How to install software

The installation process for software or apps depends on your operating system (Windows and mac OS), device (computer, smartphone, or tablet), and the program you are installing. As a result of these many combinations, we have created the steps below as a general guideline. The following does not cover errors during the installation process, as they are too vast for one page. Search our site for further information on specific errors during the setup.

General tips

- Make sure your computer meets the system requirements of the program, game, or utility you are attempting to install.
- The manual, or a README file, usually contains instructions on how to install a program. Find it online at the software website or in a text file in the same directory as the installation files.
- If you have problems installing software, or it takes a long time, close or disable any other running programs.
- After installing a new program, if it prompts you to reboot the computer, do so.

Microsoft Windows users
1. How to install from a CD or DVD.
2. How to install from a download.
3. How to install from a USB flash drive.

How to install from a CD or DVD

Many software titles (like the Microsoft Office suite), games, and utilities have an AutoPlay feature. This feature automatically starts a setup screen for the software when the CD or DVD is inserted. If your program contains this feature, follow the steps that appear after inserting the disc into the computer.

If Auto Play is disabled on your computer or unavailable on the software disc, follow these steps.

1. Open My Computer.

2. In the *My Computer* window, open the drive containing the installation files. For example, if the files are on the CD-ROM drive, open the D: drive or letter of your CD-ROM drive.

3. In the drive containing your files, locate either the executable **setup** (e.g., "setup.exe") or **install** file. Double-clicking this file starts the installation process. If there are multiple setup or install files, locate the executable file or double-click each setup or install file until you find the file that starts the installation.

Install a CD on a computer with no disc drive

Many new computers no longer have disc drives. If your computer does not have a disc drive, try finding the software online. Computer drivers, software for hardware devices, games, and other programs are available for download and installed from a download. If you have the product key, it doesn't matter where you get the program.

If the program is not available for download, copy all the CD or DVD contents to another drive on another computer. For example, you could copy the disc's contents to a USB flash drive and then install the program from the USB flash drive.

How to install from a Download

1. Download the program from the website providing the program.

2. Open the download folder.

- Where are the files I downloaded using my web browser?

1. If the file you downloaded is executable, double-click the file icon to start the setup process. If the downloaded file is compressed (e.g., .zip), you must extract the file's contents before setup can begin. Fortunately, this function is built into most versions of Windows.

- How to extract or decompress a compressed file.

1. Once the files are extracted, double-click the setup or install file to install the program.

How to install from a USB flash drive

1. Open Windows Explorer or My Computer and find the USB drive that is often the last drive letter.

2. Once the drive is opened, find the setup or executable file, and double-click the file icon to start the setup process.