

# Using the Windows 10 or Windows 11 Lenovo Factory Recovery USB Key

The recovery procedures in this publication are subject to changes. For the most up-to-date recovery procedures, go to:  
<https://pcsupport.lenovo.com>



The Lenovo® factory recovery USB key enables you to restore your Lenovo computer to a factory-installed Windows operating system. It contains the following items:

- Recovery program, and factory-installed applications and drivers
- Windows operating system installation files
- Additional contents, such as software updates

Before you start the recovery process, observe the following precautions:

- During the recovery process, all files on your hard disk drive and all your settings will be deleted. To avoid data loss, back up all the data that you want to keep.
- It is recommended that you create Windows recovery media in case you want to go back to the Windows operating system at a later date. For instructions on how to create recovery media, refer to the electronic *User Guide* for your computer at <https://pcsupport.lenovo.com>.
- You may install and use only one version of the Windows operating system at a time.

## Before the recovery process

Before you start the recovery process, do the following:

### For ThinkPad® tablet computers:

1. Restart your computer and immediately press and hold the volume-up button until the ThinkPad Tablet Setup program opens.

#### Notes:

- For ThinkPad X1 Tablet (machine types: 20GG and 20GH), tap “Press Enter or touch here”, and then tap F1 to open the ThinkPad Tablet Setup program.
  - Depending on the computer model, the method of opening the ThinkPad Tablet Setup program might vary. For details, refer to the electronic *User Guide* for your computer at <https://pcsupport.lenovo.com>.
2. From the main menu of the ThinkPad Tablet Setup program, select **Restart**.

3. On the Restart screen, select **Load Setup Defaults**. In the displayed dialog box, select **Yes**.
4. In the lower right corner of the Restart screen, select **Home** to return to the main menu.
5. Continue with “Performing the recovery process”.

### For other types of Lenovo computers:

1. Repeatedly press and release the F1 key when turning on your computer. When you hear multiple beeps or see a logo screen, release the F1 key. The Setup program opens.
2. From the Setup program main menu, select **Exit** or **Restart** and ensure that **OS Optimized Defaults** is set to **Enabled**.
3. Press F9 to load default settings, select **Yes** when prompted, and press Enter.
4. Press F10 to save your changes and exit.
5. Continue with “Performing the recovery process”.

## Performing the recovery process

### Notes:

- Your computer must provide an available Universal Serial Bus (USB) connector for connecting the Lenovo factory recovery USB key.
- During the recovery process, all files on your hard disk drive and all your settings will be deleted. To avoid data loss, back up all the data that you want to keep.
- Ensure that your computer is connected to ac power during the recovery process.
- After the recovery process finishes, you might need to reinstall some device drivers. It is recommended that you use the System Update function provided by Lenovo Vantage. For information about accessing Lenovo Vantage, refer to the electronic *User Guide* for your computer at <https://pcsupport.lenovo.com>.

To perform the recovery process, do the following:

### For ThinkPad tablet computers:

1. Set the USB key as the first startup device by doing the following:
  - a. Restart your computer and immediately press and hold the volume-up button until the ThinkPad Tablet Setup program opens.  
**Note:** Depending on the computer model, the method of opening the ThinkPad Tablet Setup program might vary. For details, refer to the electronic *User Guide* for your computer at <https://pcsupport.lenovo.com>.
  - b. From the main menu of the ThinkPad Tablet Setup program, select **Startup**.
  - c. On the Startup screen, select **Boot**. Drag **USB HDD** to the top to make it the first startup device.
2. Insert a USB adapter into an available USB connector on your computer and connect the USB key to the USB adapter.
3. In the lower left corner of the Startup

screen, select **Restart**.

4. On the Restart screen, select **Exit Saving Changes**.
5. In the displayed dialog box, select **Yes**. Your computer restarts and the recovery program opens.
6. Select your language and tap **Next**.
7. Read the license, select **I agree to these terms and conditions**, and tap **Next**.

**Note:** You must agree to the terms and conditions to continue the recovery process.

8. Select **Yes** in the displayed dialog box to continue the recovery process.
9. When the recovery process finishes, you are prompted to remove the USB key and restart your computer. Remove the USB key and select **Yes** to restart your computer.

**Note:** The rest of the recovery process is fully automated and no action is required by

you. Your computer will restart into the Microsoft® Windows desktop several times and you might experience periods when no activity is apparent on the screen for several minutes at a time. This is normal.

10. When the Windows setup screen is displayed, follow the instructions on the screen to complete the Windows setup.
11. If you want to restore the original startup sequence after the recovery, open the ThinkPad Tablet Setup program. Tap **Startup**, tap **Boot**, and select the first startup device. Then save your change and exit.

**For other types of Lenovo computers:**

1. Connect the USB key to an available USB connector on your computer.
2. Repeatedly press and release the F12 key when turning on your computer. The boot menu is displayed.
3. Select the USB key by using the arrow

keys and press Enter. The recovery program opens.

4. Select your language and click **Next**.
5. Read the license, select **I agree to these terms and conditions**, and click **Next**.

**Note:** You must agree to the terms and conditions to continue the recovery process.

6. If your computer has multiple internal storage drives, you might be prompted to select the internal storage drive on which you want to restore the operating system. Do the following:
  - a. Follow the instructions on the screen to select an internal storage drive.  
**Note:** Ensure that you strictly follow the instructions on the screen. Otherwise, the recovery process might fail.
  - b. In the displayed dialog box, click **Yes** if you want to format all the internal

storage drives, or click **No** if you want to format the system drive only.

7. Click **Yes** in the displayed dialog box to continue the recovery process.
8. When the recovery process finishes, you are prompted to remove the USB key and restart your computer. Remove the USB key and click **Yes** to restart your computer.

**Note:** The rest of the recovery process is fully automated and no action is required by you. Your computer will restart into the Microsoft Windows desktop several times and you might experience periods when no activity is apparent on the screen for several minutes at a time. This is normal.

9. When the Windows setup screen is displayed, follow the instructions on the screen to complete the Windows setup.