



How to Install Windows 11 from USB (Step by Step Guide)

Installing Windows 11 via USB is the most reliable and universal method. This guide explains every step, from creating a bootable USB to activation.

Before You Start

- Check that your PC meets Windows 11 requirements (TPM 2.0, Secure Boot, supported CPU, 4+ GB RAM, 64-bit).
- Download the PC Health Check app from <https://aka.ms/GetPCHealthCheckApp>.
- Back up important files.
- Have a genuine Windows 11 licence key ready.
- Use a USB drive with at least 8 GB capacity (all data will be erased).

Create the Bootable USB (Windows PC)

- Option 1: Use Media Creation Tool – Download from <https://www.microsoft.com/software-download/windows11>.
- Option 2: ISO + Rufus – Download ISO from Microsoft, then use Rufus (<https://rufus.ie>) to create bootable USB.

Create the Bootable USB (Mac/Linux)

- Download Windows 11 ISO from Microsoft.
- Use balenaEtcher (<https://www.balena.io/etcher/>) to flash the ISO to USB.

Prepare the PC (BIOS/UEFI Settings)

- Insert the USB drive and restart.
- Enter BIOS/UEFI (press Del/F2/Esc depending on brand).
- Enable Secure Boot and TPM 2.0.
- Ensure boot mode is UEFI.
- Select USB as boot device.

Install Windows 11

- Choose language, time and keyboard settings.
- Click Install now and enter your product key (or skip).
- Select edition (Home/Pro).
- Accept licence terms.
- Choose Upgrade (keep files) or Custom (clean install).
- Complete setup – PC will restart several times.

First-Run Setup (OOBE)

- Select region and keyboard layout.
- Connect to network.
- Sign in with or create a Microsoft account.
- Adjust privacy and device settings.

Activate Windows 11

- Go to Settings > System > Activation.
- If not activated, click Change product key and enter your genuine key.
- See Microsoft support: <https://support.microsoft.com/windows/activate-windows-11>.

After Installation

- Run Windows Update and install all updates.
- Install latest drivers.
- Restore files from backup.
- Create a restore point.

Troubleshooting Tips

- "This PC can't run Windows 11": Enable TPM 2.0 and Secure Boot, check CPU compatibility.
- USB not detected: recreate media, use USB-A 2.0, ensure UEFI boot.
- Partition errors: disconnect other drives, recreate target partition as GPT.
- Activation fails: check edition matches licence, try activation troubleshooter.