GENERAL

how to factory reset windows 8

Published: September 3, 2026 | Index ID: #-

How to Factory Reset Windows /8: A Complete Step by Step Guide

Windows 8 introduced a sleek, tile based interface that many users loved, but it also brought a new way to restore a computer to its original state. A factory reset can solve performance problems, remove malware, or simply give you a clean slate before selling or gifting your device. This guide walks you through every method you can use to reset Windows 8, explains the pros and cons of each, and provides troubleshooting tips to ensure a smooth experience. Whether you're a seasoned tech enthusiast or a casual user, you'll find the information you need to reset your system confidently.

What Is a Factory Reset?

A factory reset, also called a "system restore to factory defaults," removes all user data, installed applications, and settings, returning the operating system to the state it was in when you first purchased or installed it. In Windows 8, this process can be performed via the Settings app, Control Panel, or the Windows Recovery Environment (WinRE). The reset can be done from the current installation or from a bootable USB drive if your system can't start normally.

When Should You Reset Windows /8?

- Slow performance: Over time, accumulated junk files and background processes can slow down your PC.
- Malware infections: If a virus or spyware persists after cleanup attempts.
- Hardware changes: Upgrading components often requires a clean OS install.
- Preparing to sell or give away: Removes personal data and restores the machine to factory condition.
- System errors: Persistent crashes or update failures that standard troubleshooting can't fix.

Pre Reset Checklist

Before you dive into the reset process, make sure you're fully prepared. A factory reset will erase everything on your system drive, so backing up essential data is critical.

1. Backup Your Files

Copy important documents, photos, music, and other files to an external hard drive, USB stick, or cloud storage. You can also use Windows /8's built in backup utility or third party tools like Macrium Reflect.

2. Gather Software Licenses and Keys

Collect product keys for Windows, Microsoft Office, antivirus programs, and any other licensed software you plan to reinstall.

3. Note System Settings

Write down or screenshot any custom settings—network configurations, display preferences, or device drivers—that you might want to restore later.

4. Ensure Power Stability

If you’re resetting a laptop, plug it into a reliable power source to avoid interruptions. For desktops, make sure the power supply is functioning correctly.

5. Check Your Hardware

Confirm that your hardware meets the minimum requirements for Windows 8, especially if you plan to perform a clean installation after the reset.

Method 1: Reset Using the Settings App (PC Settings)

For most users, the Settings app offers the simplest way to reset Windows 8. This method is available when Windows is booting normally.

Step by Step Instructions

1. Press Win /+ /X and select PC Settings from the menu.
2. In the PC Settings window, click PC and devices.
3. Select Recovery from the left pane.
4. Under Reset this PC, click Get started.
5. Choose Remove everything to wipe all data, or select Keep my files if you only want to remove applications and settings.
6. Confirm your choice and click Next.
7. Windows will now begin the reset process. Your computer may restart several times.
8. Once completed, you’ll be guided through the initial Windows setup.

Tip: Selecting “Keep my files” is useful if you want to preserve personal documents but still want to clean out apps and settings.

Method 2: Reset via Control Panel

Some users prefer the classic Control Panel interface. This method is handy if the Settings app is inaccessible.

Step by Step Instructions

1. Open the Control Panel (press Win /+ /X and choose it).
2. Select System and Security.
3. Under the Recovery section, click Open System Restore (not needed for reset, but you can create a restore point before proceeding).
4. Close the restore dialog and go back to System and Security.
5. Click Backup and Restore (Windows 7) (yes, the name refers to Windows /7, but it works for Windows /8).
6. In the left pane, select Reset this computer.
7. Choose Remove everything or Keep my files, then click Next.
8. Confirm your choice and let the reset process begin.

Note: The Control Panel method may not be available on some Windows 8 installations if certain components are missing.

Method 3: Advanced Startup (WinRE) Reset

If Windows won’t boot normally, you can access the Windows Recovery Environment and perform a reset from there.

Accessing WinRE

1. Restart your computer and press F8 or Shift /+ /F8 before the Windows logo appears. (If your PC boots too fast, use a USB recovery drive instead.)
2. In the Advanced Boot Options menu, select Repair Your Computer.
3. Choose your keyboard layout and log in with an administrator account.
4. In the System Recovery Options window, click Reset your computer.
5. Select Remove everything or Keep my files, then click Next.
6. Follow the on screen instructions to complete the reset.

Using a Bootable USB or DVD

If you can't access WinRE, create a bootable USB drive with the Windows /8 installation media.

1. Download the Windows /8 ISO from Microsoft's official site.
2. Use a tool like Rufus to create a bootable USB.
3. Insert the USB and restart your PC.
4. Press F12 (or the key for your BIOS) to select the USB as the boot device.
5. When the Windows Setup screen appears, click Install now.
6. Choose Custom (advanced) when prompted for the installation type.
7. Select the primary partition (usually C:) and click Delete to wipe it.
8. Click Next to install a fresh copy of Windows /8.

Important: This method is a clean install rather than a factory reset, so you'll need to reinstall all drivers and software afterward.

Method 4: Reset Using Command Prompt (DISM)

Advanced users can perform a reset via the Deployment Image Servicing and Management (DISM) tool. This method is useful when graphical interfaces fail.

Step by Step Instructions

1. Boot into WinRE (see Method /3) and open the Command Prompt.
2. Type the following command to reset the system:

```
DISM /Online /Cleanup-Image /RestoreHealth
```

Wait for the process to complete. Then run:

```
systemreset -factoryreset
```

Follow the prompts to finish the reset.

Method 5: Using Windows /8 Recovery Drive

Windows /8 allows you to create a recovery drive that contains all necessary tools to reset or repair your PC.

Creating a Recovery Drive

1. Connect a USB drive with at least 4 /GB of free space.
2. Search for Recovery Drive in the Start menu and open it.
3. Check Back up system files to the recovery drive and click Next.

4. Click Create to finish.

Using the Recovery Drive to Reset

1. Insert the recovery USB and restart your PC.
2. Press the key to boot from USB (often F12).
3. Choose Repair your computer from the setup menu.
4. Navigate to System Image Recovery and follow the prompts to reset.

Common Issues and Troubleshooting

1. Reset Fails Mid Process

Restart the reset or try a different method (e.g., switch from Settings to WinRE). Ensure you're connected to power and have a stable internet connection if Windows needs to download updates.

2. "Error 0x80070002" During Reset

Run the Windows Update Troubleshooter from the Settings app or WinRE. Alternatively, delete the **SoftwareDistribution** folder and retry the reset.

3. Missing Drivers After Reset

Visit your PC or motherboard manufacturer's website to download the latest drivers. You can also use Windows Update to find them automatically.

4. System Won't Boot After Reset

Try booting into Safe Mode (**Shift /+ /Restart** !' Troubleshoot !' Advanced options !' Startup Settings). If that works, use **Recovery options** to perform a clean install.

After the Reset: Reinstalling Software and Updates

Once the reset completes, you'll need to reinstall essential software and apply the latest Windows updates.

1. Install Windows Updates

Open **Settings** !**Update & Security** !**Windows Update** !**Check for updates**. Install all critical and optional updates.

2. Reinstall Drivers

Use **Device Manager** to update drivers, or download them from the hardware manufacturer's site.

3. Restore Personal Files

Copy your backup files back to the appropriate folders (Documents, Pictures, etc.).

4. Reinstall Applications

Install your favorite programs, ensuring you have the license keys handy.

Factory Reset vs. Clean Install

While both options give you a fresh system, they differ:

- Factory Reset: Keeps the Windows installation media and recovery partitions intact; restores to the OEM's default state.
- Clean Install: Removes all data and installs a brand new copy of Windows from scratch, often using a USB or

DVD.

Choose a factory

Baca Juga (Artikel Terkait)

- **automaker mini software version v8 erptoboss**
  URL: http://art-consciousness.com/automaker-mini-software-version-v8-erptoboss.pdf
- **automata and computability**
  URL: http://art-consciousness.com/automata-and-computability.pdf
- **automata and languages theory and applications**
  URL: http://art-consciousness.com/automata-and-languages-theory-and-applications.pdf
- **automata and mechanical toys**
  URL: http://art-consciousness.com/automata-and-mechanical-toys.pdf

Tags: #factory #reset #windows