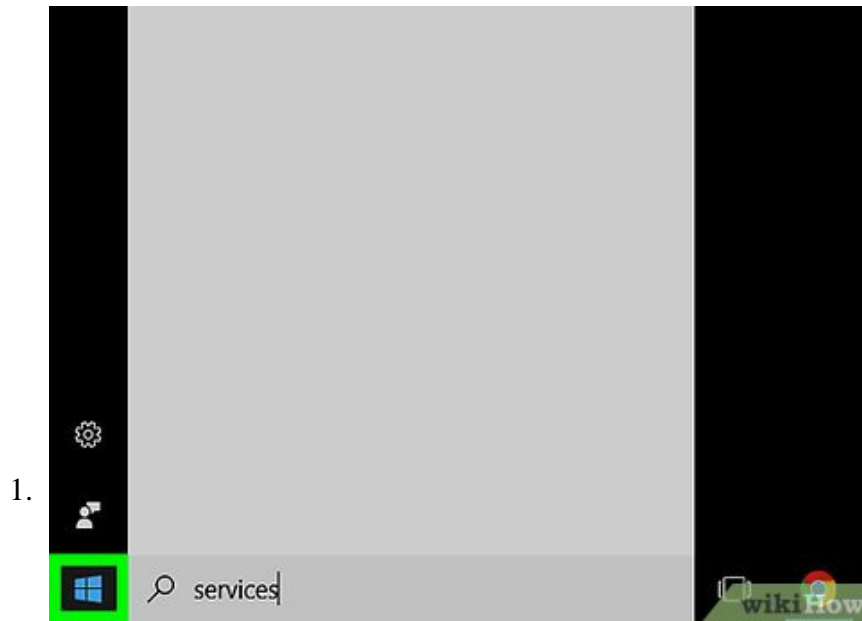


How to Turn Off Windows Activation

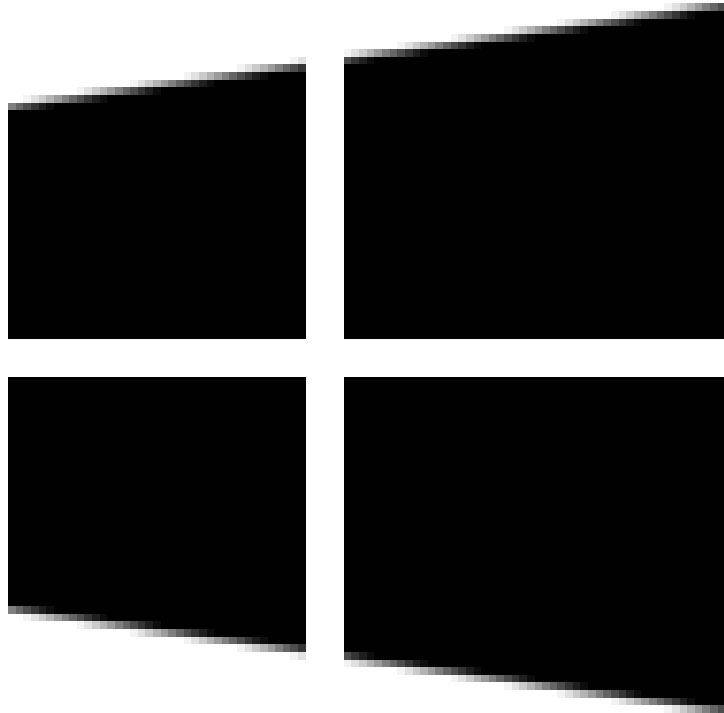
This wikiHow teaches you how to temporarily remove the Windows activation notifications and watermark from an unactivated version of Windows. You can do this by changing a value in the Services menu, or by editing the Windows Registry....

Method 1 of 3:

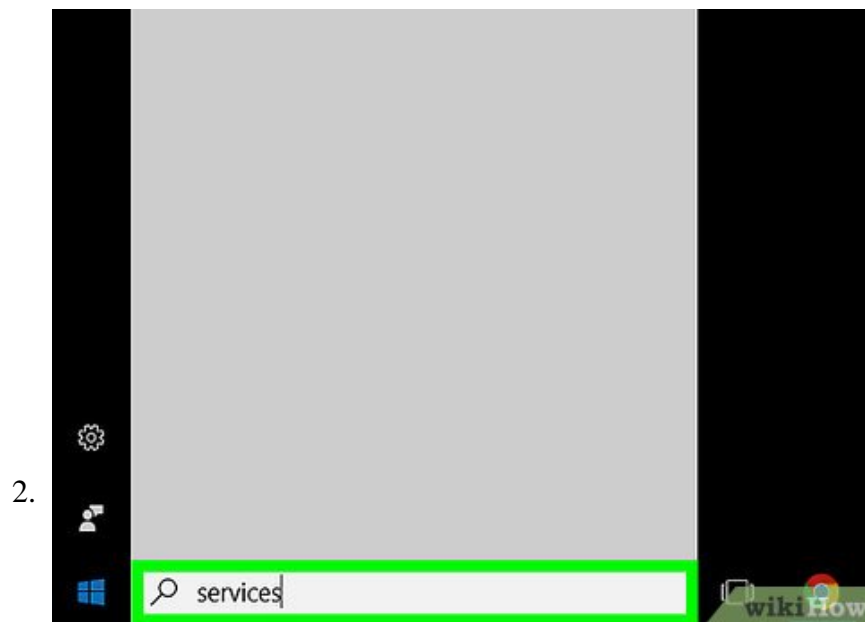
Using Services



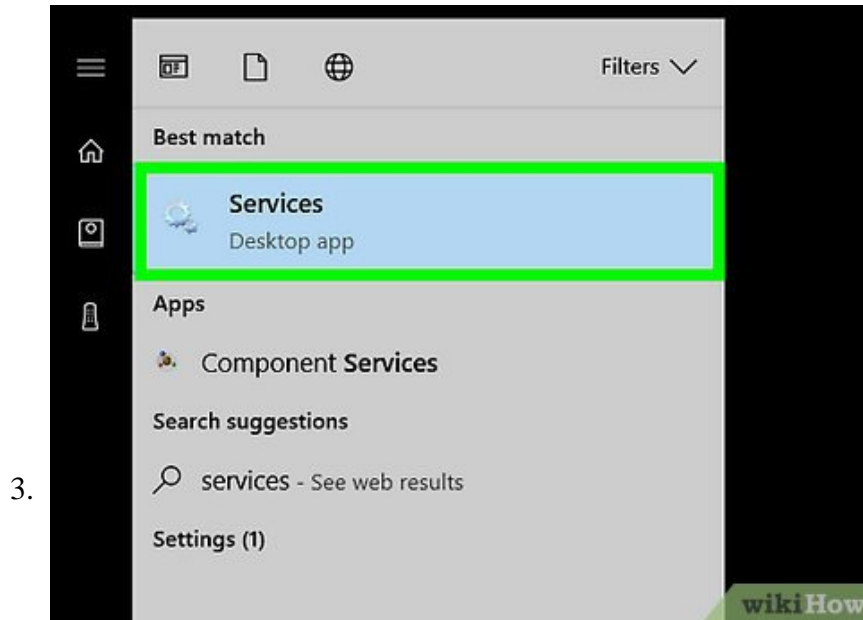
Open Start



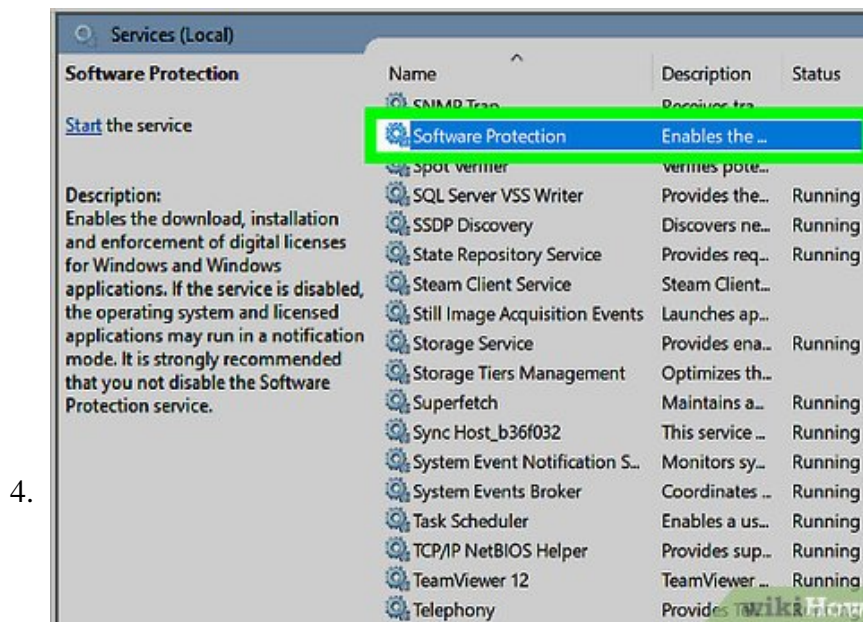
. Click the Windows logo in the bottom-left corner of the screen. The Start menu will open.



Type `services` into Start. Doing so searches for the Services app, which lets you control which system processes run.

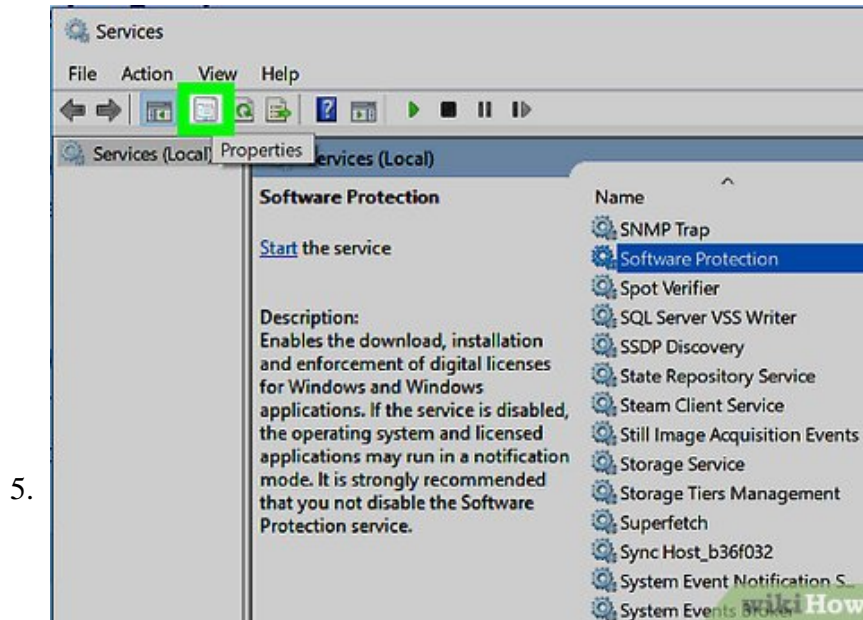


Click **Services**. It's a gear-shaped icon at the top of the Start window. The Services window will open.

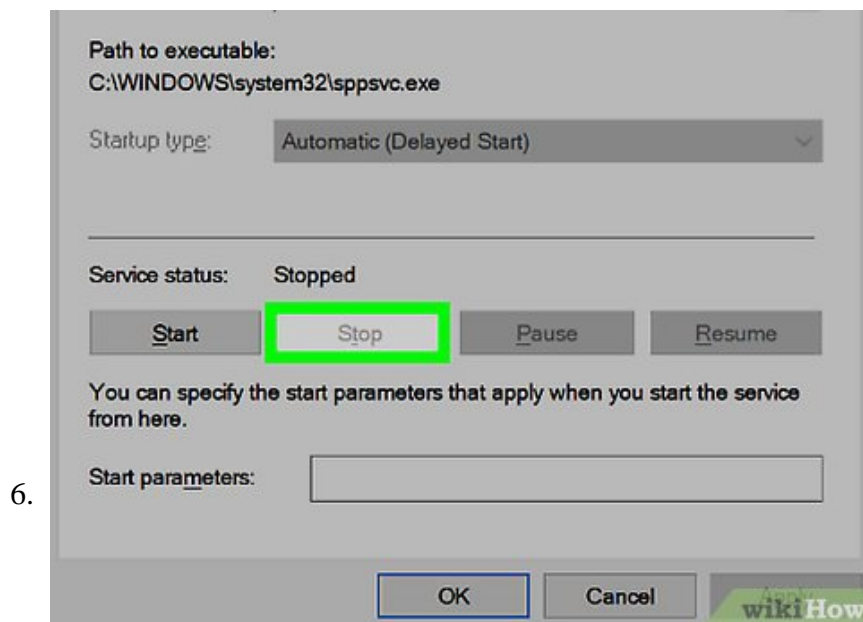


Scroll down and click **Software Protection**. You'll find this service in the "S" section of the window.

1. On some computers, this will say **spssvc** instead.

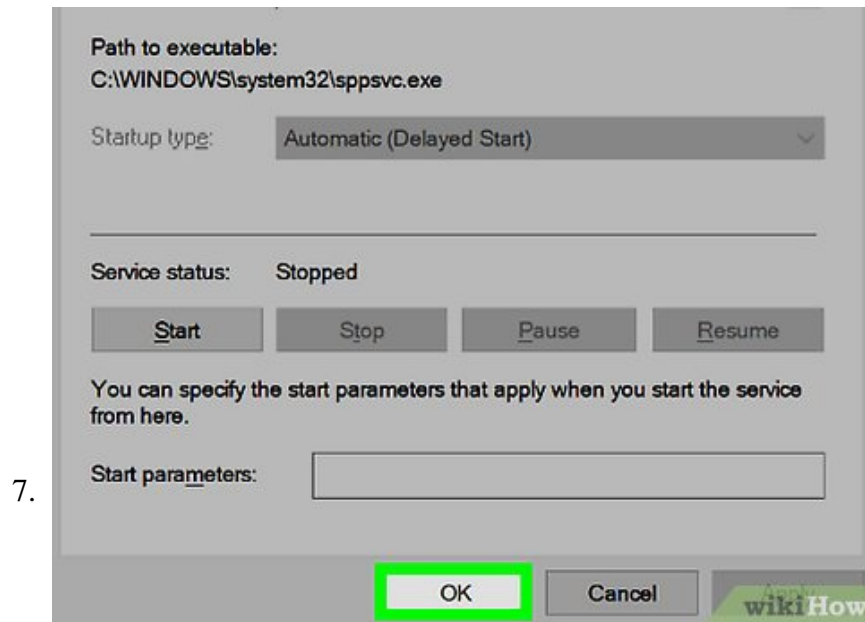


Click the "Properties" icon. It's the folder-shaped icon just below the **View** tab in the upper-left side of the window. A new window will open.



Click **Stop**. This option is in the middle-left side of the window. Doing so will prompt the Software Protection service to stop running.

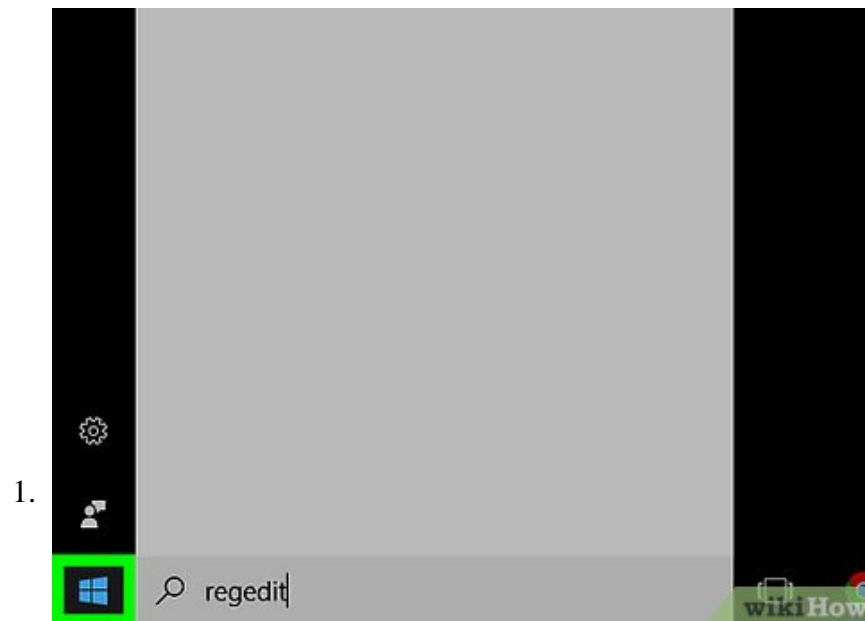
1. If this button is greyed out, you will need to use the Registry instead.



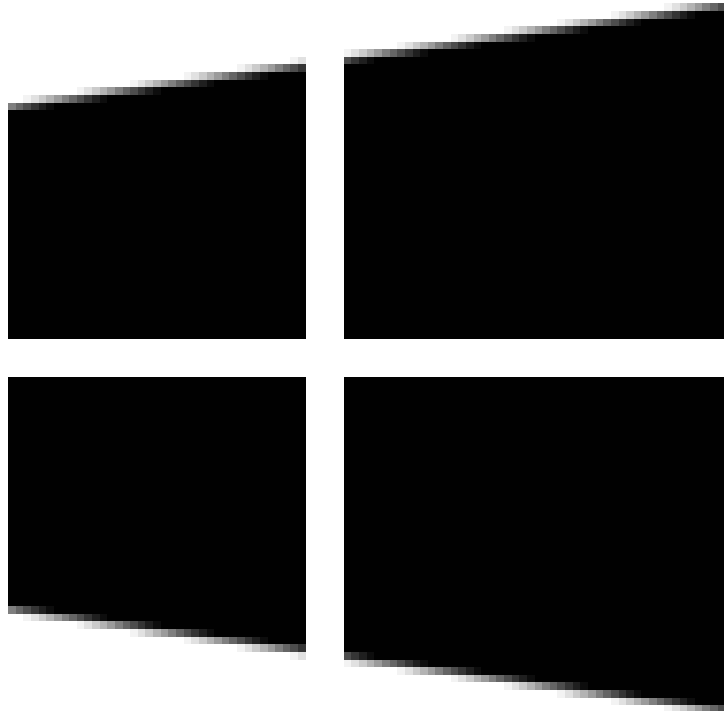
Click **OK**. It's at the bottom of the window. Your activation will remain off until you restart or update your computer, at which point you will need to disable it again.

Method 2 of 3:

Using Registry Editor



Open Start

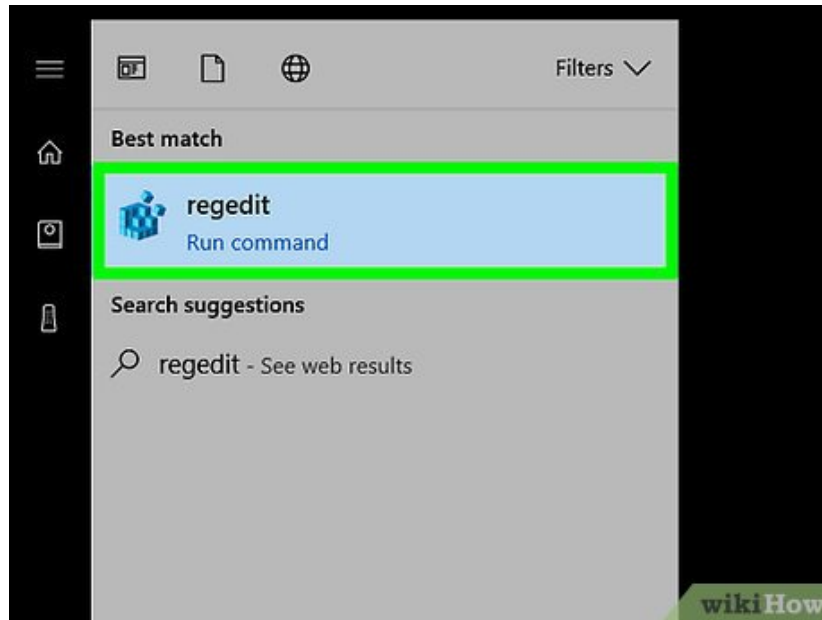


. Click the Windows logo in the bottom-left corner of the screen.



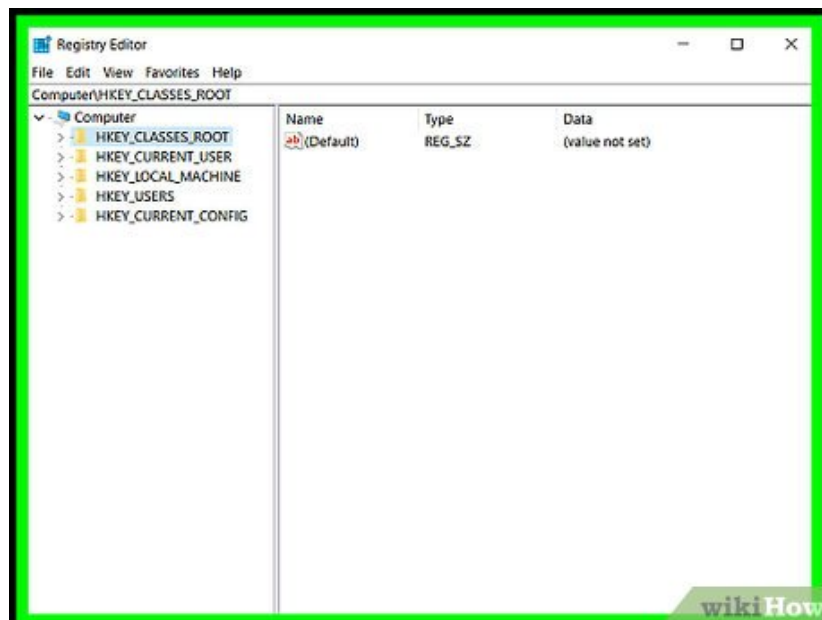
Type **regedit** into Start. This will search for the Registry Editor command.

3.

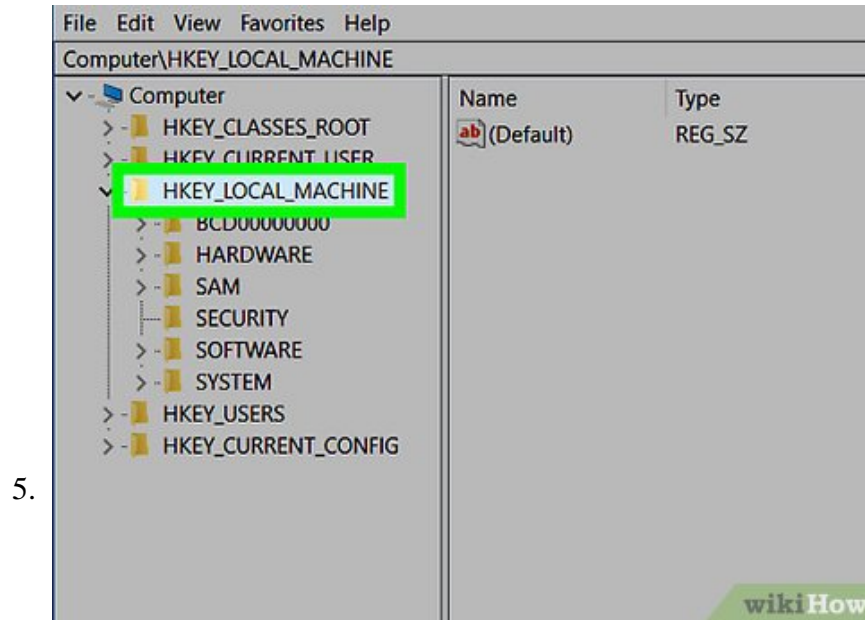


Click . It's a collection of blue blocks at the top of the Start window.

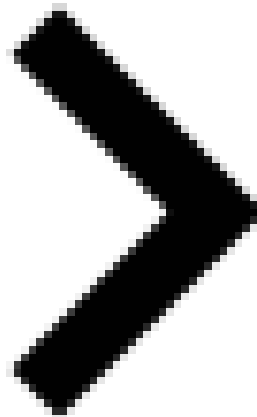
4.



Click when prompted. Doing so will open the Registry Editor window.

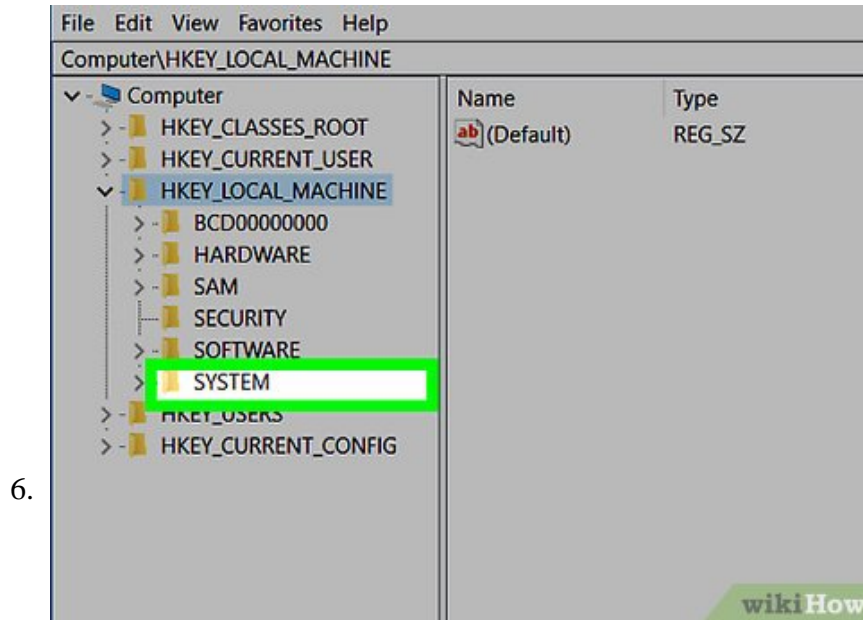


Expand the "HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE" folder. Click

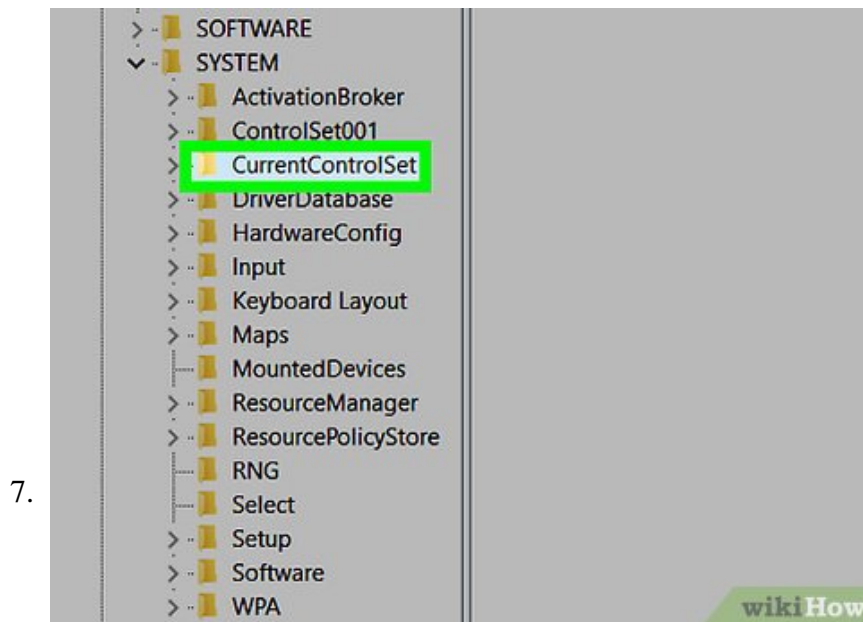


to the left of the "HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE" folder in the top-left side of the Registry window.

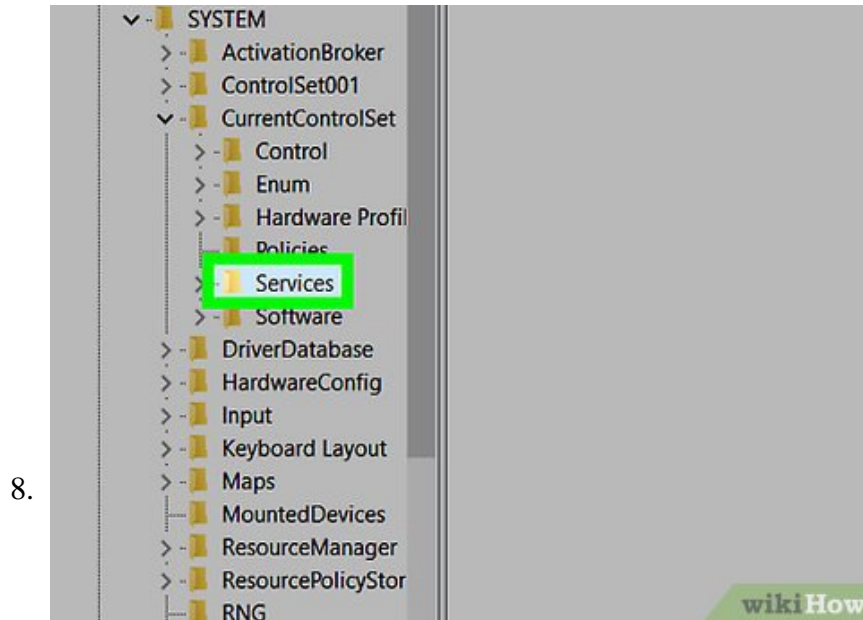
1. If you see an indented column of folders below "HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE", it's already expanded.



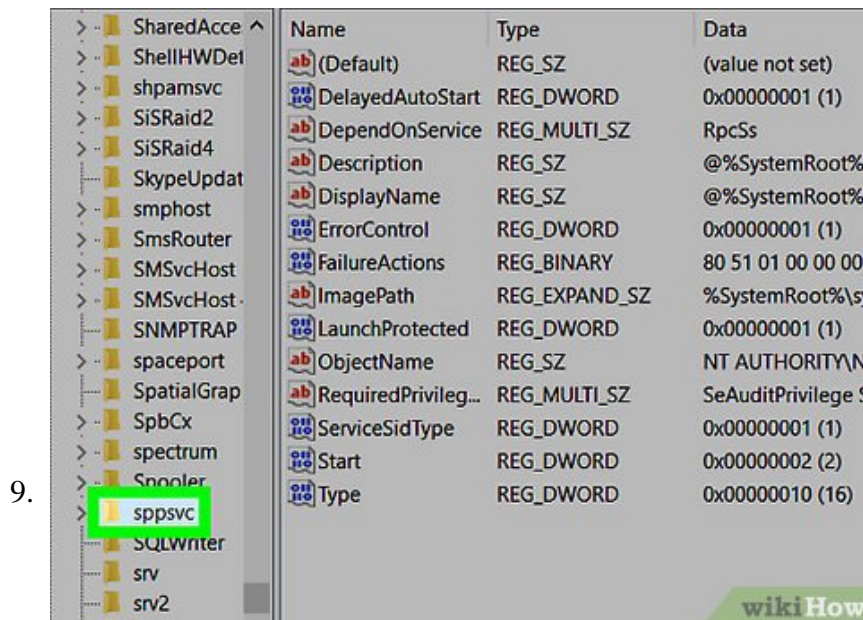
Expand the "SYSTEM" folder. It's near the bottom of the list of folders inside of the "HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE" folder.



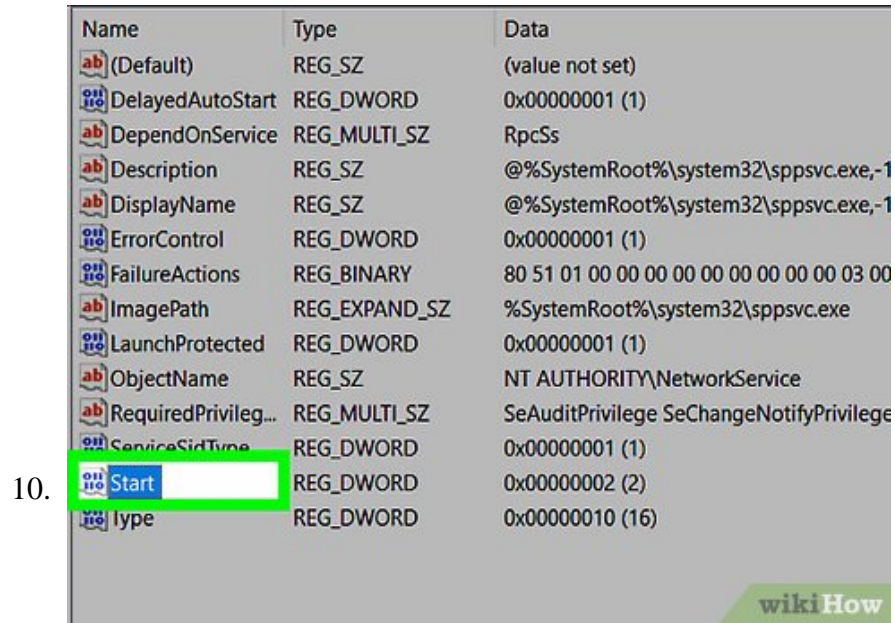
Expand the "CurrentControlSet" folder.



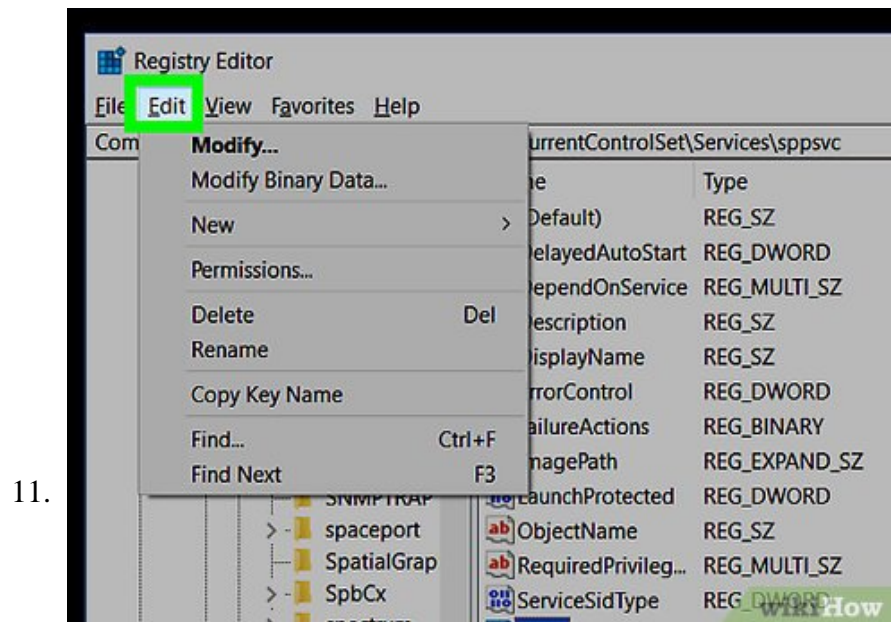
Expand the "Services" folder. This will result in a long list of folders appearing.



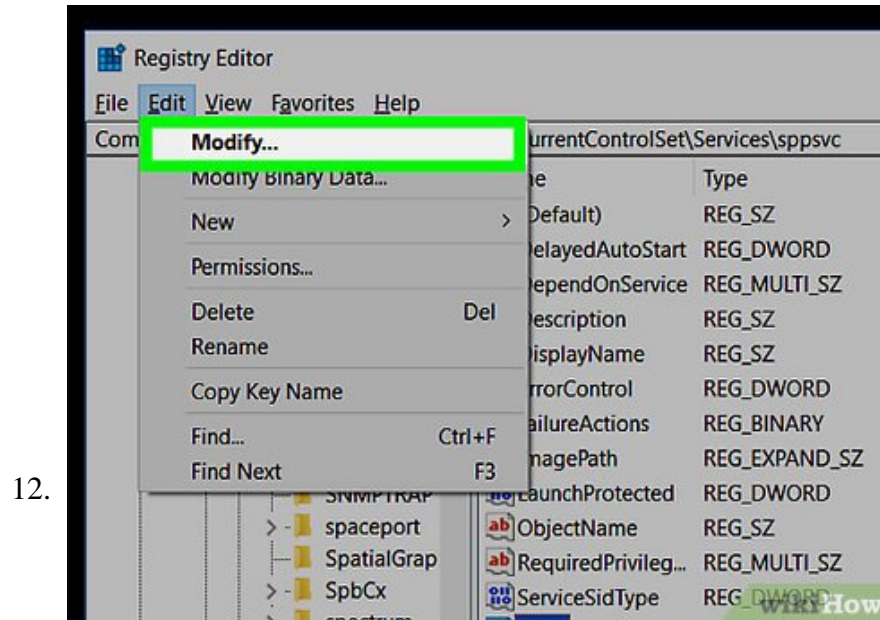
Scroll down and select the "sppsvc" folder. Click this folder to prompt its contents to display on the right side of the window.



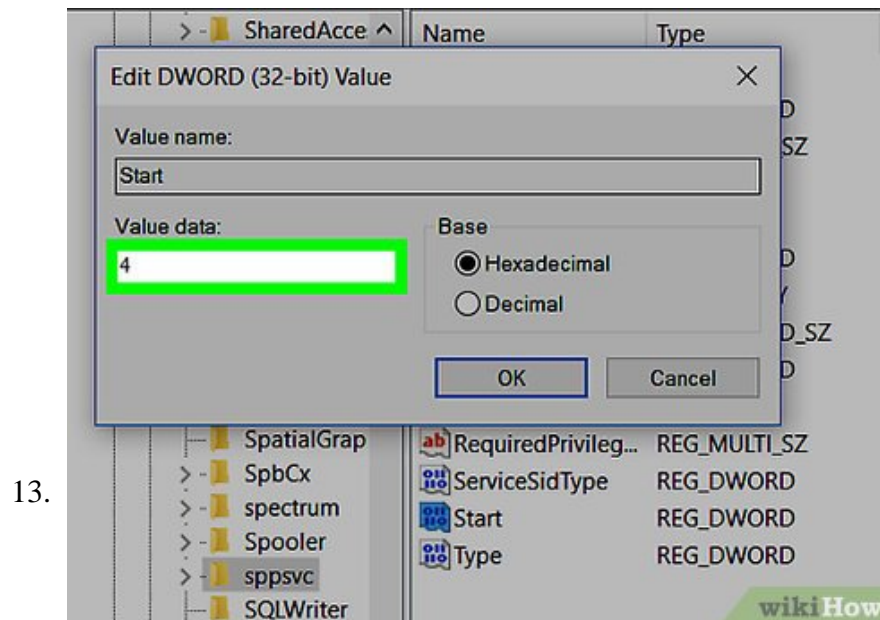
Select the "Start" file. It's near the bottom of the list of files that's on the right side of the window.



Click the **Edit** tab. This option is near the top-left corner of the Registry window. A drop-down menu will appear.

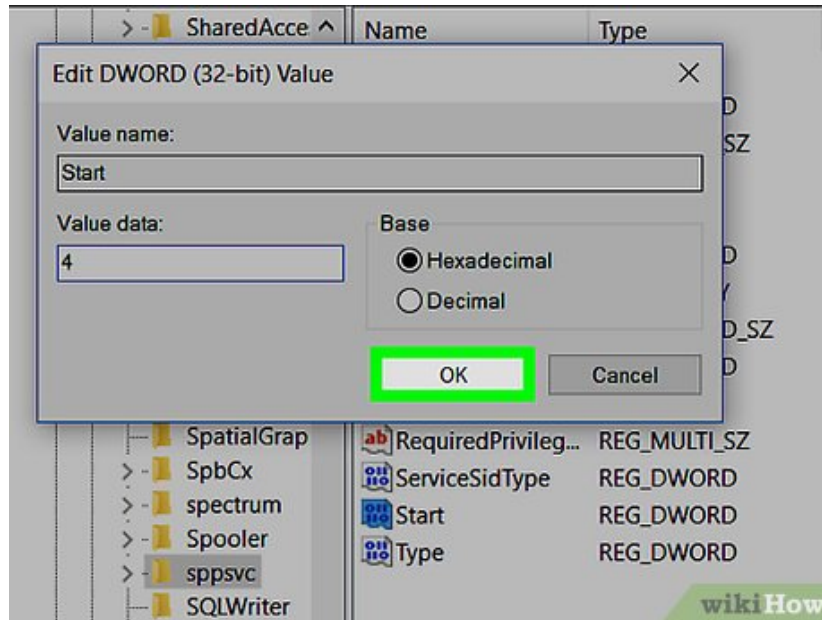


Click **Modify**. It's at the top of the drop-down menu. A new window will open.



Type **4** into the window. This value change will disable the activation notifications.

14.

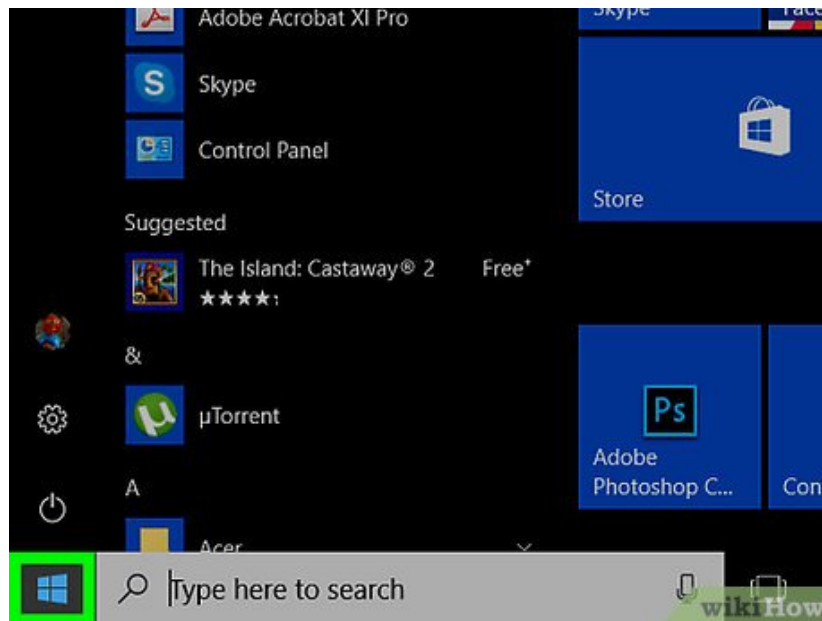


Click **OK**. It's at the bottom of the window. Your activation will remain off until you restart or update your computer, at which point you will need to disable it again.

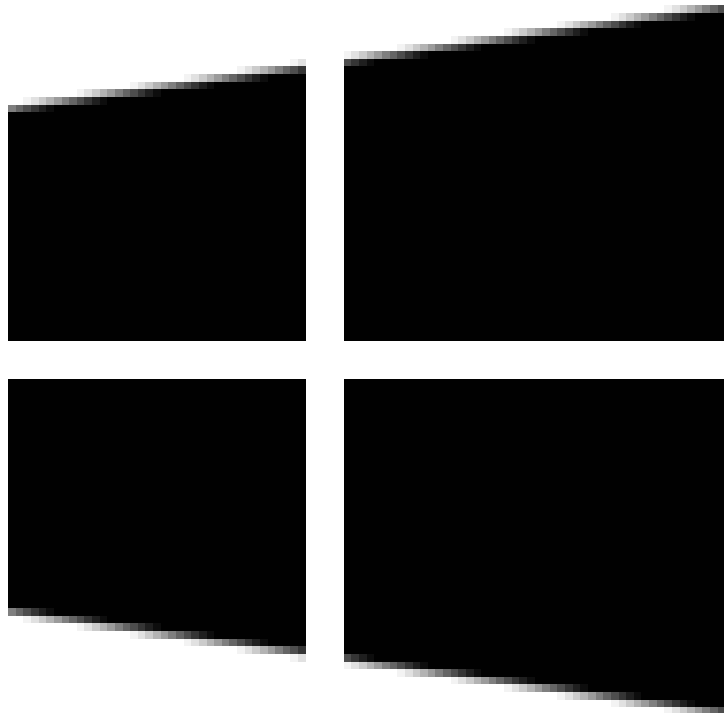
Method 3 of 3:

Activating Windows

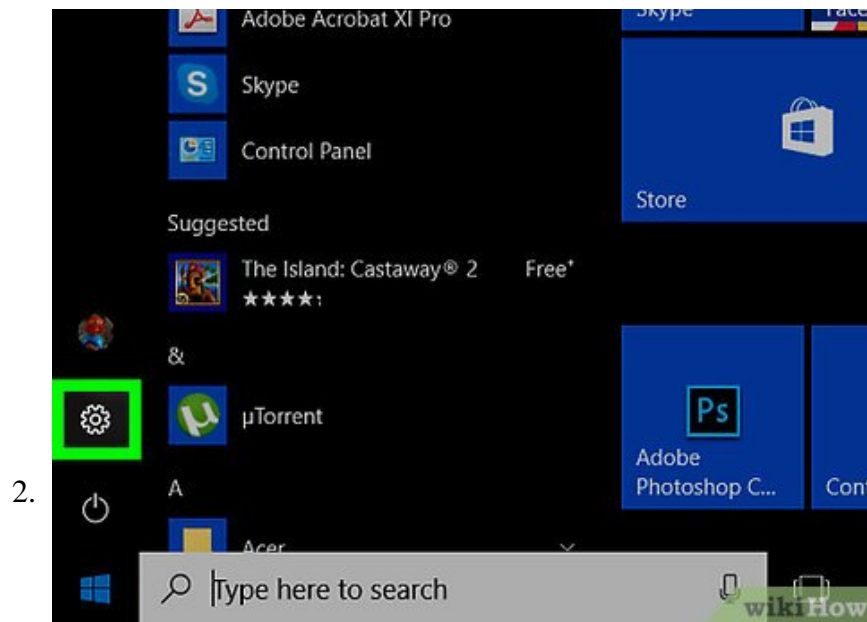
1.



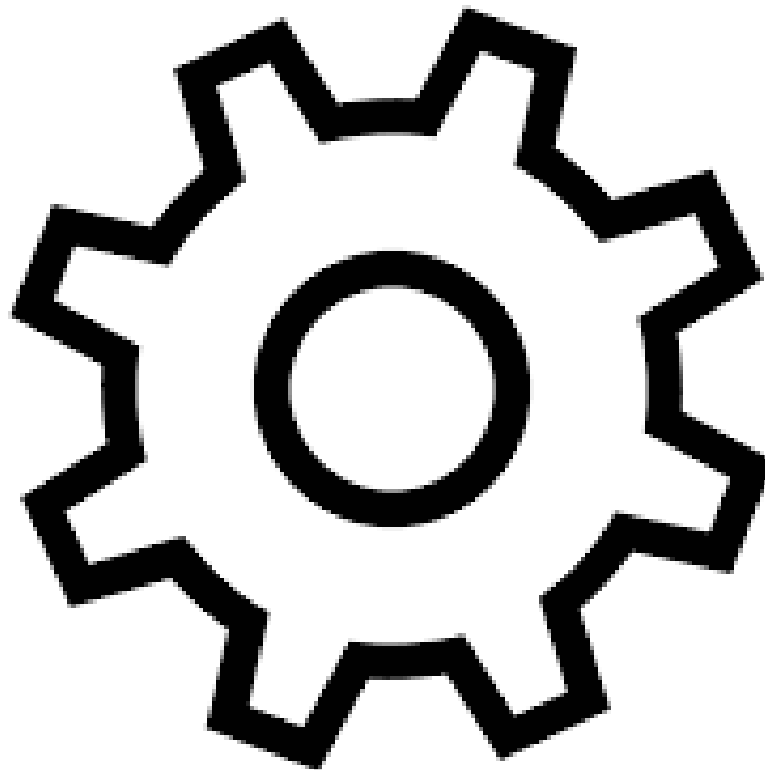
Open Start



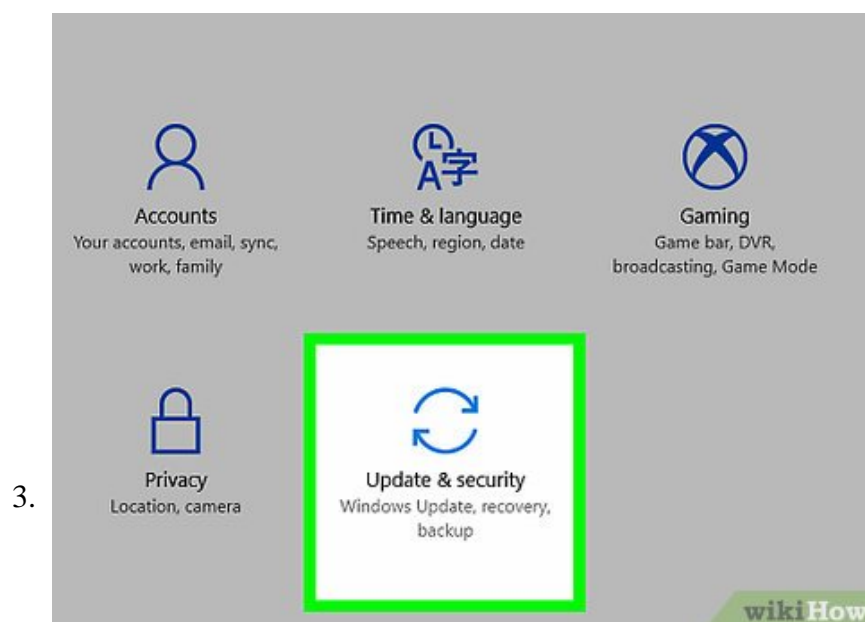
. Click the Windows logo in the bottom-left corner of the screen.



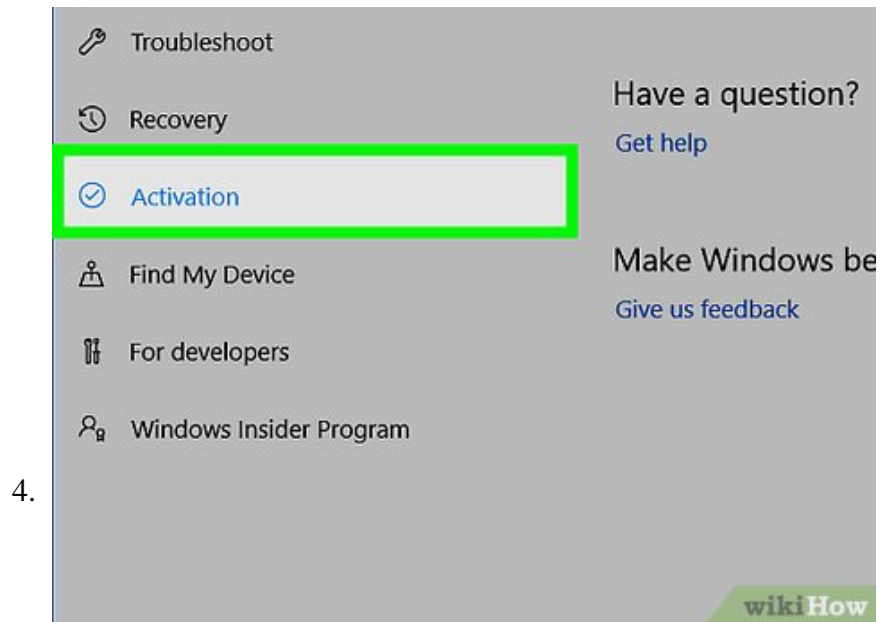
Open Settings



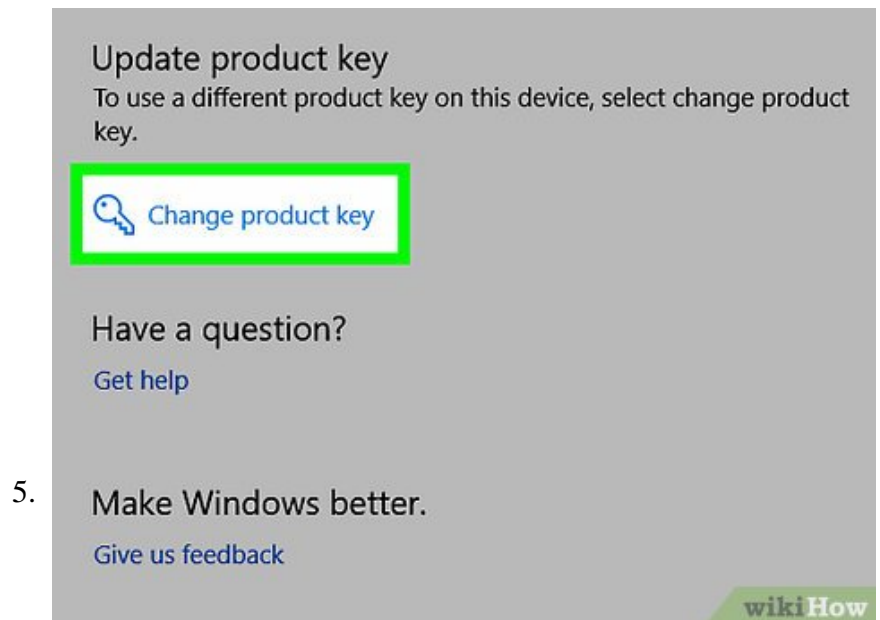
. Click the gear-shaped icon in the left-hand side of the Start window.



Click **Update & security**. This circular arrow-shaped icon is at the bottom of the Settings window.

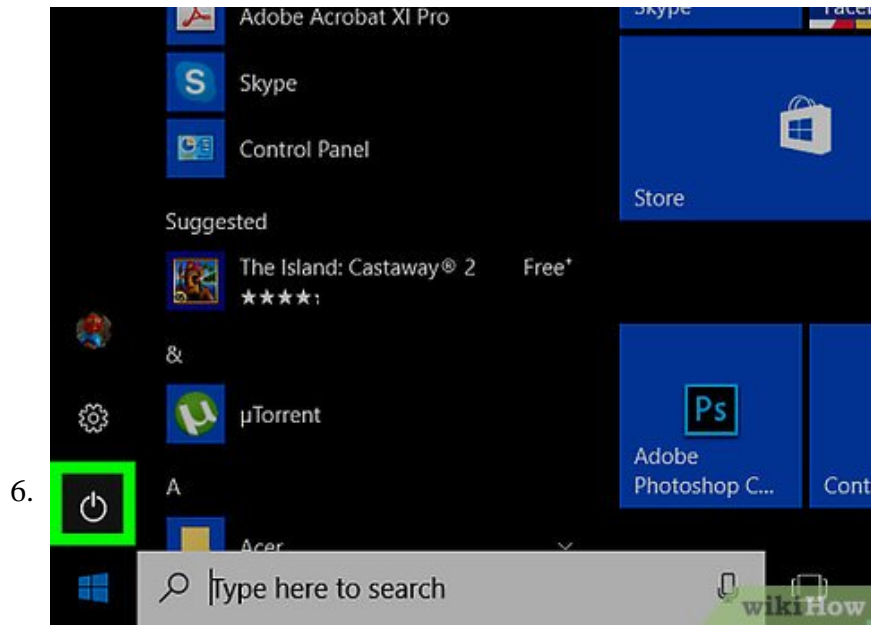


Click **Activation**. It's a tab on the left side of the window.

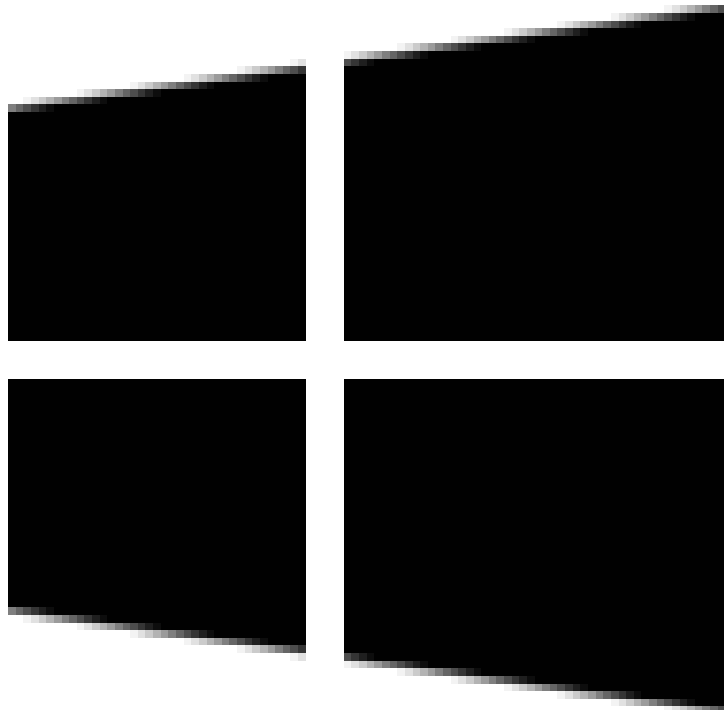


Activate your copy of Windows. You can do this in one of two ways, depending on whether you have to buy a key or already upgraded for free on a different computer:^[1]

1. **Free Upgrade** - Click **Troubleshoot**, enter your Microsoft email address and password if prompted, click **Activate Windows**, and click **Activate** when prompted.
2. **Purchased Key** - Click **Go to store**, click **Buy** below your preferred version of Windows, and enter your payment information.



Restart your computer. Click **Start**



, click **Power**



, and click **Restart**. Once your computer finishes restarting, your version of Windows should be activated.

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