Clean Windows 11 Installation Guide

In this document, you'll find a step-by-step guide on how to install the latest version of Windows, and how to set it up correctly for minimal bloat.

Page • `Work in Progress` `Tutorial` +1

> ℹ️ This document is still a work in progress!

Windows installation

This may seem obvious, but if you want to debloat Windows, you need to install it first. If you installed it a while ago, I'd recommend installing it again from scratch to make sure everything I'll detail here will work normally.

Before starting, make sure you got everything listed below:

- A computer with Windows 10 or 11 ;

- A mass storage device (the one in your future Windows computer). Preferably an SSD, but an HDD would work ;

- A flash drive (also commonly called USB key) with at least 8GB of maximum capacity ;

- At least 128GB of storage and 8GB of RAM for most usages. Depending on what you will use your computer for, you may need more.

Preparing the installation

Downloading Windows

- Get on Microsoft's website's Windows download page ;

- Under "Download Windows 11 Disk Image (ISO) for x64 devices", select "Windows 11 (multi-edition ISO for x64 devices)", click "Confirm" ;

- Under "Select the product langage", I'd recommend choosing "English International" if you're comfortable with it, else choose your preferred language. This tutorial will be oriented for English International ;

- Click "Confirm".

- Under "Download - Windows 11 English International" (or whichever language you chose), click "64-bit Download".

> **!** The ISO file is very large! (> 7 GB) Make sure to be in proper conditions to download it.

Creating a bootable device

- Download the portable version of Rufus at https://rufus.ie/en/#download ;

> **ℹ** Rufus only works on Windows 8, 10, or 11. For people using MacOS or Linux, you can find similar tools online.

- You can run the executable file from basically anywhere in you computer. Run it ;

- Under "Device", select your flash drive ;

- Under "Boot selection", click on the "SELECT" button and select your downloaded ISO file ;

- In Rufus' window's bottom, click on "START" ;

> **!** This will ERASE all data stored on the flash drive! Make sure to backup anything you wish to keep.

- An additional popup appears for more settings. I'd recommend activating "Remove requirement for 4GB+ RAM, ...", "Remove requirement for an online Microsoft account", "Disable data collection", and "Disable BitLocker...", then click on "OK" ;

- A popup appears to confirm you want to continue. If you are sure, click on "OK" ;

- Wait for the bootable device creation to finish. Once the Status bar indicates "READY", click on "CLOSE".

Preparing the computer

- Make sure the computer you will install Windows 11 on is:
  - turned off ;
  - disconnected from the internet ;
- Plug the flash drive into the fastest port you have. Discover how to recognize it here ;
- Plug in a keyboard. A mouse is optional (and may not even be supported).

Installing Windows

Booting from BIOS/UEFI

- Turn on your computer and immediately start repeatedly pressing the Delete, F2, or F10 key (it depends of your computer, but is usually one of these three) ;
- Once in BIOS/UEFI, navigate to the boot order/boot priority section. This is usually found under tabs labeled "Boot", "Startup", or "Advanced" ;
- Move your flash drive to the top of the boot priority list. Use the on-screen instructions to help you ;
- Save changes and exit ;

Your computer will restart and should boot from the flash drive.

> ℹ️ BIOS/UEFI firmwares are very different depending of your computer/motherboard. You can find more specific help for yours when searching online for your motherboard or computer model name.

Windows installer