

XP STARTUP DISK

Unlike previous versions of Windows, XP does not have an option to create an emergency startup disk. Also, unlike previous versions of Windows, the XP installation CD is bootable.

What, no start-up disk for XP?

Q: My copy of Windows XP Home Edition didn't come with a boot disk, and I can't find a way to make one using the Add/Remove Programs control panel (the way I could with previous versions of Windows). Am I missing something?

A: You're not missing a thing. Typically, you'd use a boot disk to prepare or access your hard drive without running the full operating system, but Microsoft made the XP installation CDs self-booting and built hard-drive preparation into the XP installation process. They seem to have forgotten, however, that users often need boot disks to repair a bad OS installation. So after Microsoft launched XP, the company caved in to pressure from beta testers and users and created a [Help and Support article](#) where you can read about and download the appropriate files (available in several languages) to make boot disks for XP Home or XP Pro.

The article links to a downloadable program that creates a complete six-disk set of boot disks. These disks are similar to the boot disks for Windows NT or 2000; they are *not* DOS disks, which means you can't use them to load enough device drivers to get XP running so that you can reinstall or repair your boot sequence. Neither do they let you run programs the way you may be used to when booting DOS.

If you just need to repair a faulty XP boot sequence--that is, if Windows XP won't launch properly or something goes wrong at start-up--you can create a simple boot disk using the method [at the link below](#). If you want a boot disk in order to run DOS games or reformat your hard drive, you'll need a DOS boot disk, or you'll have to create a Windows start-up disk on another system. Microsoft no longer offers DOS and provides no way to obtain DOS or Windows boot disks for other operating systems.

Carefully choose which Windows version you use to create a DOS or Windows start-up disk. Disks prior to Windows 95B won't let you access your hard drive if it is partitioned with [FAT32](#) or [NTFS](#). (The partition information in the Windows utility FDisk or the Details view in Windows Explorer will show your hard drive's partition type.) If you're using a disk created from Windows 95, 98, or Me, you can access a FAT32 drive, but not an NTFS drive. Microsoft cautions that you must own the Microsoft product you're going to use to boot your system; otherwise, you will violate the company's copyright.

Go to the following page to find out how to create bootable Windows XP setup disks.
<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;EN-US;q310994>

Go to the following page to find out how to create a simple Windows XP boot disk.
<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;EN-US;q305595>

Win XP Startup Disks

The Windows XP startup disk allows computers without a bootable CD-ROM to perform a new installation of the operating system. The Windows XP startup disk will automatically load the correct drivers to gain access to the CD-ROM drive and start a new installation of Setup. You cannot upgrade from a Windows XP startup disk.

Windows XP Home Edition startup disks will not work for Windows XP Professional installations and vice-versa. Windows XP SP2 startup disks are not interchangeable, for more information please see [Knowledge Base article 310994](#).

[Click here: Download details: Windows XP Home Edition with Service Pack 2 Utility: Setup Disks for Floppy Boot Install](#)

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