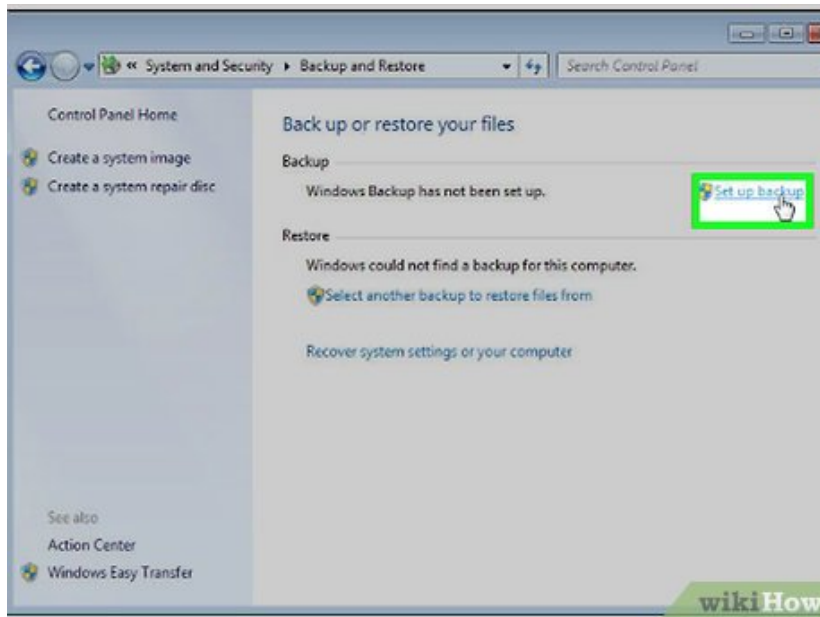


How to Reinstall Windows XP Without the CD

This wikiHow teaches you how to reinstall Windows XP if you don't have the installation CD. To do so, you will need your Windows XP product key. Back up your files. Since you'll be reinstalling the operating system, there's a good chance...

Part 1 of 3:

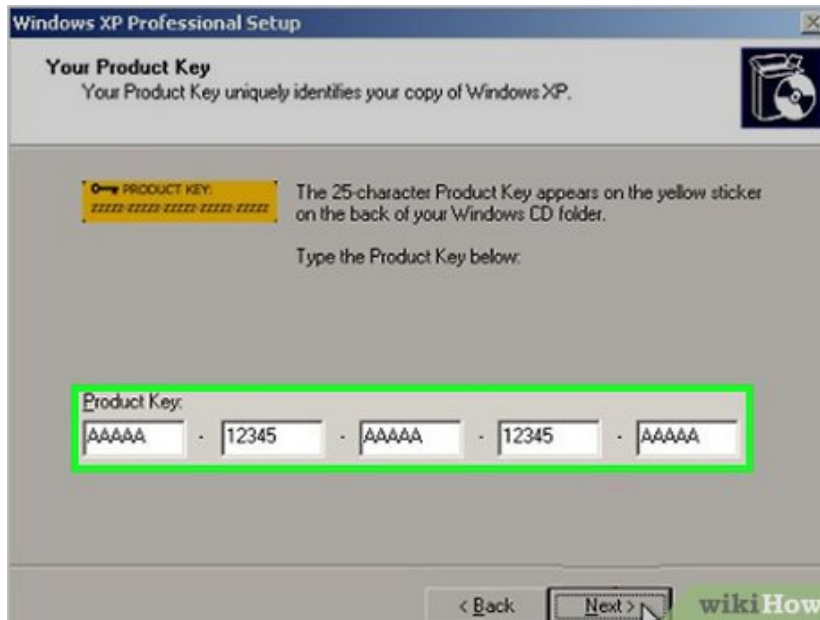
Preparing to Reinstall



1.

Back up your files. Since you'll be reinstalling the operating system, there's a good chance that you'll lose your saved files in the process. Creating a backup file will ensure that you can restore the files at any time.

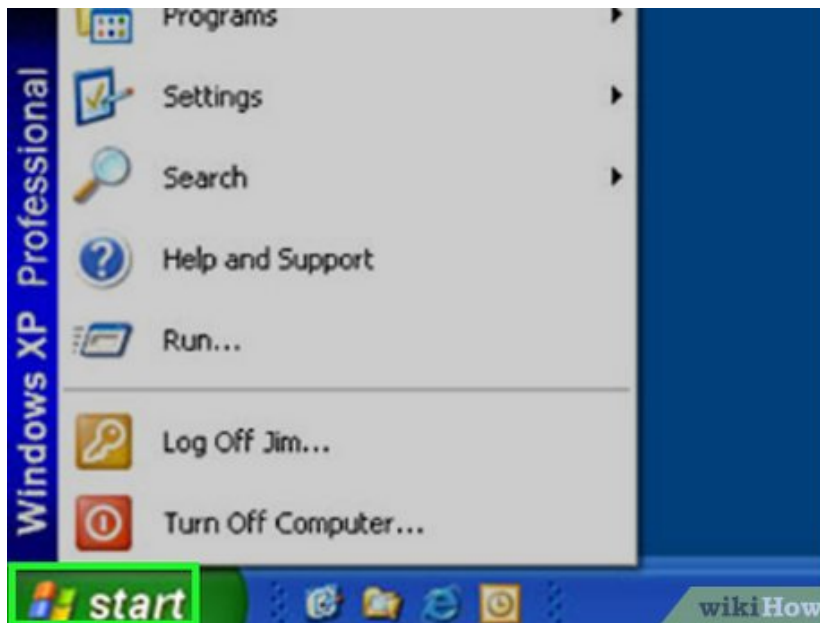
1. After backing up your files, you'll need to move the backup file to an external location (e.g., a disc or a flash drive).



2.

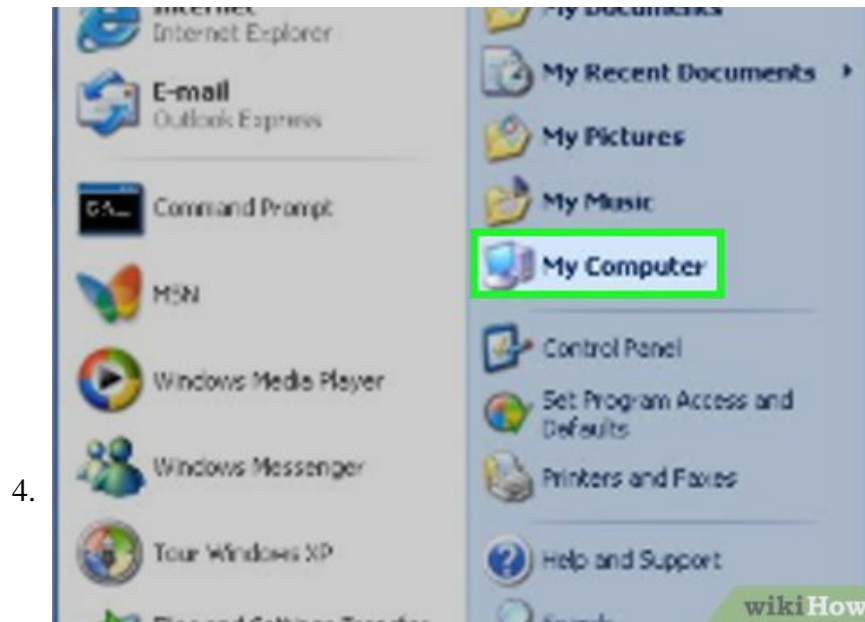
Find your product key. The product key is a 25-character code. It's usually located on a sticker that's on the bottom of the computer (laptops), the back of the CPU tower (desktops), or inside of the Windows XP box.

1. If you can't find your product key sticker, you can try using ProduKey to retrieve your computer's product key.

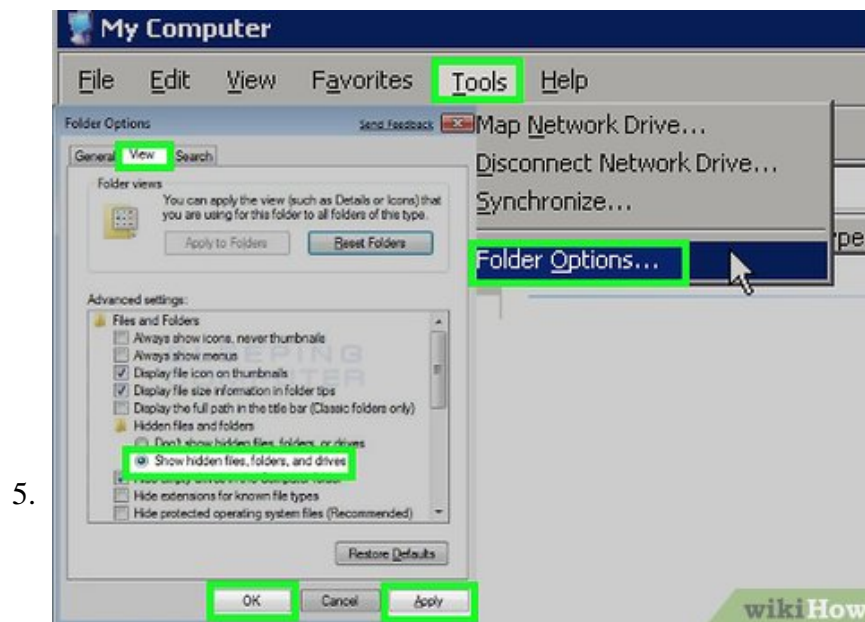


3.

Click . It's a green button in the bottom-left corner of the screen.

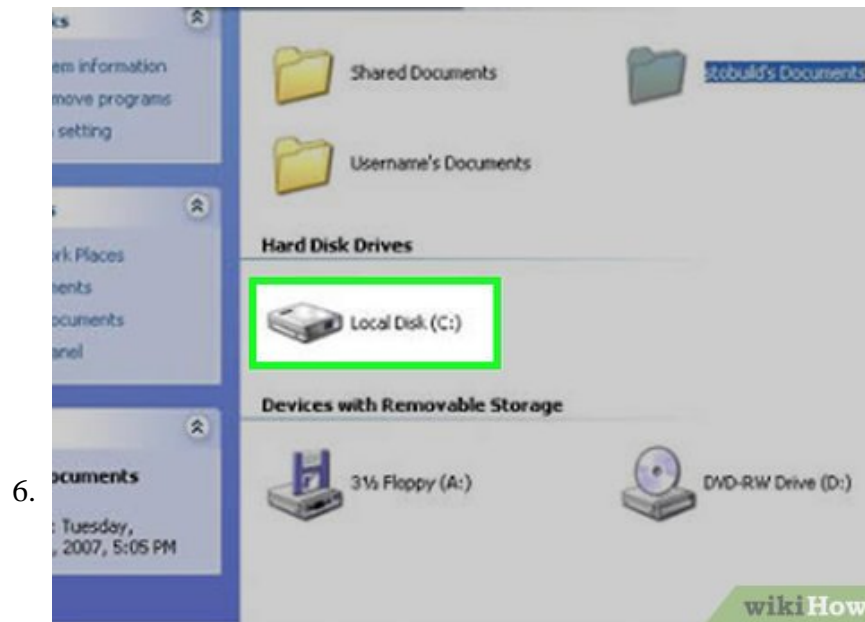


Click **My Computer** . This monitor-shaped option is in the upper-right side of the **Start** window. Doing so will open the **My Computer** folder.



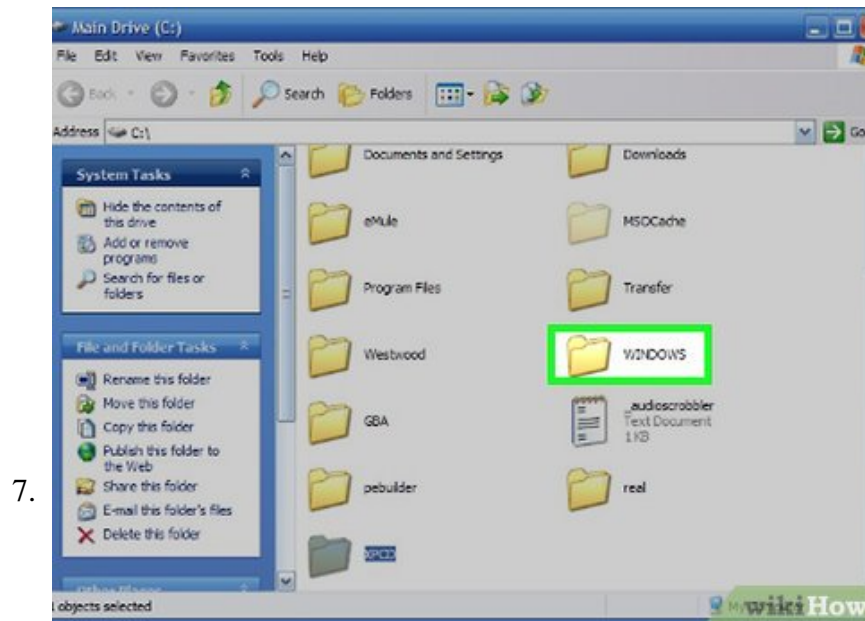
Enable viewing for hidden files and folders. To do so:^[1]

1. Click the **Tools** tab in the top-left side of the window.
2. Click **Folder Options...** in the drop-down menu.
3. Click the **View** tab.
4. Check the "Show hidden files and folders" circle.
5. Click **Apply**, then click **OK**

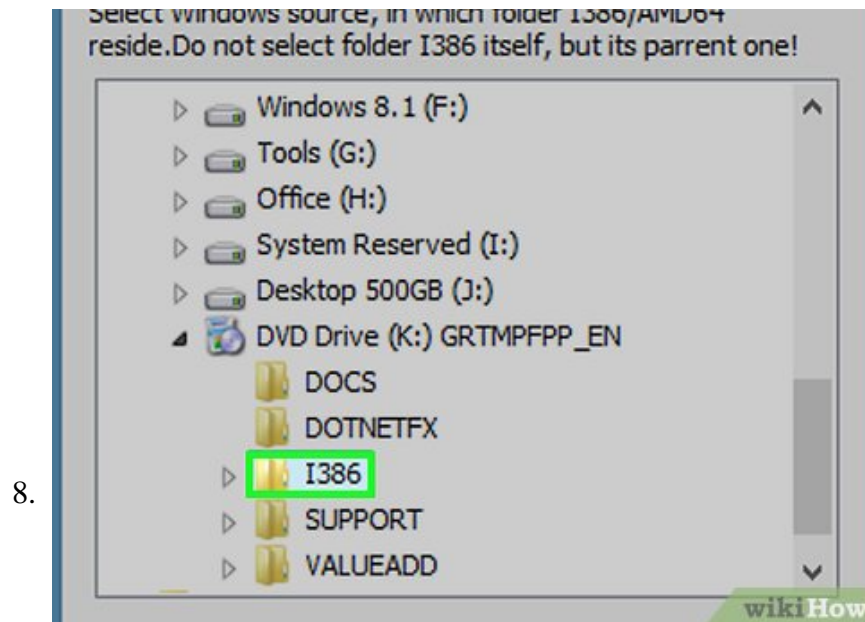


Double-click **Local Disk** . It's below the "Hard Disk Drives" heading in the middle of the **My Computer** folder.

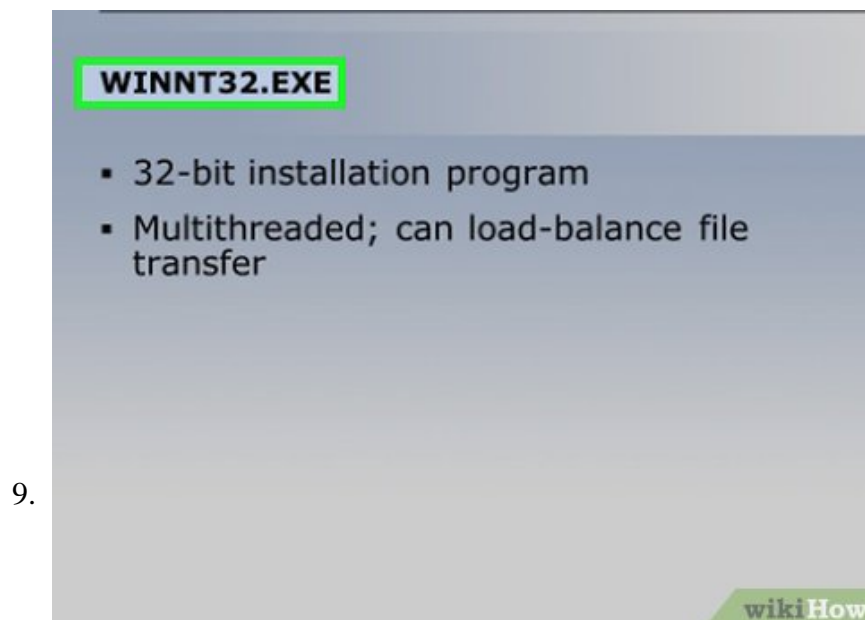
1. If there are multiple **Local Disk** options, make sure that you double-click the **(C:)** drive.



Double-click the **Windows** folder. This will open the **Windows** folder.



Double-click the `I386` folder. You may have to scroll down to find this option.



Find the "winnt32.exe" file and double-click it. Doing so will launch the Windows XP setup process.

10.



Wait for the setup window to appear. Depending on how fast your computer is and which programs were open when you double-clicked **winnt32.exe**, this may take several minutes. Once the setup window appears, you may proceed with reinstalling Windows XP.

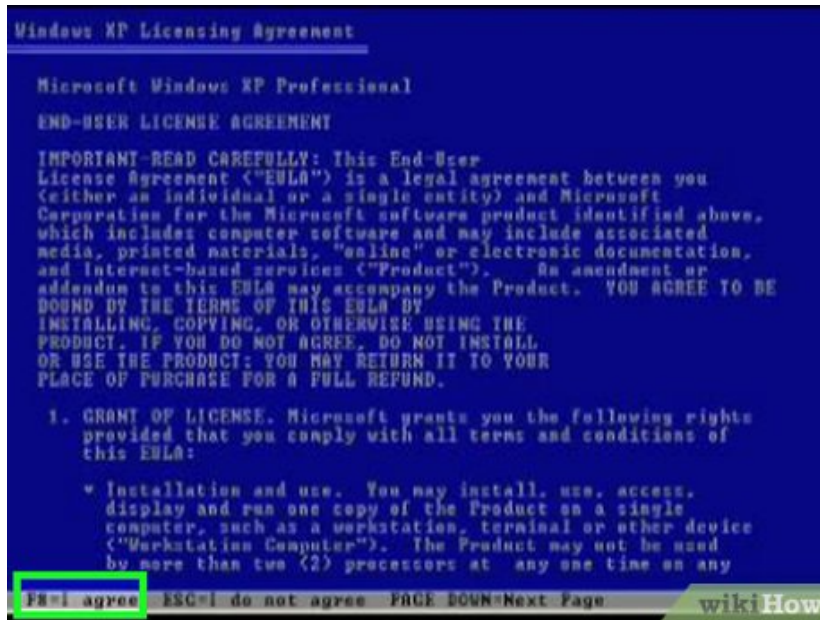
Part 2 of 3:

Formatting Your Computer

1.

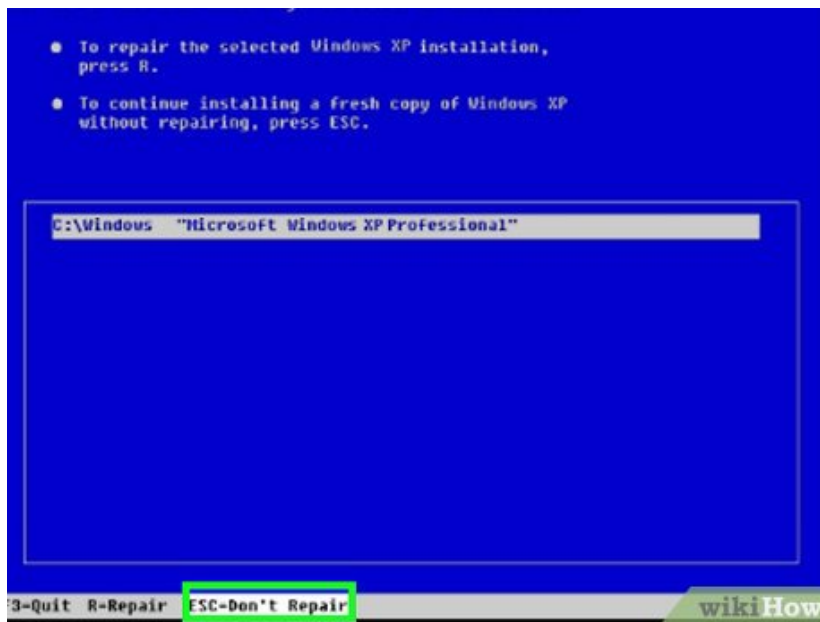


Press **? Enter** on the blue screen. This will initiate the setup.^[2]



2.

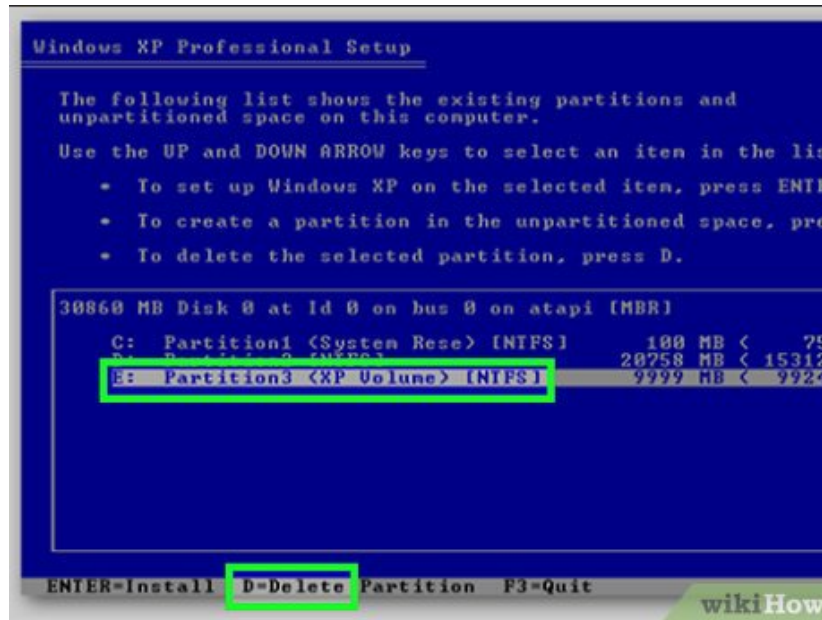
Press the "I agree" key. At the bottom of the screen, you'll see a key (e.g., F8) to the left of the phrase "I agree"; press this key to agree to Microsoft's terms of use and continue the reinstallation.



3.

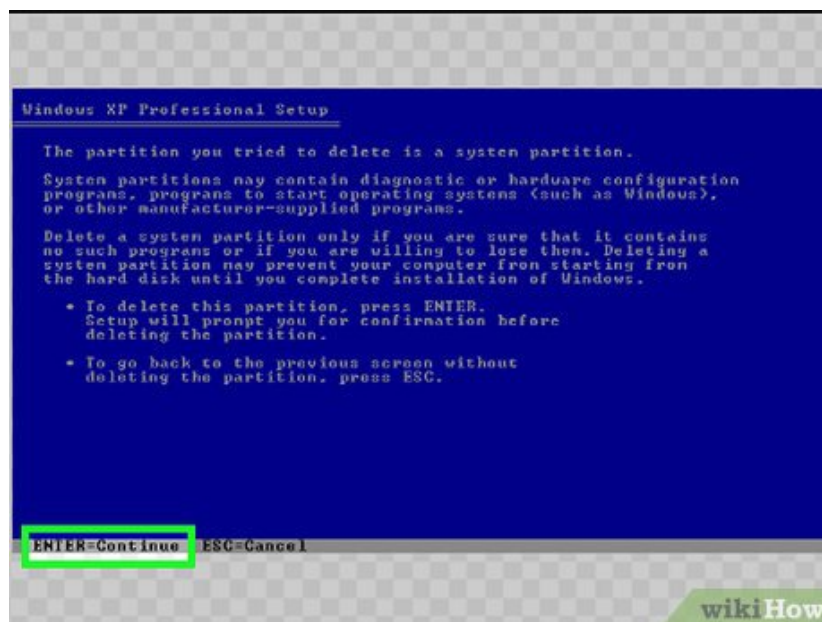
Press the "Don't Repair" key. You'll see this listed at the bottom of the screen. The "Don't Repair" key is usually Esc.

4.

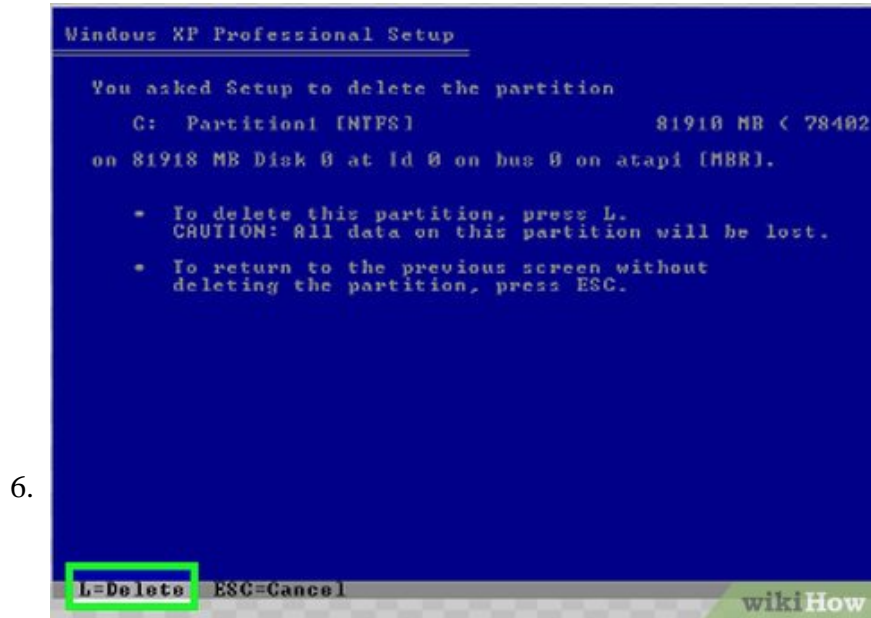


Delete your current XP installation. Select the NTFS hard drive option using the arrow keys, then press the "Delete" key (usually D) that's listed at the bottom of the screen.

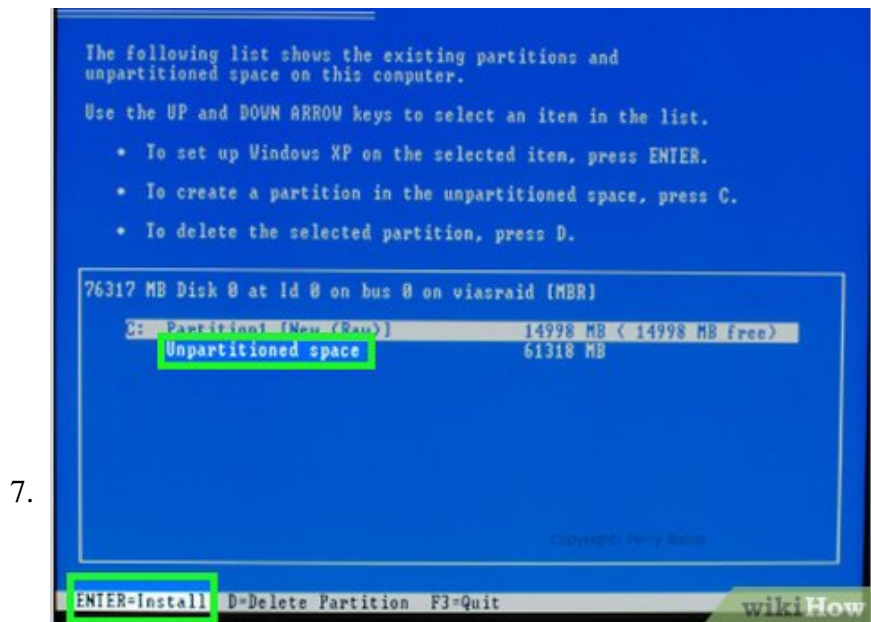
5.



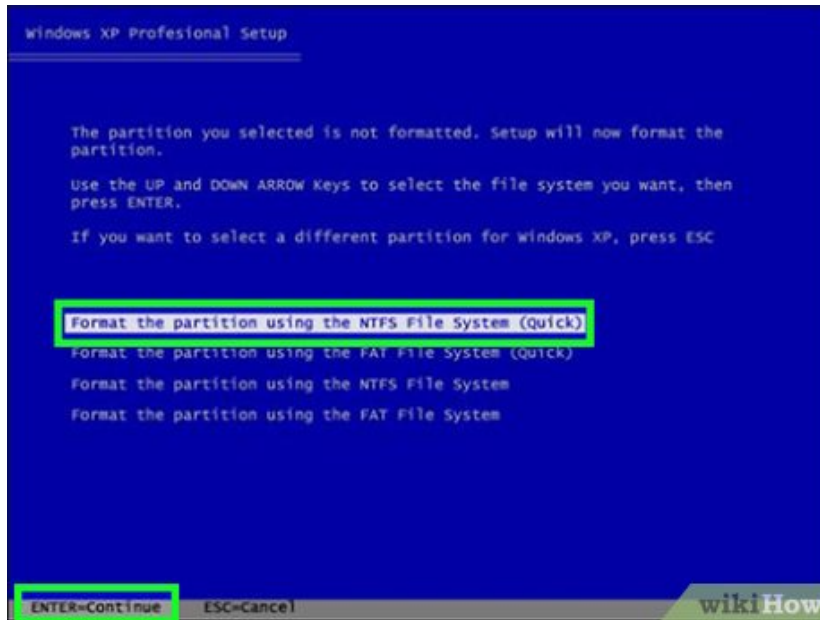
Press Enter when prompted. This will indicate to Windows that you want to delete the selected installation.



Press **L** when prompted. Doing so erases the hard drive and returns you to the installation menu.



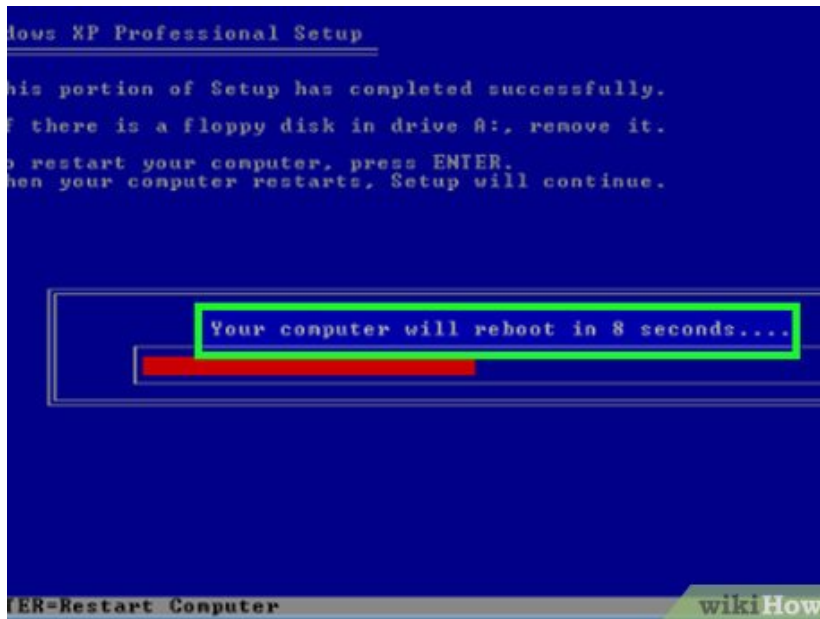
Select **Unpartitioned space** and press **Enter**. This will select your computer's hard drive as the installation point.



8.

Format your computer's hard drive. Select **Format the partition using the NTFS file system** and press **?Enter**. Doing so will set up the hard drive for a Windows installation. This process will take several minutes to an hour depending on your hard drive's size.

1. You can select the **Quick** option here as well, though your hard drive might be improperly formatted if you do so.

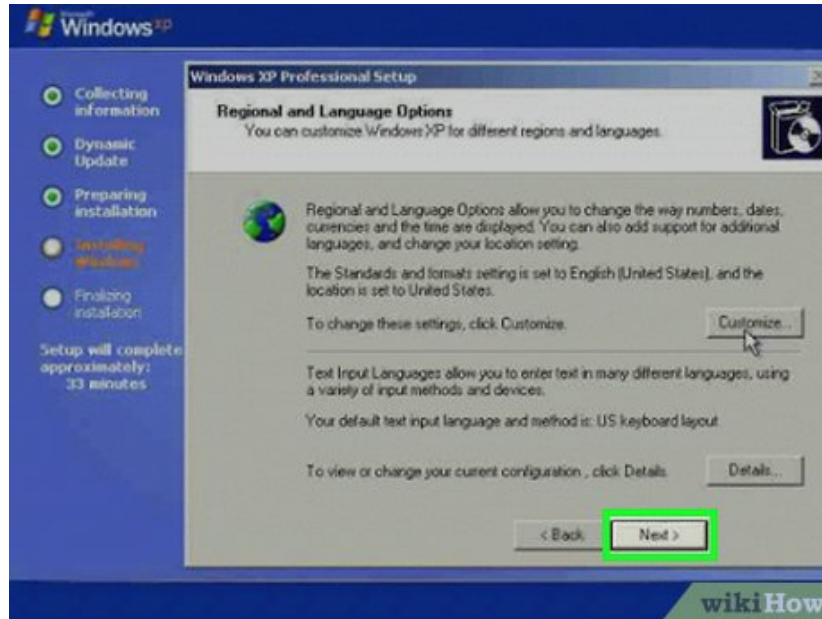


9.

Wait for your computer to restart. After the computer finishes formatting, it will restart into the user options setup window. Make sure that you don't press any keys until you arrive at the user options setup window.

Part 3 of 3:

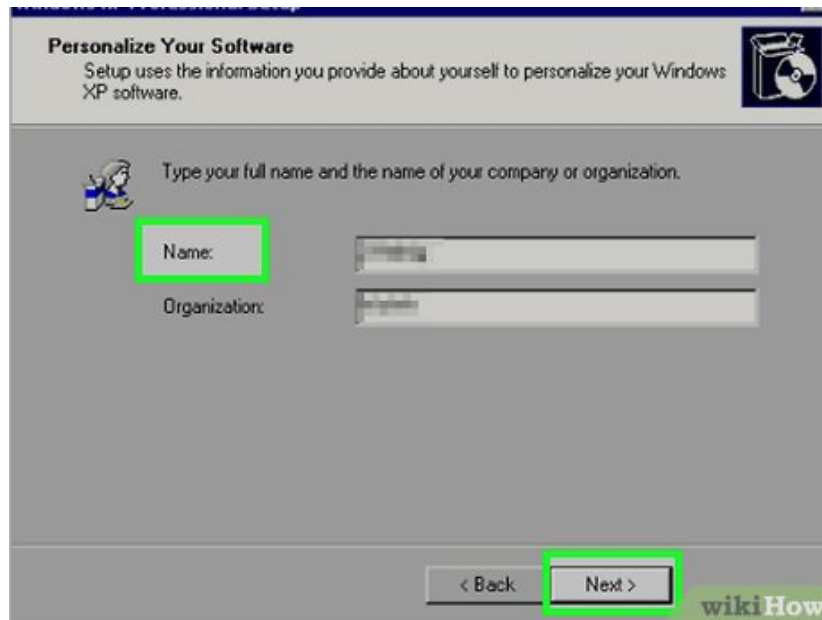
Setting up Windows XP



1.

Click **Next**. It's in the bottom-right corner of the window.

1. You can also click **Customize...** to the right of the Regional and Language Options section to select a different region and/or language.

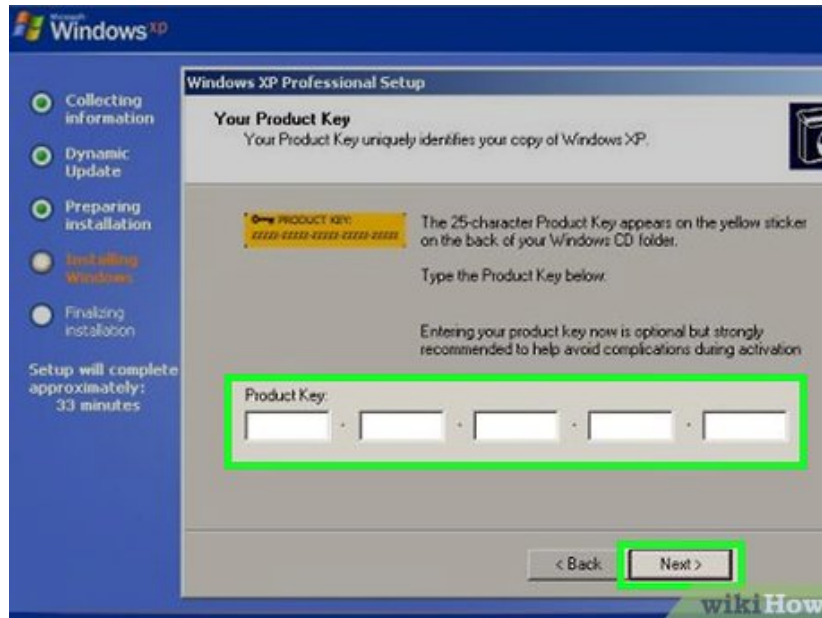


2.

Enter your name, then click **Next**. Your name goes in the "Name" text field.

1. You can also add a business name in the "Organization" section.

3.



Enter your product key, then click . Type the 25-character key that you retrieved earlier into the "Product Key" boxes.

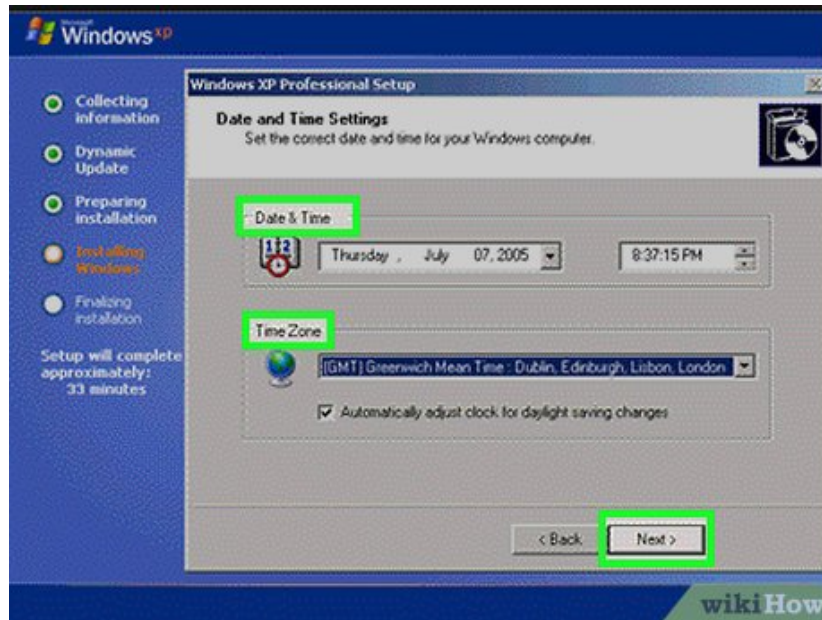
4.



Add a password, then click . Type your preferred password into the "Administrator password" and "Confirm password" text fields at the bottom of the window.

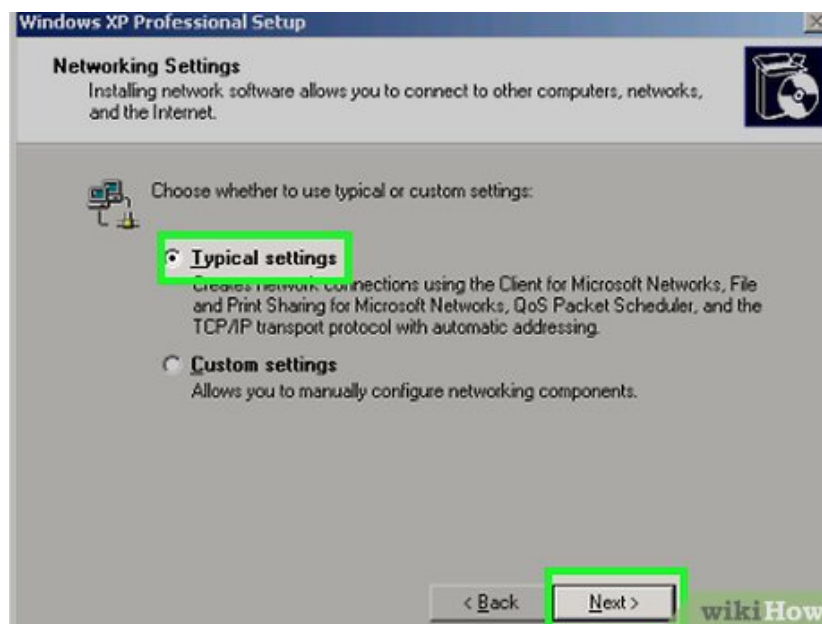
1. You can also change your computer's name in the text field at the top of the window.

5.



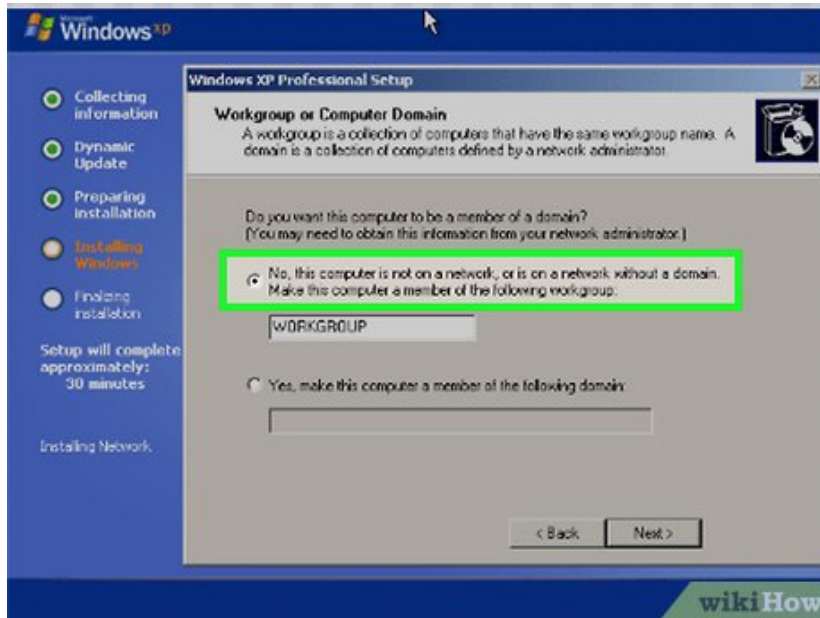
Set a date and time zone, then click **Next**. Click the "Date" drop-down box, select the current date, and then repeat with the "Time" and "Time Zone" boxes.

6.



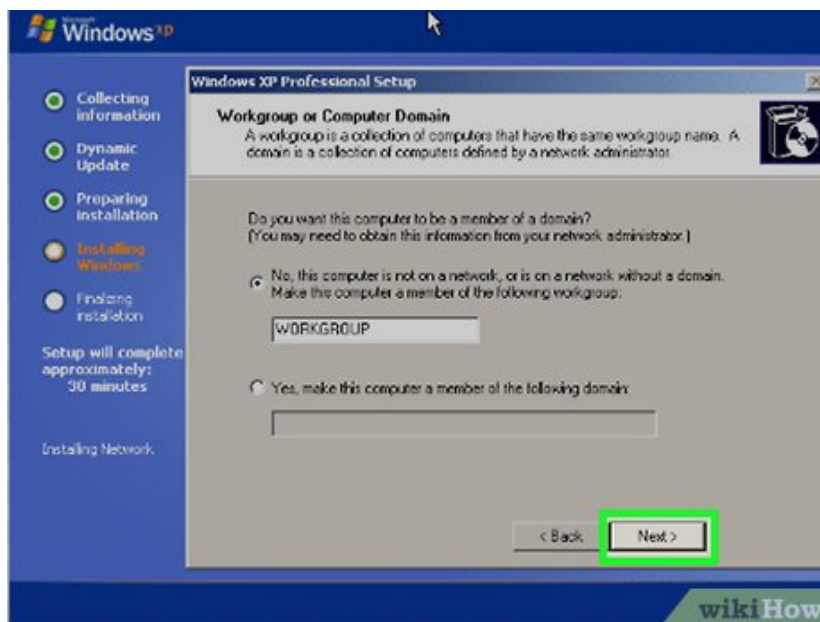
Check the "Typical Settings" box, then click **Next**. This will cause Windows XP to install using default settings.

7.



Check the "No" box. It's at the top of the window. If your computer is part of a workgroup, you'll instead check the "Yes" box and enter your workgroup's address in the text box.

8.



Click . This will complete the installation setup process, at which point Windows XP will resume installing. You may have to wait for 30 minutes or so before the installation finishes.

You finished reading the article "**How to Reinstall Windows XP Without the CD**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.