Windows CD key

CAUTION: Using Regedit is not recommended for new computer users.
Recommended for anyone accessing their computer registry. Export a copy of the registry first.
1. **Create a new folder in the C:\ drive and name it ARegistry.**
2. **Click START…RUN and type in regedit Click OK.**
3. **Click File and Export**
4. **Locate the ARegistry folder and doubleclick it.**
5. **Name the copy of the registry you're exporting to the ARegistry folder REG + the date.**

If you've lost the Windows cardboard envelope that had the CD Key on the back of it and need to reinstall Windows, you can track down your CD Key by peering into the registry. To begin, select the Run command on the Start menu and launch the Registry Editor by typing Regedit in the Open text box. Once you have the Registry Editor up and running, locate and double-click on the HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE key. When this subtree is visible, open each of the following subkeys in succession:

Software
Microsoft
Windows
CurrentVersion

Now, locate the Product "ID" value in the CurrentVersion subkey.

Here, you'll find a copy of the entire certificate number in four groups of five, three, seven, and five numbers. The CD key number you need to install Windows is made up of the second and third group. Simply write down this number and close the Registry Editor.

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