

How to upgrade an older PC/laptop from Windows 10 to Windows 11

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

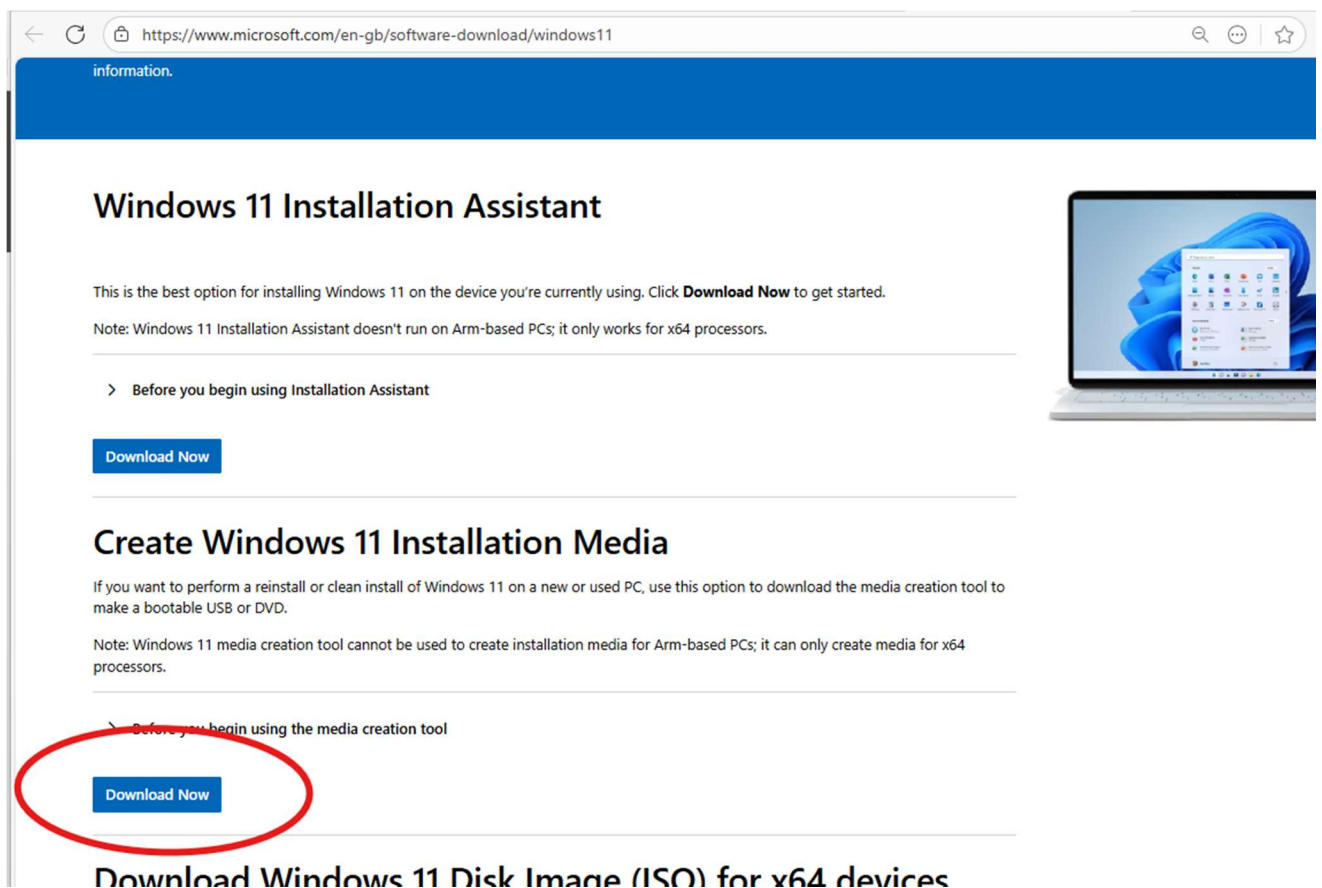
To bypass this limitation, you can download the Windows installer image (.iso file) from Microsoft, then use a program called Rufus to create a USB stick which bypasses the Microsoft checks. Then you use this USB stick to upgrade your PC/laptop.

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.

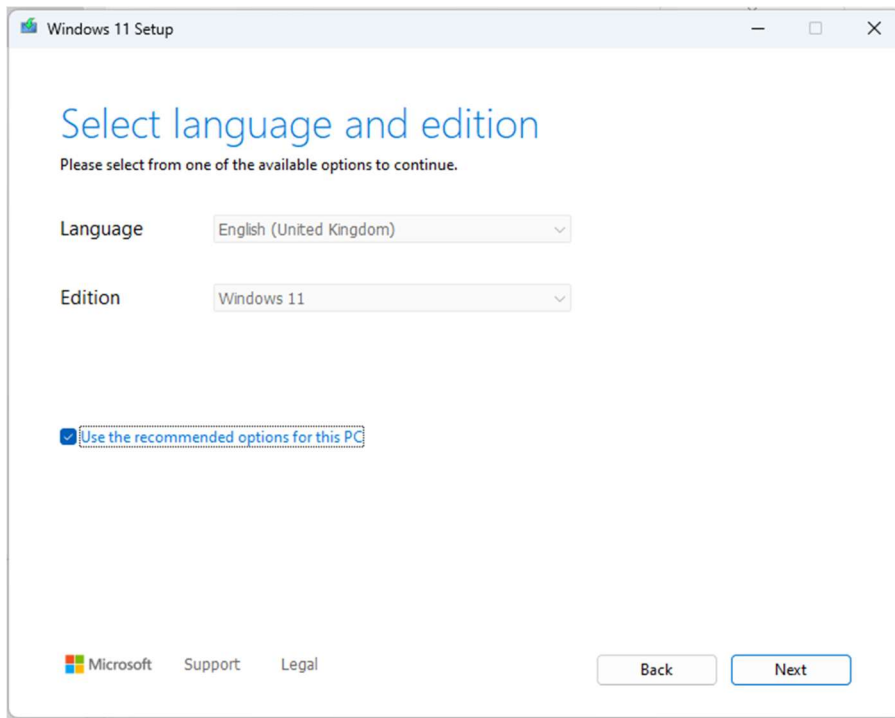
Before running the upgrade, make sure you have a backup of your PC. An easy way to make a backup is using Windows 10's built-in 'Create a system image' tool : you just need a portable USB hard disk to make the backup.

Step1. Download the Windows 11 installer from Microsoft

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

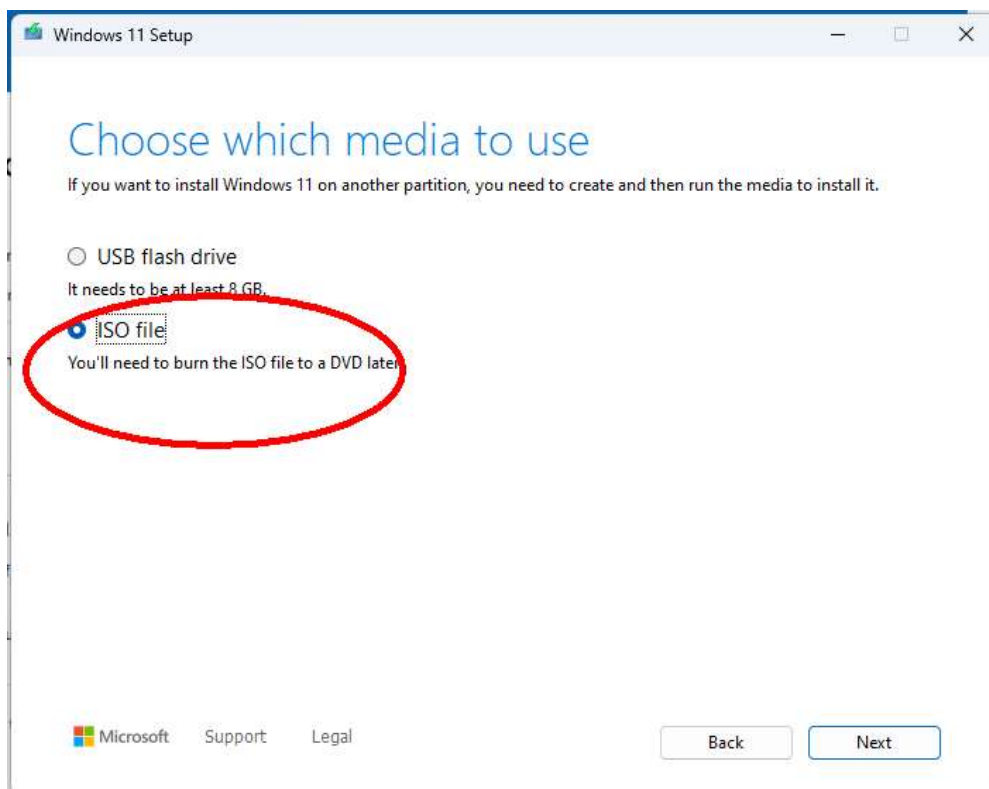


This should download a small program called mediacreationtool.exe : go to your Downloads folder and run it.



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

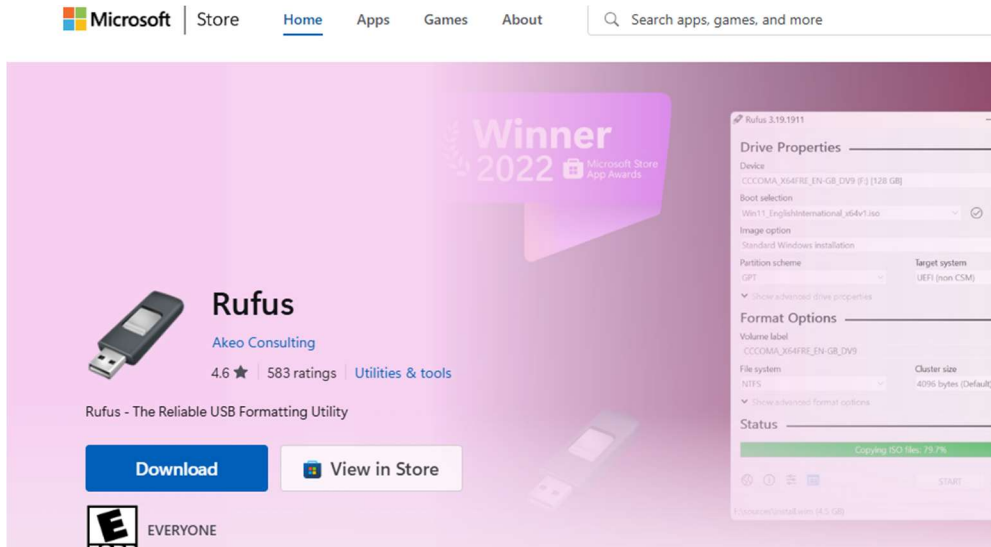
On the next screen , choose ISO file , not USB drive:



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

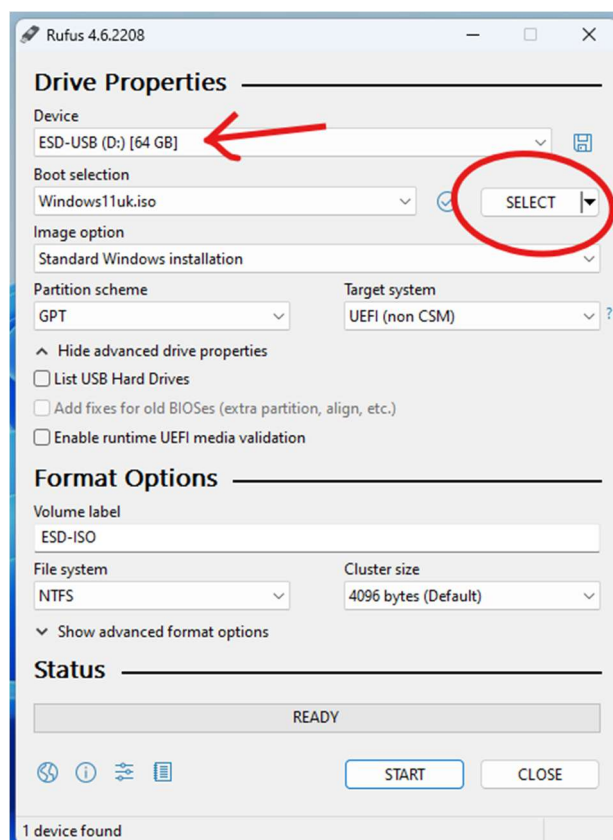
Step 2. Use the Rufus program to write the .ISO file onto your USB stick

First, download Rufus from the Microsoft Store app on your Windows 10 PC:



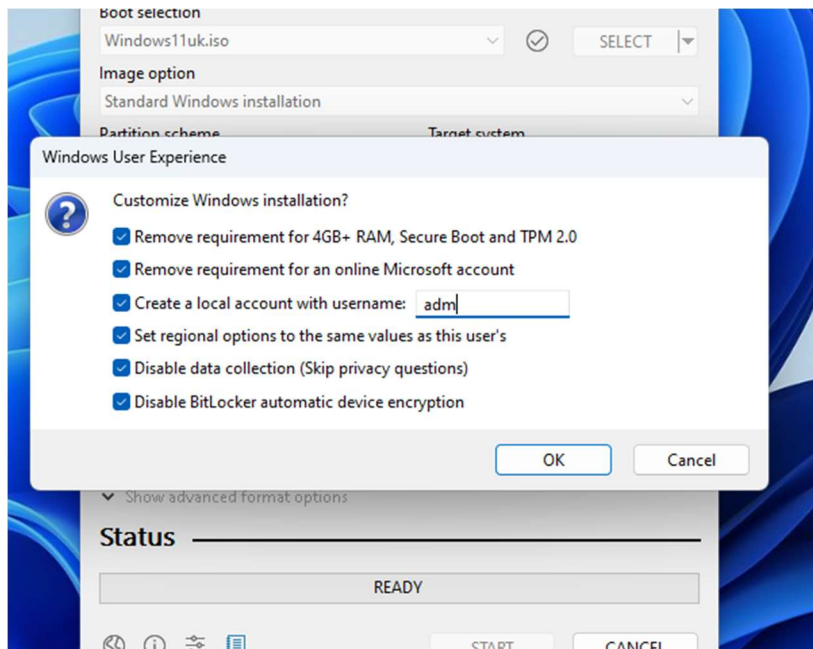
If you can't find it, you can alternatively download it from the Rufus website: <https://rufus.ie/en/>

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:

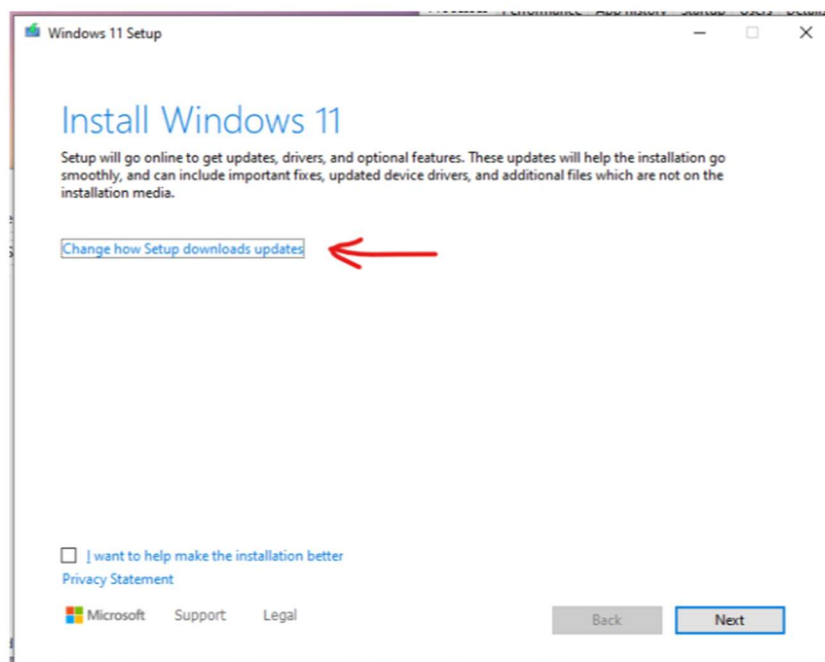


It may take about 15 minutes for Rufus to create the USB stick.

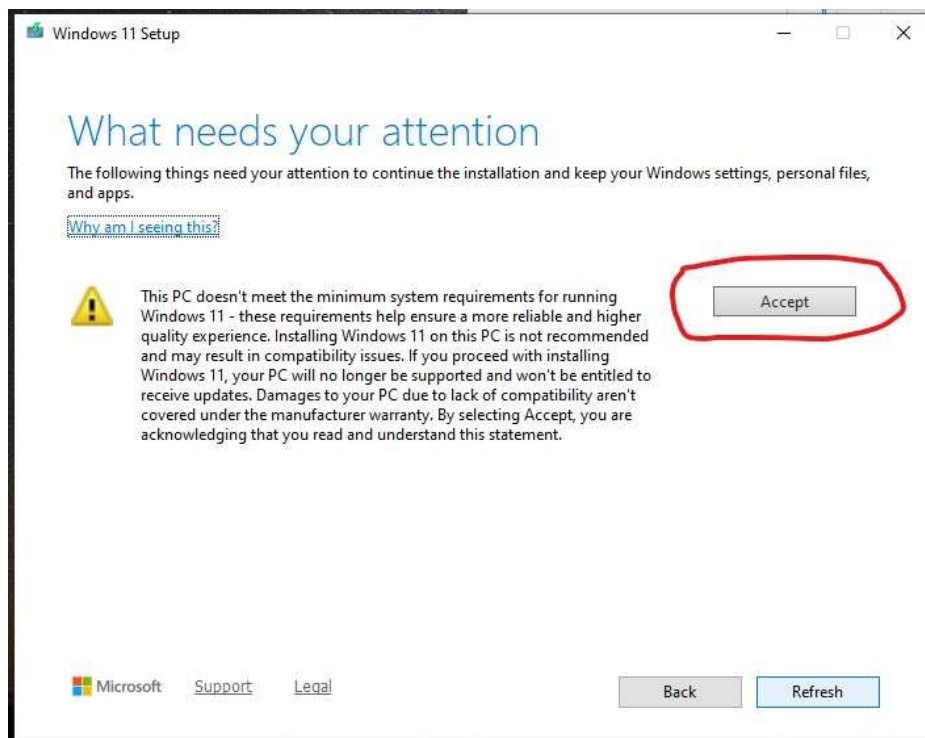
Step 3. run the Windows 11 upgrade

Open Windows Explorer and find the USB stick you just created : it may be the D: or E: drive. Look for the 'setup' application on the USB stick and run it to launch the Windows 11 upgrade.

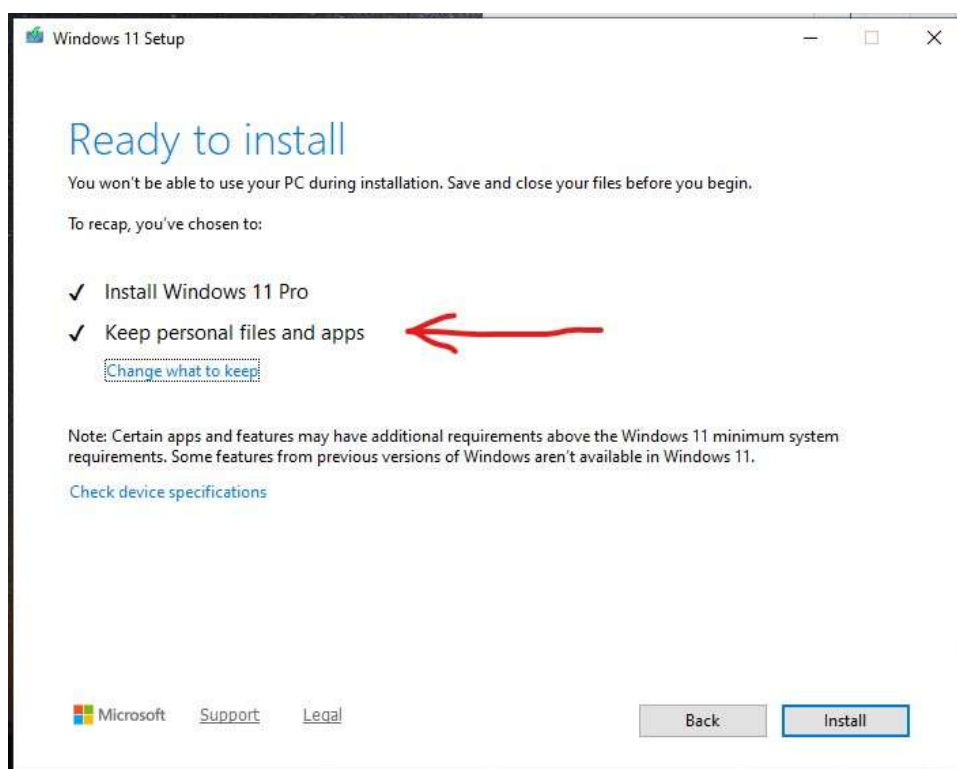
When you see the 'Install Windows 11' screen, click on 'Change how Setup downloads updates' and choose 'Not right now':



After running some checks, it may warn you that your PC doesn't meet the minimum requirements for Windows 11, and ask you to accept the risk that Windows 11 may not be supported: click on the 'Accept' button :



Then when it gets to the 'Ready to install' step, make sure that it shows '**Keep personal files and apps**' ticked (both files AND apps is v.important) :



Click on the Install button to start the upgrade : it may take 1-3 hours to complete.