

Don't rush to reinstall Windows 11 if the update causes errors: Try these 3 methods first.

Is your Windows 11 experiencing errors after an update? Before reinstalling the operating system, try identifying the faulty update, rolling back, using Safe Mode, and Recovery to save your system.

Is your PC stuck in a boot loop, losing functionality, or running unusually slow after updating to Windows 11? Before considering a complete Windows reinstallation, there are a few simple troubleshooting steps that, in many cases, are enough to save your system.

If you've been using Windows long enough, you've probably experienced the frustration of updates at least once. Sometimes your computer will restart constantly, applications will suddenly stop working, or the entire system will become sluggish for no apparent reason. Most Windows updates go smoothly, but just one faulty update is enough to cause significant problems for an otherwise stable system.

The good news is: many cases don't require reinstalling Windows. Often, the problem lies in a specific update or a faulty startup process, not the entire operating system. Below is the procedure I always try before accepting a 'reset to zero'.

Identify the exact update that is causing the problem.

When you discover a problem immediately after an update, the first thing to do is see what changes Windows has made. Not all updates are the same: it could be a monthly cumulative patch, new drivers, security updates, .NET updates, or even a new feature. Just one of them having a bug is enough to cause a problem.

Open **Settings** , go to Windows Update, and select Update history. Here, Windows will list recent updates categorized by quality updates, driver updates, and security updates. Pay attention to updates that were installed on the exact day the problem started, especially those with KB codes.

If you find a 'suspect', record the KB code or take a screenshot for use in the next step. In the meantime, also scroll down and check for items with a Failed or Install error status. Repeated failed updates often indicate driver conflicts or incomplete installations.

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Windows Update

You're up to date
Last checked: Today, 11:09 AM [Check for updates](#)

Windows 11, version 25H2 is available. [Download & install](#)

See what's in this update

More options

Get the latest updates as soon as they're available
Be among the first to get the latest non-security updates, fixes, and improvements as they roll out. [Learn more](#) Off

Pause updates [Pause for 1 week](#)

Update history

Advanced options
Delivery optimization, optional updates, active hours, other update settings

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Windows Update > Update history

2025-12 Security Update (KB5072033) (26100.7462) Successfully installed on 12/9/2025	Learn more
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Driver Updates (3)	▼
Definition Updates (50)	▼
Other Updates (5)	▼

Related settings

- Uninstall updates
- Recovery

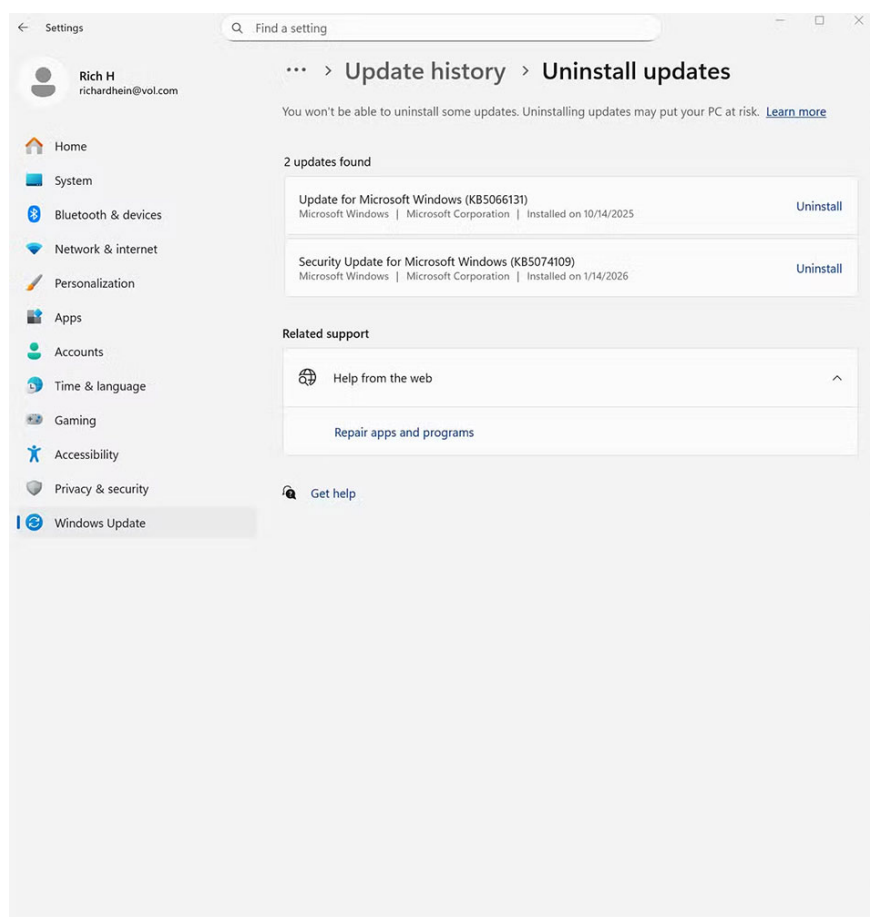
Related support

Uninstall the faulty update before Windows 'locks down'.

When an update causes problems, the least invasive and most effective solution is usually to roll back the update. However, this method has an 'expiration date'. Windows only keeps the necessary files to uninstall the update for a limited time. Once they are cleaned up, you will no longer have the option to roll back. Additionally, some updates cannot be uninstalled at all.

Uninstalling updates doesn't affect your files or applications; it simply reverts the system to its previous stable state. If problems appear immediately after an update, this is almost certainly the first step you should try.

Go to **Settings > Windows Update > Update history > Uninstall updates**. A list of updates that can still be uninstalled will appear. Find the specific update, usually the Quality Update with a KB code, select Uninstall, and restart when prompted.

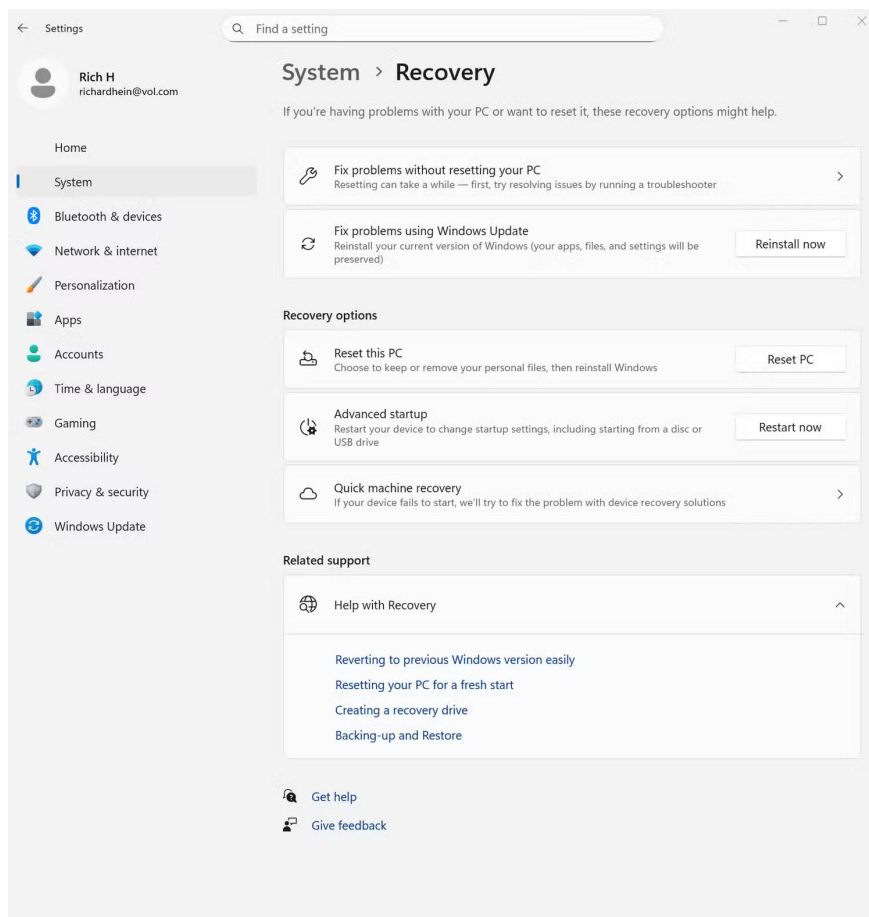


If there is no uninstall option, it means the rollback time has passed or the update cannot be removed. In this case, you need to proceed with system recovery.

Use Recovery or Safe Mode when rollback is not possible.

When you're certain an update is the cause but can't uninstall it directly, Recovery and Safe Mode are the next steps. The goal is simply to get Windows back to a usable state. Recovery mode helps overcome boot errors, while Safe Mode only loads the minimum number of drivers and services, making it easier to handle stubborn updates or drivers.

If you can still access Windows, open **Settings > Recovery** and select **Restart now** under Advanced startup. If the computer won't boot, turn it off and on several times in quick succession until the Recovery screen appears, then go to **Troubleshoot > Advanced** options.



To enter Safe Mode, select Startup Settings, restart, and then press key 4 (or 5 if you need internet access). Once in Safe Mode, you can go back to Update history to uninstall updates, or open Device Manager to rollback or update drivers. If Safe Mode still doesn't resolve the issue, tools like Startup Repair or System Restore in Recovery can sometimes handle boot loops or failed updates without reinstalling Windows.

Startup Settings

Press a number to choose from the options below:

Use number keys or functions keys F1-F9.

- 1) Enable debugging
- 2) Enable boot logging
- 3) Enable low-resolution video
- 4) Enable Safe Mode
- 5) Enable Safe Mode with Networking
- 6) Enable Safe Mode with Command Prompt
- 7) Disable driver signature enforcement
- 8) Disable early launch anti-malware protection
- 9) Disable automatic restart after failure

Reset or reinstall: The last resort nobody wants.

If all the above methods fail and Windows is still not working properly, resetting or reinstalling is the last resort. While no one wants this to happen, sometimes an update can break the system to the point where a clean recovery is impossible.

Resetting your PC allows you to reinstall Windows while keeping your personal files, and in many cases, this is enough to resolve the issue. Go to **Settings > System > Recovery > Reset this PC**, then select **Keep my files**. If Windows won't boot, you can also access this option from Recovery.

At this stage, you're no longer 'fixing updates,' but simply trying to get the camera back to working order.

Windows update errors are certainly frustrating, but most are fixable. Usually, the problem revolves around a specific update, a corrupted driver, or a failed installation process. Following the steps above in the correct order will give you the best chance of resolving the issue quickly and efficiently, rather than rushing to reinstall Windows from scratch.

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