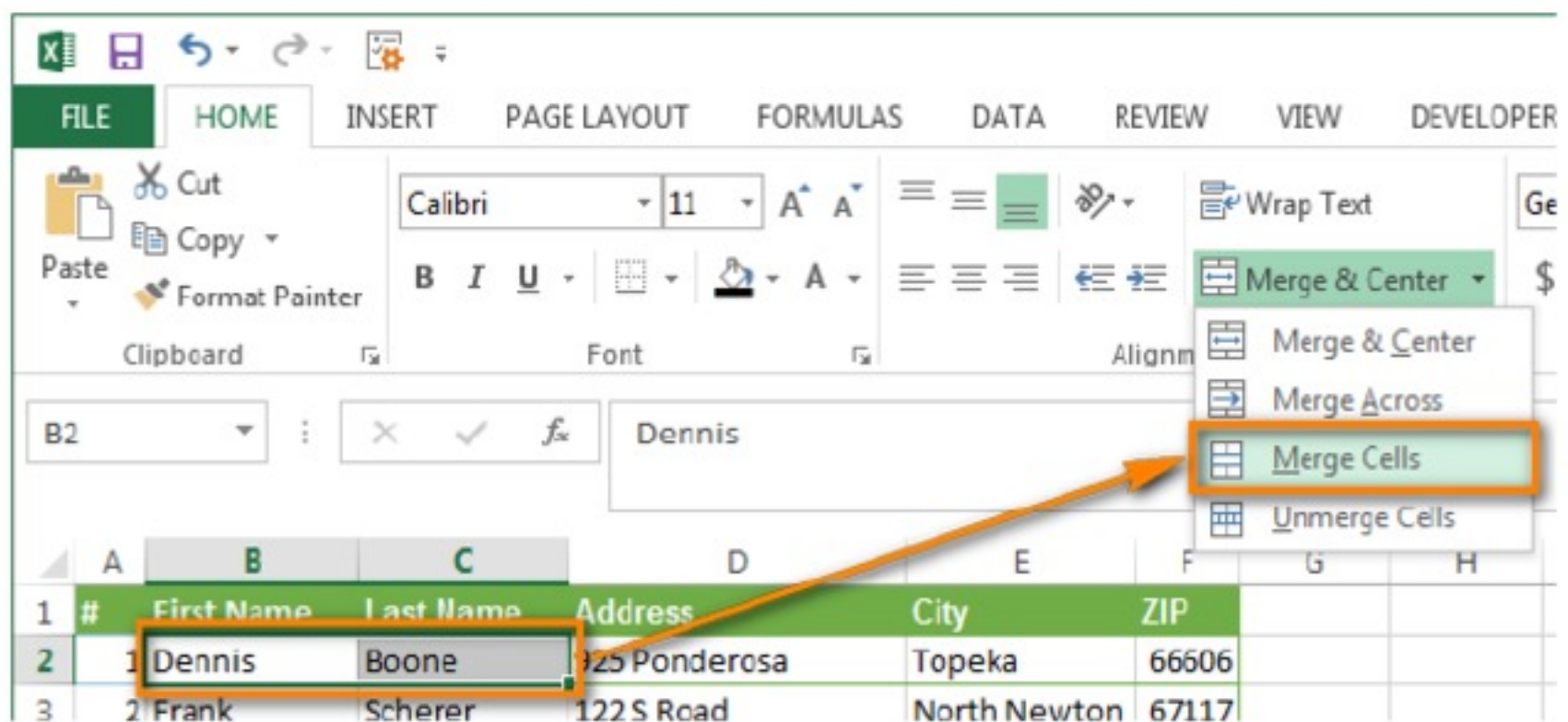
From this short article you will learn how to merge multiple Excel columns into one without losing data.

You have a table in Excel and what you want is to combine two columns, row-by-row, into one. For example, you want to merge the First Name & Last Name columns into one, or join several columns such as Street, City, Zip, State into a single "Address" column, separating the values with a comma so that you can print the addresses on envelopes later.

	A	B	C
1	#	First Name	Last Name
2	1	Dennis	Boone
3	2	Frank	Scherer
4	3	Roger	Williams
5	4	Julie	Kelsey
6	5	Charles	Sale
7	6	Roger	Way

	A	B
1	#	Full Name
2	1	Dennis Boone
3	2	Frank Scherer
4	3	Roger Williams
5	4	Julie Kelsey
6	5	Charles Sale
7	6	Roger Way

Regrettably, Excel does not provide any built-in tool to achieve this. Of course, there is the **Merge** button ("Merge & Center" etc.), but if you select 2 adjacent cells in order to combine them, as shown in the screenshot:



You will get the error message "Merging cells only keeps the upper-left cell value, and discards the other values." (Excel 2013) or "The selection contains multiple data values. Merging into one cell will keep the upper-left most data only." (Excel 2010, 2007)