

How to install Windows 11 on an older PC/laptop

If your PC/laptop has an Intel CPU older than 8th generation (e.g. Core i5-7300 is a 7th generation CPU) then Windows 11 may refuse to install, telling you that your computer is not supported. However your computer is very likely able to run Windows 11. This is an artificial limitation put in place by Microsoft.

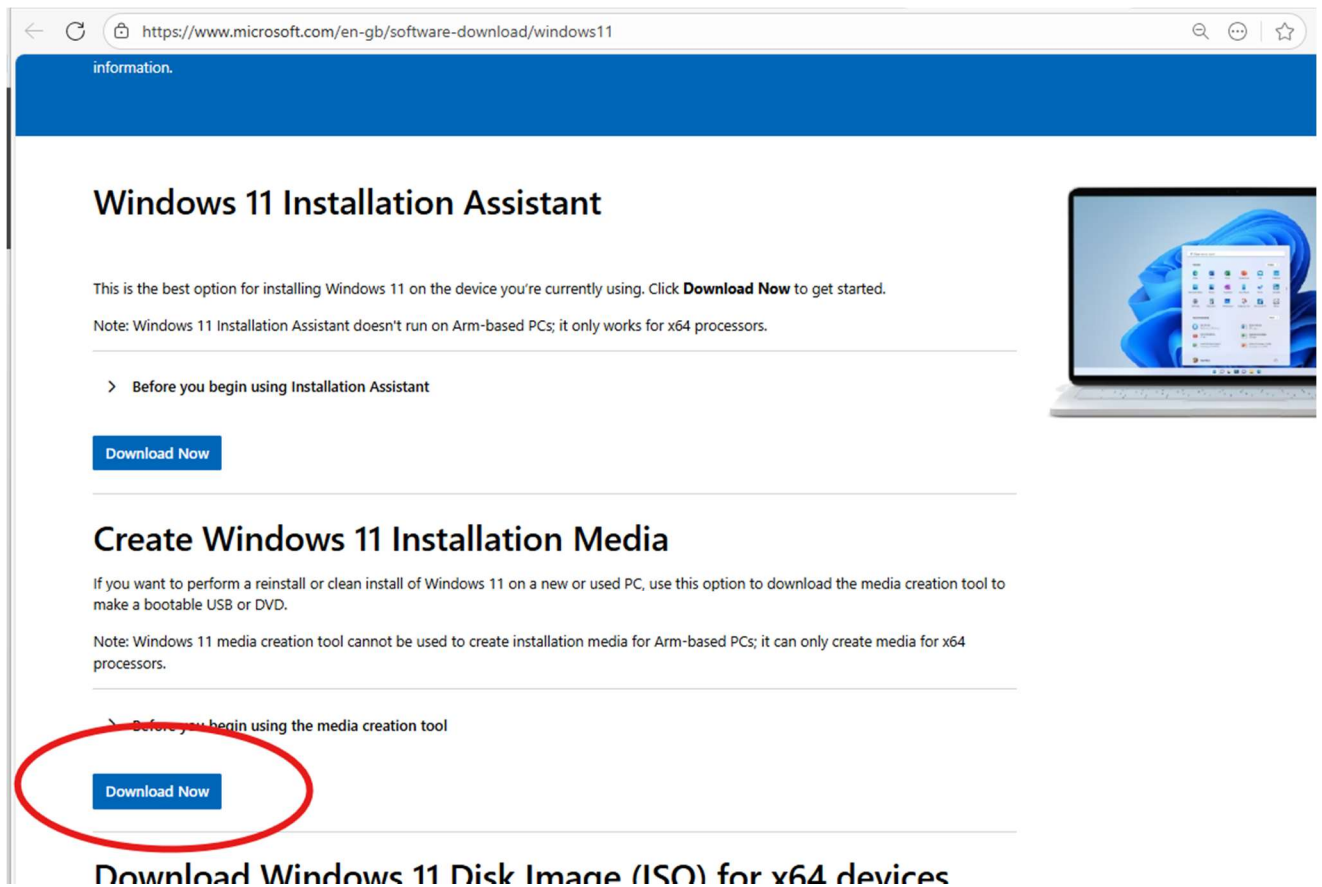
To bypass this limitation, you can download the Windows installer image (.iso file) from Microsoft, then use a program called Rufus to create a USB stick which bypasses the Microsoft checks. Then you use this USB stick to install Windows 11 (or to upgrade your PC from Windows 10 to Windows 11).

You will need a blank USB stick, at least 16GB in size. An old USB 2.0 stick should work fine, but a USB 3.x stick will be noticeably faster.

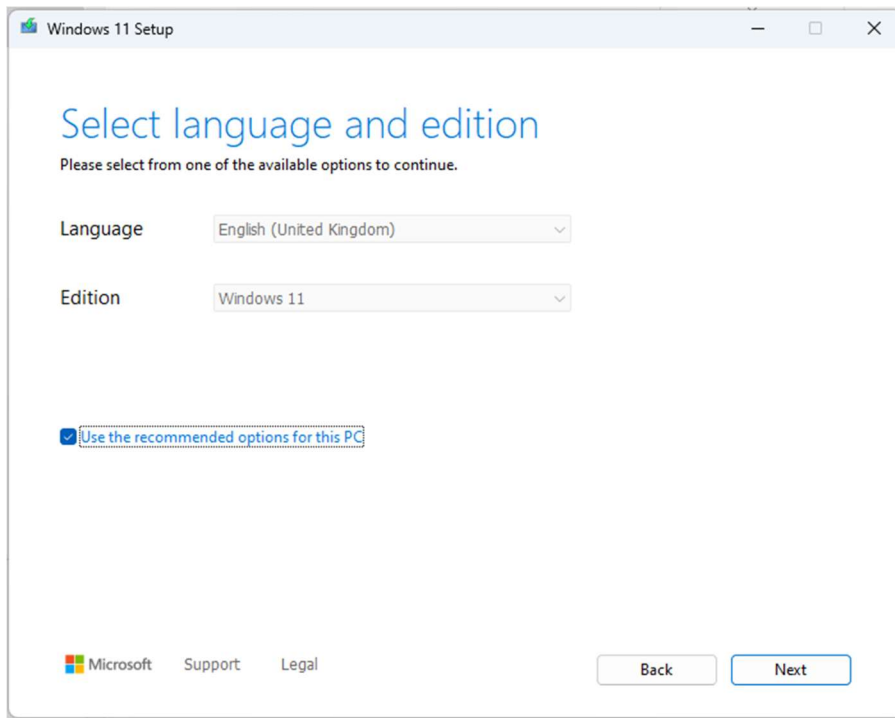
Note: you'll also need a computer running Windows 10 or 11 to run Steps 1 & 2 :

Step1. Download the Windows 11 installer file from Microsoft

Go to <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/software-download/windows11> , and scroll down to the second 'Download now' button :

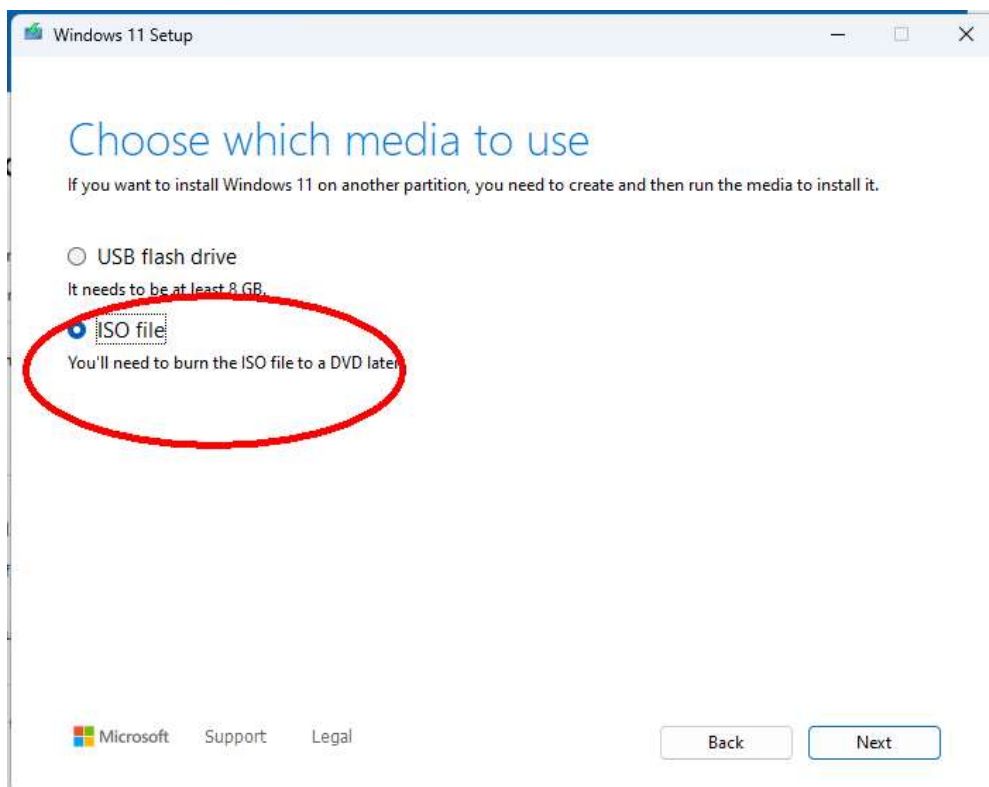


This should download a small program called mediacreationtool.exe : go to your Downloads folder and run it.



On this screen you can change the language which Windows 11 will use, if you want to. Usually you're best not to change it: just Click on Next

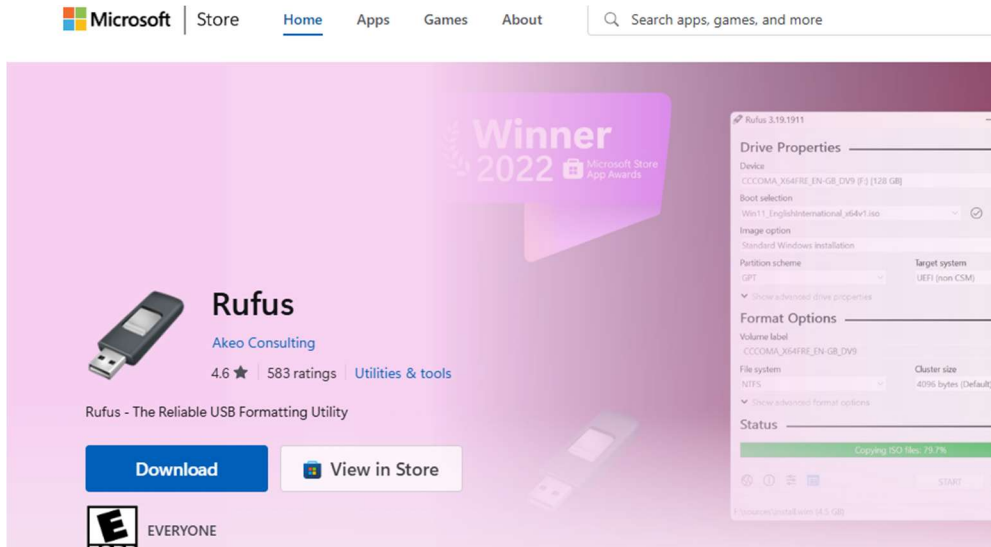
On the next screen , choose ISO file , not USB drive:



It will start downloading the windows11 .ISO file , which is several gigabytes in size , so may take an hour or two.

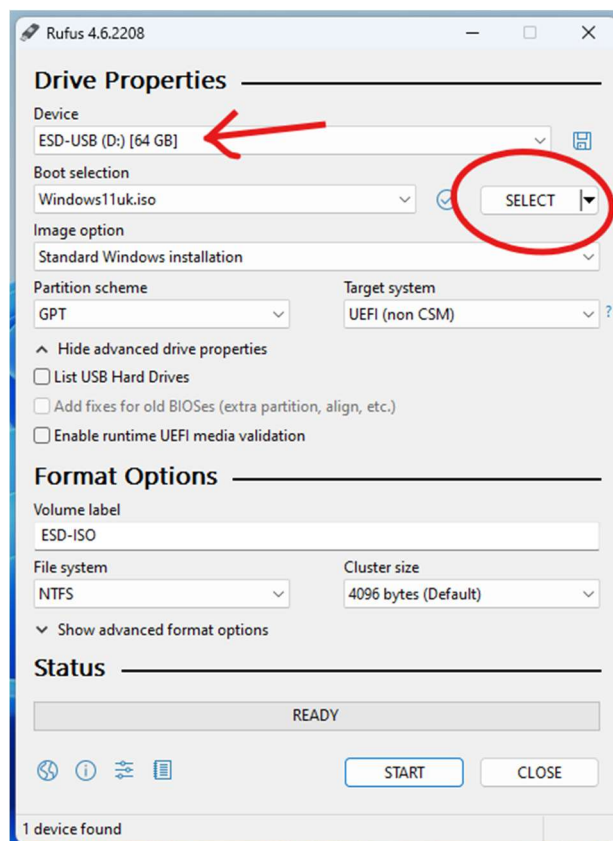
Step 2. Use the Rufus program to write the .ISO file onto your USB stick

Download Rufus from the Microsoft Store app :



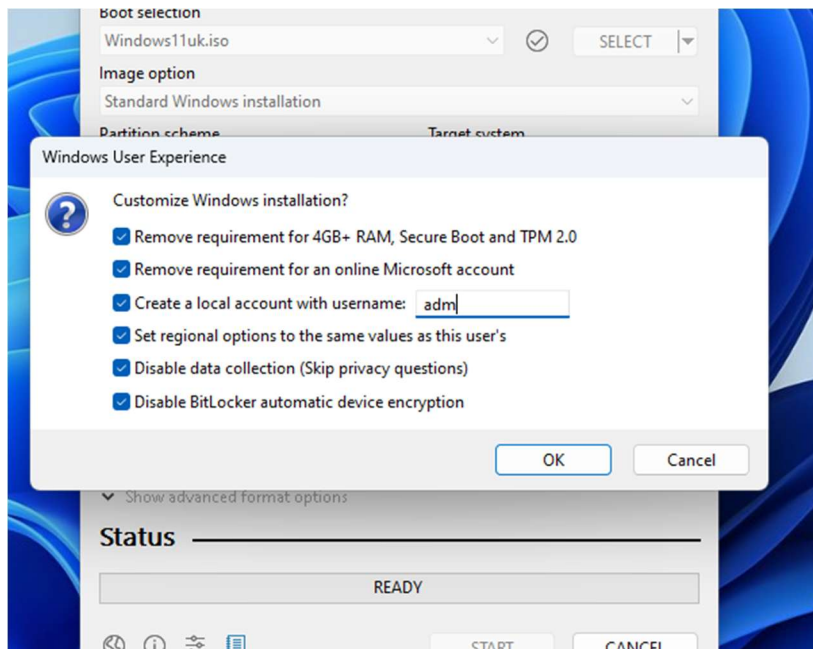
If you can't find it, you can alternatively download it from the Rufus website: <https://rufus.ie/en/>

Start up Rufus, and insert your blank USB stick into a spare USB socket on your PC: the USB drive should appear in the 'Device' field at the top of the Rufus window, as shown by the red arrow below:



Now click on the **SELECT** button and choose the windows 11 ISO file which you downloaded in Step 1.

Then click on the **START** button. It should pop up a second window with a list of options: you should tick all of these, then click OK:



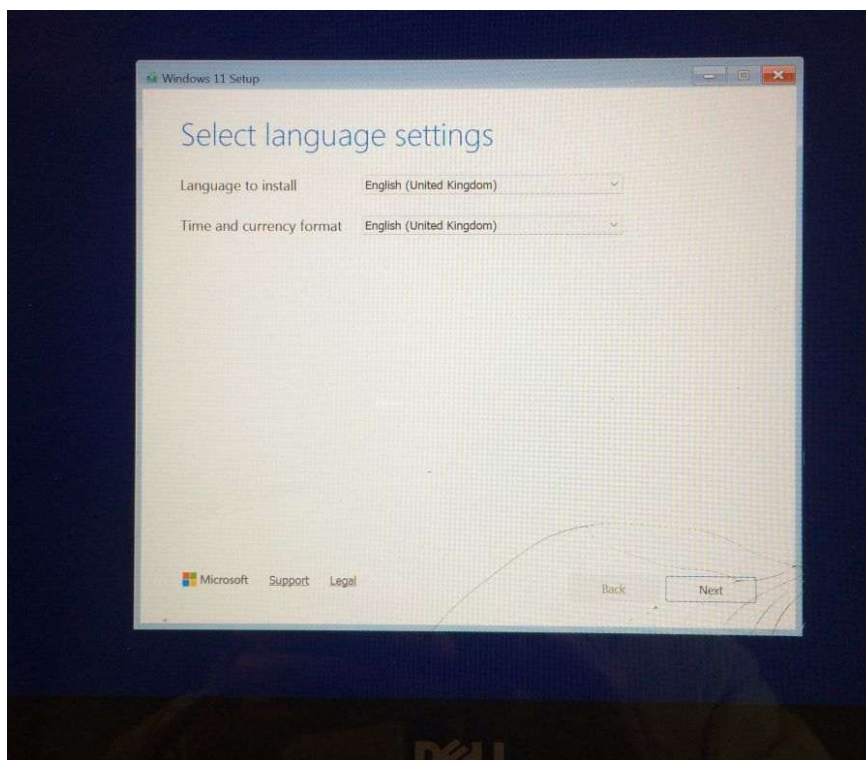
It may take about 15 minutes for Rufus to create the USB stick.

Step 3. Run the Windows 11 install

On the PC/laptop where you want to install Windows 11, boot it from the new USB stick which you created in step 2:

- insert the USB stick into your computer/laptop ,
- switch on your laptop and press the special key which takes you into the Boot Menu : depending on what brand of PC you have, this may be F12 or F9 , or just the Enter key.
- Choose to boot from the USB stick

After about 20-30 sec you should see the Windows 11 installer start :



You should then be taken through the normal Windows setup process : choosing a language/ keyboard/country , accepting the licence agreement, choose a disk partition etc.