

How to delete old Windows restore points to free up space

By checking your storage usage, deleting old restore points, and setting reasonable storage limits, you can keep your storage under control without sacrificing its protection.

System Restore is a useful safety feature, but it doesn't have to take up space on your hard drive . By checking how much space you're using, deleting old restore points, and setting reasonable storage limits, you can keep your space under control without sacrificing protection.

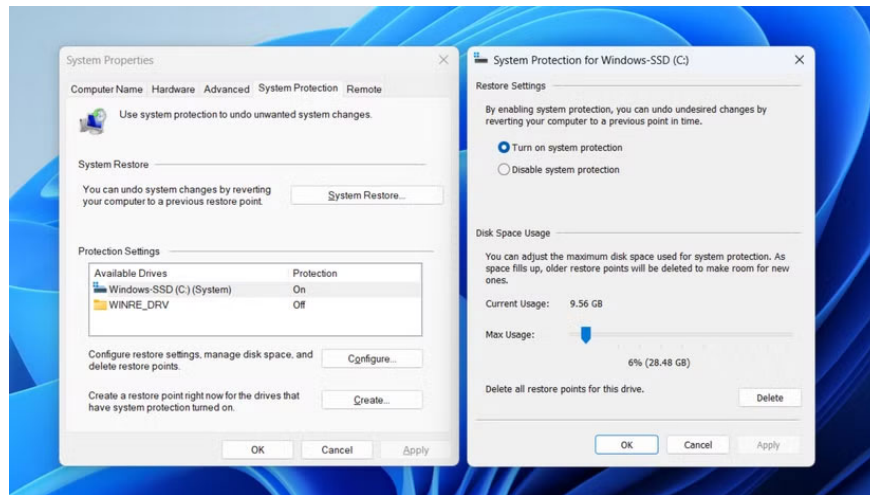
Check how much space System Restore is wasting

The System Restore feature in Windows is useful when things go wrong. It works silently in the background and takes a snapshot of your system, often before you install software, update drivers, or make other major changes. You can then use the restore point to easily restore Windows to a previous state if needed.

All of that sounds incredibly useful, and it is, but each restore point that Windows creates takes up storage space. Sometimes a lot of it. Depending on the size of your system and the amount of data involved, a single restore point can take up several gigabytes. Multiply that over weeks or months, and you can see a significant portion of your hard drive being dedicated to these backups.

By default, Windows sets aside a portion of your drive for these restore point snapshots, and if you've never checked, it could be more than you think. Luckily, it's easy to find out how much space System Restore is using on your PC.

1. Press **Win + S** to open the search menu.
2. Type "**create a restore point**" into the text box and press **Enter** .
3. In the **System Protection** tab , click the **Configure** button .
4. Check the storage space next to **Current Usage** to see how much storage is being used by restore points.



If your PC is running low on storage space, deleting old restore points can be an easy way to reclaim space on your PC without deleting any important data.

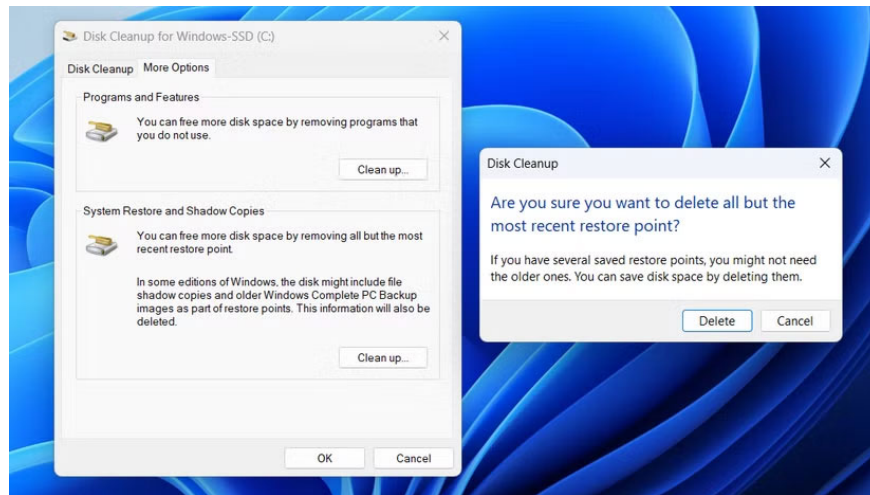
Delete all but the most recent restore point

Deleting old restore points on your PC is simple. Windows has a built-in option that will delete all previous restore points while keeping the most recent restore point. This way, you can free up storage space without completely giving up your safety net.

But before you delete them, make sure you don't need those old restore points. For example, if you recently had a system crash or made major changes—like updating a driver, removing software, or adjusting an important setting—you should keep those restore points around a little longer.

To see all available restore points, press **Win + R** to open Run, type **rstrui.exe**, and click **OK** to open System Restore. Then, click **Next** to see all available restore points along with their dates and descriptions. If you're sure your system is stable and you don't need those old restore points, you can use the Disk Cleanup tool to safely delete them right away.

1. Open the search menu, type **Disk Cleanup** in the text box and press **Enter**.
2. Select the system drive and click **OK**.
3. **In the Disk Cleanup** window, click **Clean up system files**.
4. Reselect the drive if prompted, then switch to the **More Options** tab.
5. Under **System Restore and Shadow Copies**, click the **Clean up** button.
6. Press **Delete** to confirm.



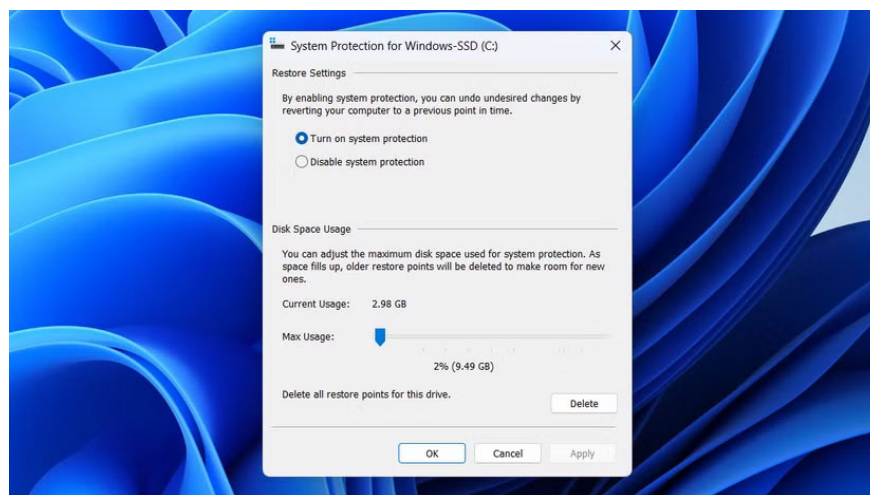
And that's it! All old restore points will be gone, except the most recent one, in case you need to restore.

Set a storage limit for System Restore

While deleting restore points is a quick way to free up disk space, you don't have to remember to do it often. You also don't have to turn off System Restore completely and give up the safety feature it provides. There's a better way to keep things under control.

Windows gives you the option to set a custom space limit for System Restore. This controls how much disk space is allowed to be used to store restore points. When that limit is reached, Windows automatically deletes old restore points to make room for new restore points.

1. Press **Win + S** and type "**create a restore point**", then press **Enter**.
2. **In the System Properties** window, under the **System Protection** tab, select your system drive (usually C:) and click **Configure**.
3. Use the slider next to **Disk Space Usage** to set the amount of disk space you want to allocate for restore points.
4. Click **Apply** > **OK** to confirm the changes.



The more space you allow, the more restore points Windows can store. If you're someone who frequently tests settings, installs beta updates, or tests new software on your PC, a higher limit—around 10% of your total storage—is a good idea. But if you're short on space or rarely use System Restore, setting it to around 5-7% should be plenty.

While there are plenty of ways to free up storage space on your Windows PC , sometimes you may need to look beyond the usual suspects, like your Downloads folder, Recycle Bin , or temporary files. While System Restore is useful, it can take up a significant amount of disk space if left unchecked. Fortunately, Windows makes it easy to reclaim that space and stay in control.

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