

How to Upgrade Windows 7 to Windows 8

This wikiHow teaches you how to upgrade your Windows 7 PC to Windows 8 using a DVD or by downloading the Microsoft Upgrade Assistant Tool. Insert the Windows 8 DVD into your Windows 7 PC. After a few moments, you should see a blue 'Windows...

Method 1 of 2:

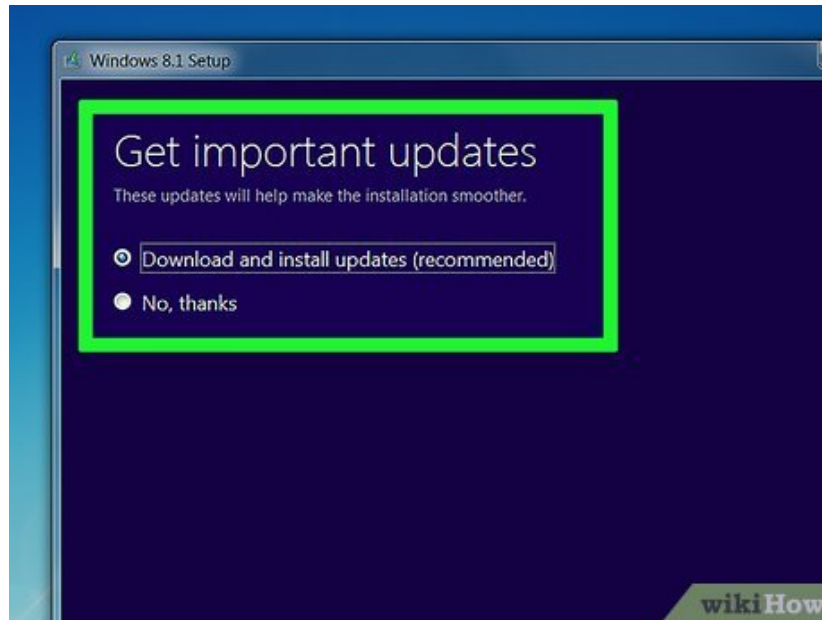
Using a Windows 8 DVD



Insert the Windows 8 DVD into your Windows 7 PC. After a few moments, you should see a blue 'Windows 8 Setup' window.^[1]

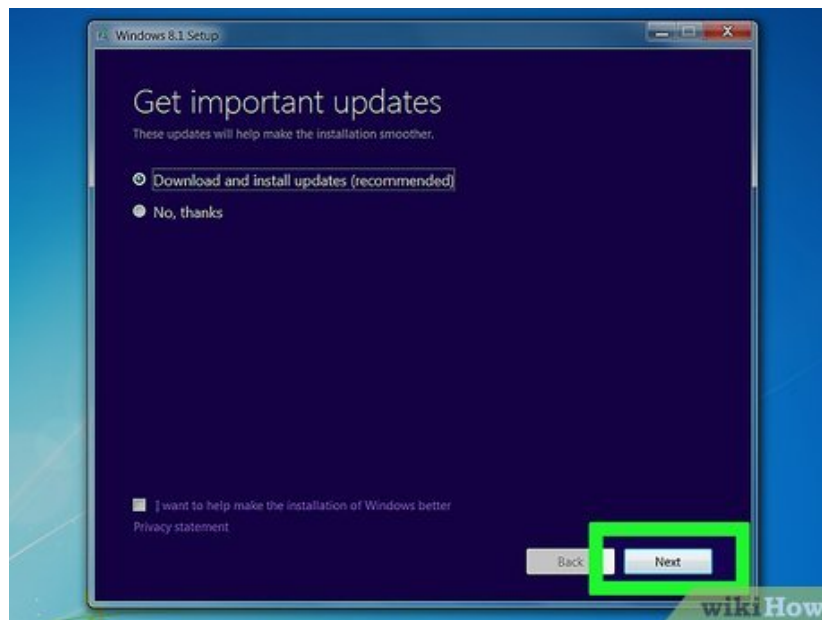
1. If you don't see this window, double-click **Computer** or **My Computer** on your desktop, and then double-click your DVD drive.

2.



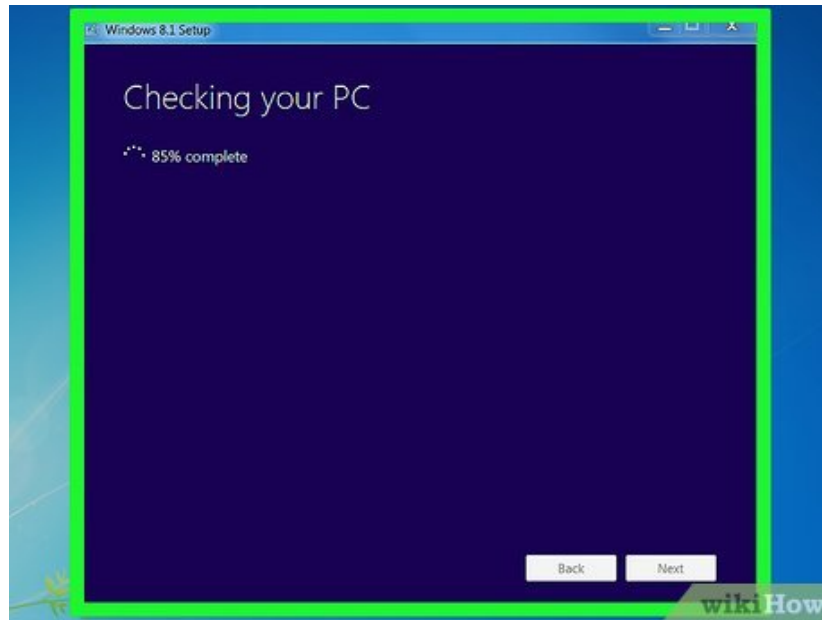
Select **Download and Install Updates**. It's the first option.

3.



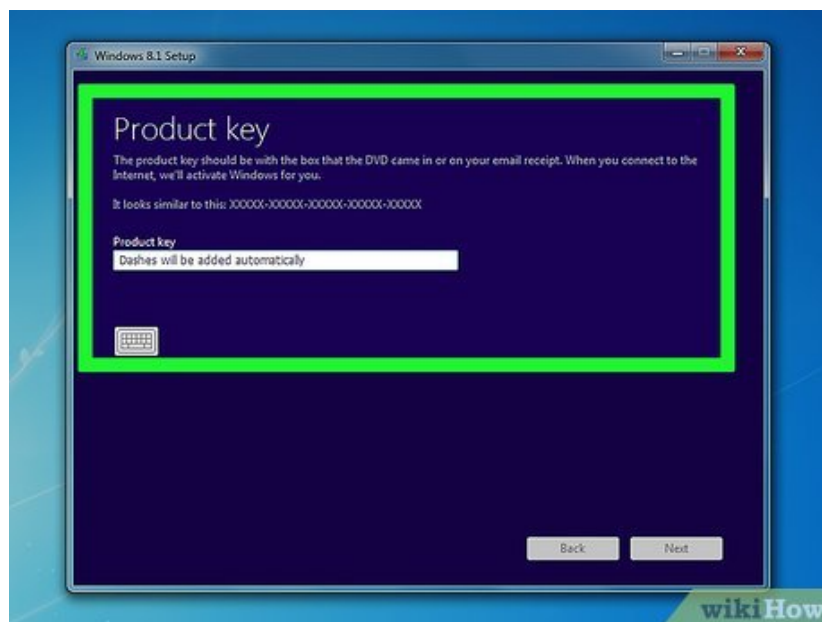
Click **Next**. The installer will now check for important updates.

4.



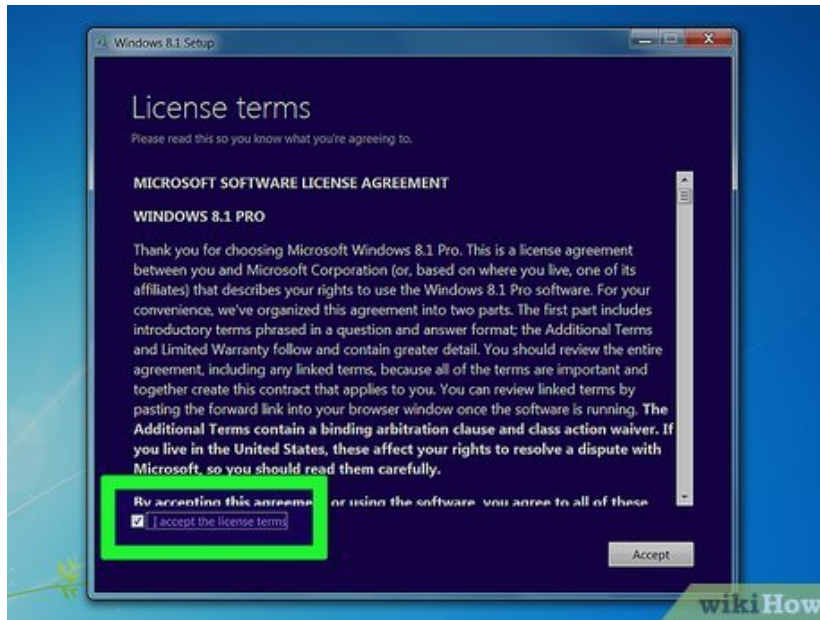
Follow the on-screen instructions to download and install updates. When all updates are installed, you'll be asked to enter your product key.

5.



Type your product key and click **Next.** This is the long set of letters and numbers that came with your Windows 8 DVD. Depending on where you purchased Windows 8, they key may also be in an email or on a printed receipt.

6.

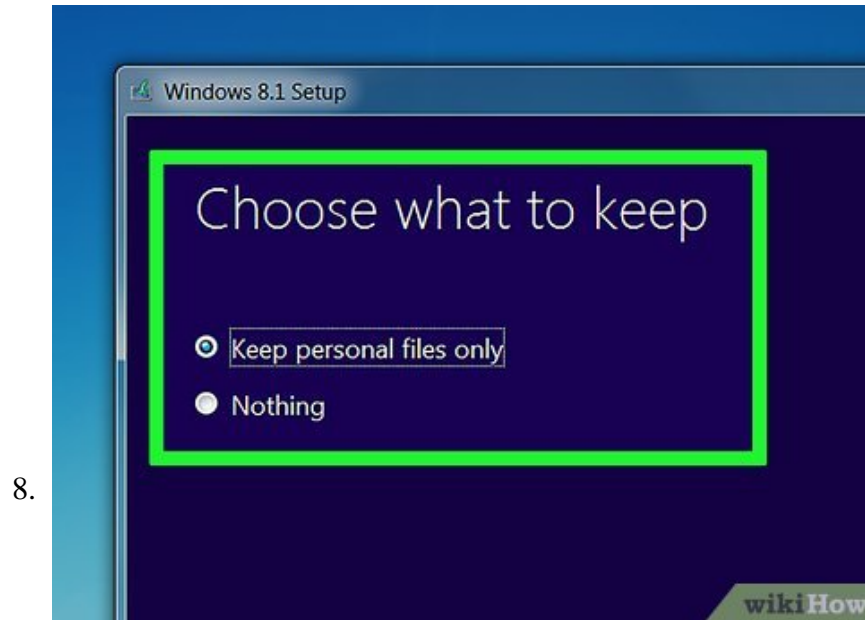


Read the terms and check the 'I accept the license terms' box.

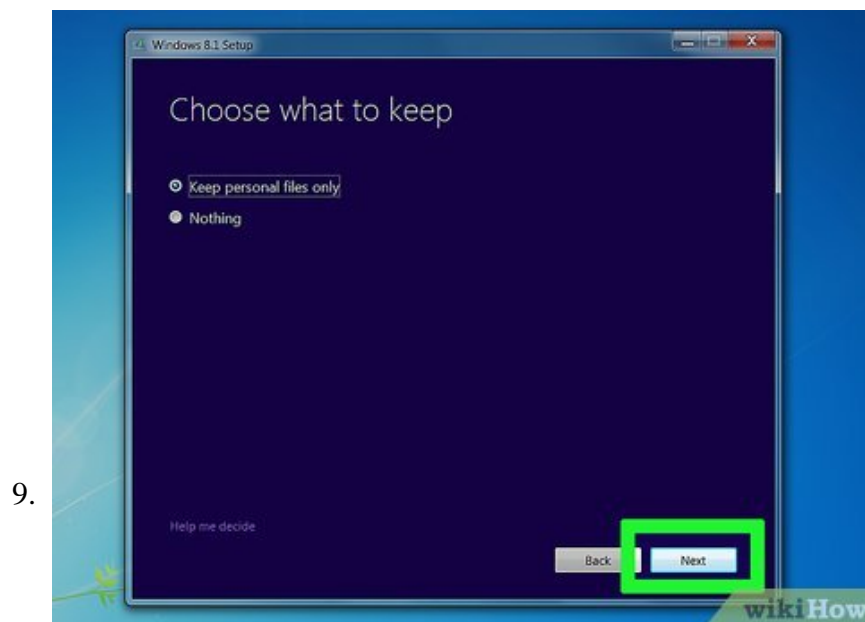
7.



Click .

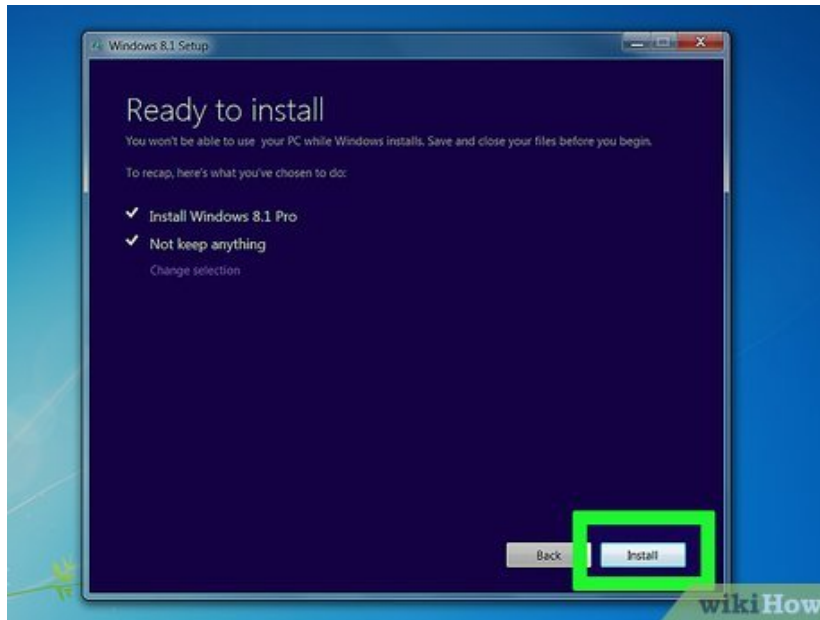


Select which items you want to save from your Windows 7 install. Select each type of data you want to keep. If you don't want to retain any of your personal files or settings, select **Nothing**.



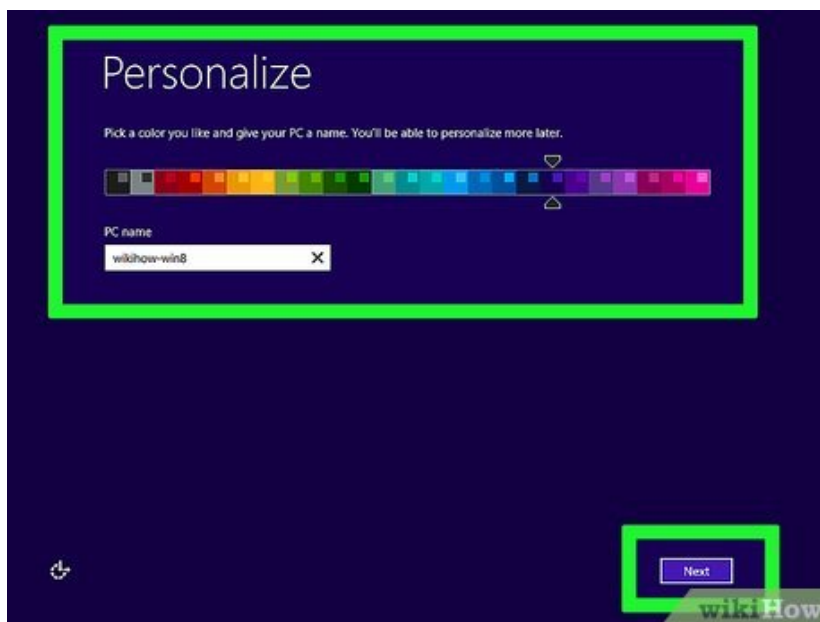
Click **Next**. Depending on the option(s) you selected in the previous step, you may have to perform additional tasks or restart the computer. Once everything is finished, you'll see an 'Install' button.

10.



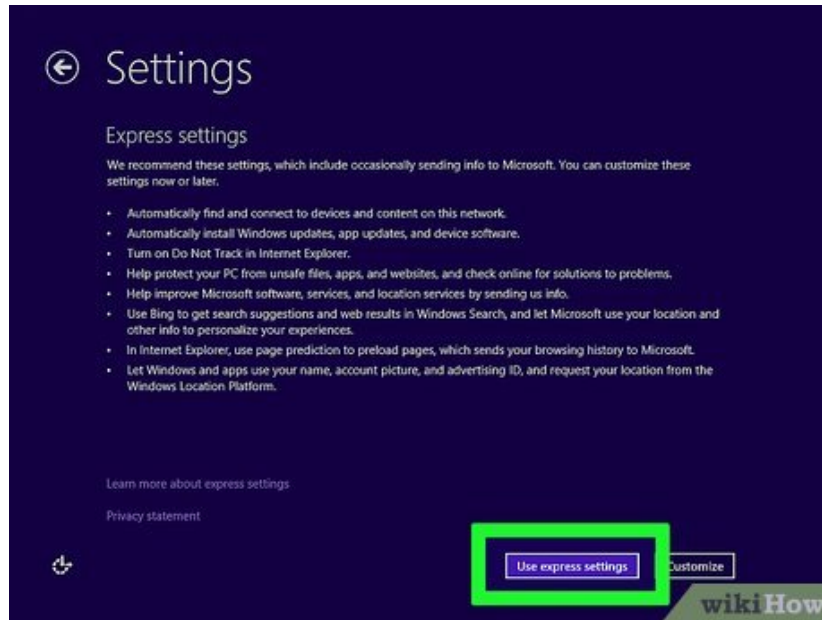
Click **Install**. Windows 8 will now start to install. The computer may reboot several times during the installation. Once Windows 8 is installed, you'll be asked to select a background color.

11.



Select a background color and click **Next**.

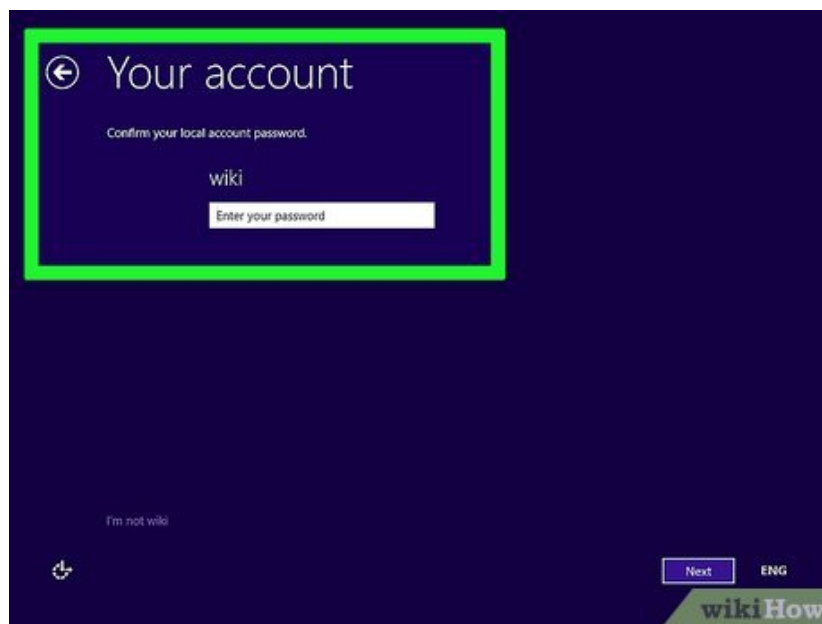
12.



Select **Use Express Settings**. This sets up Windows 8 with the default security settings.

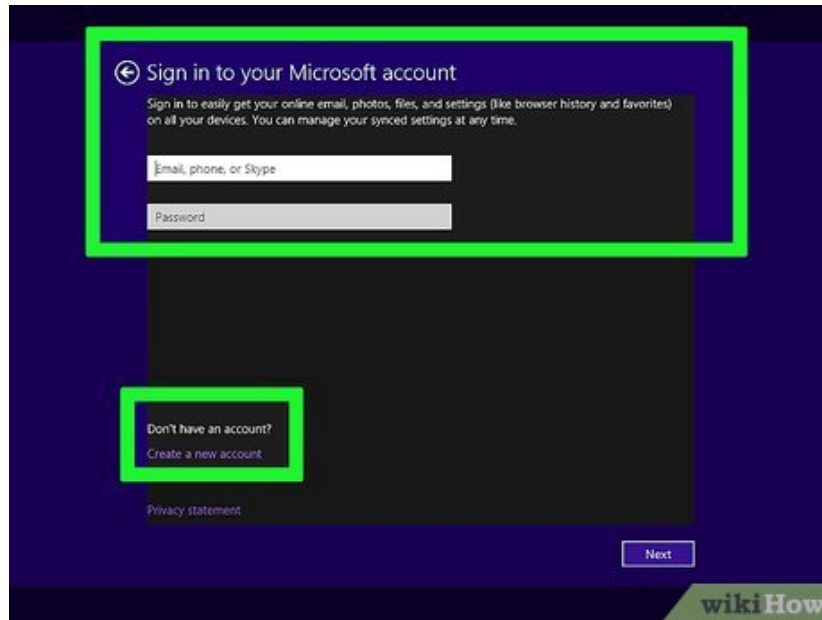
1. If you want to customize your settings instead, click **Customize** to do so now.

13.



Verify your password. If your Windows 7 account was protected by a password, you'll be prompted to enter it now.

14.

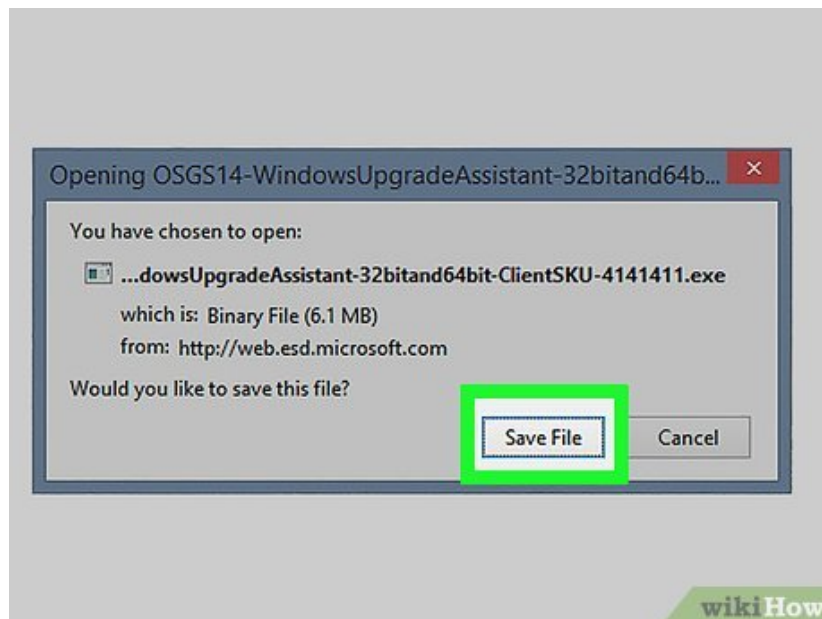


Select an account type to sign in. If you want to create a Microsoft account (recommended), click **Next**, and then follow the on-screen instructions to complete your the sign-up. If not, click **Skip** to access your desktop.

Method 2 of 2:

Using the Upgrade Assistant Tool

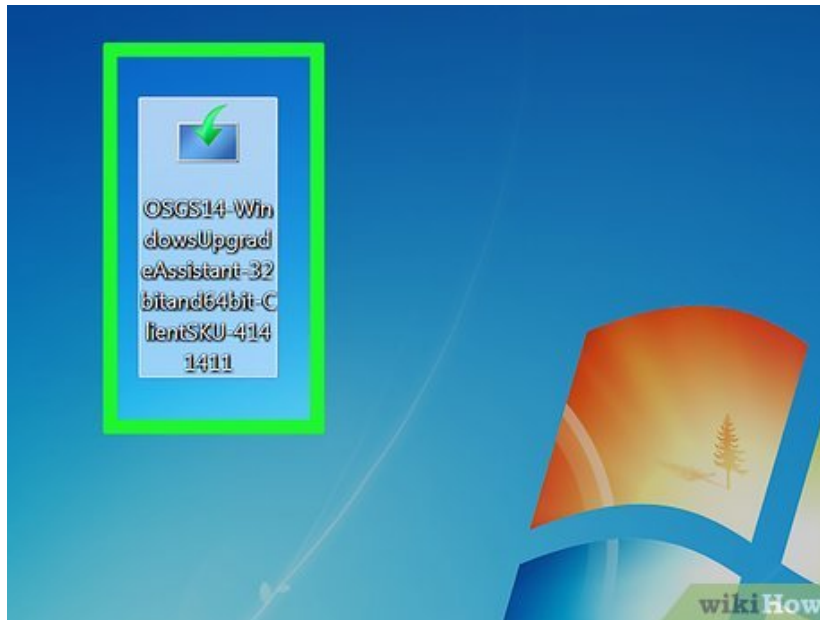
1.



Download the Upgrade Assistant tool from Microsoft. Make sure your Windows 7 PC is connected to the internet, and then follow this link to download the tool. Save it to your computer when prompted.

1. This method will help you install and run the Upgrade Assistant tool, which allows you to purchase and install a Windows 8.1 upgrade for Windows 7.

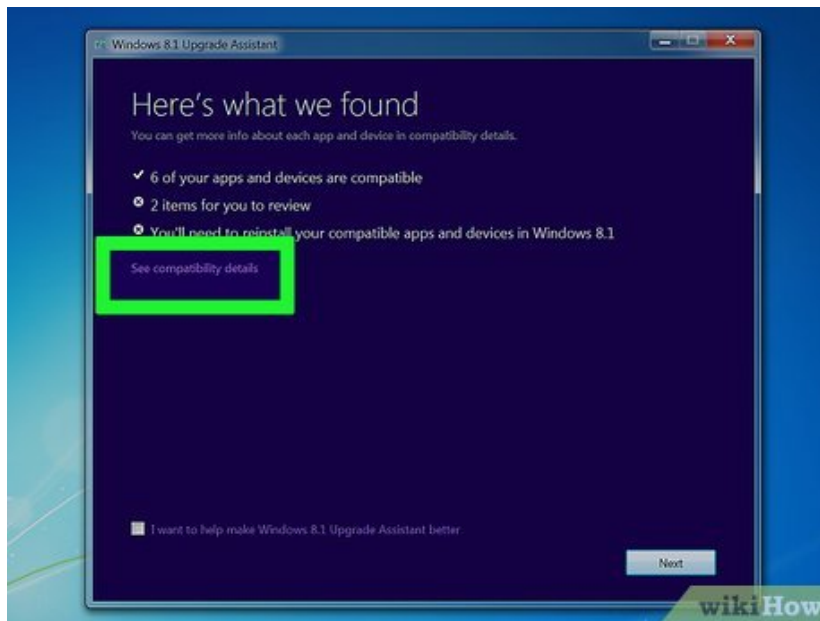
2.



Double-click the Upgrade Assistant tool. It's the file that has a long name containing the text 'WindowsUpgradeAssistant' and ends with '.exe.'

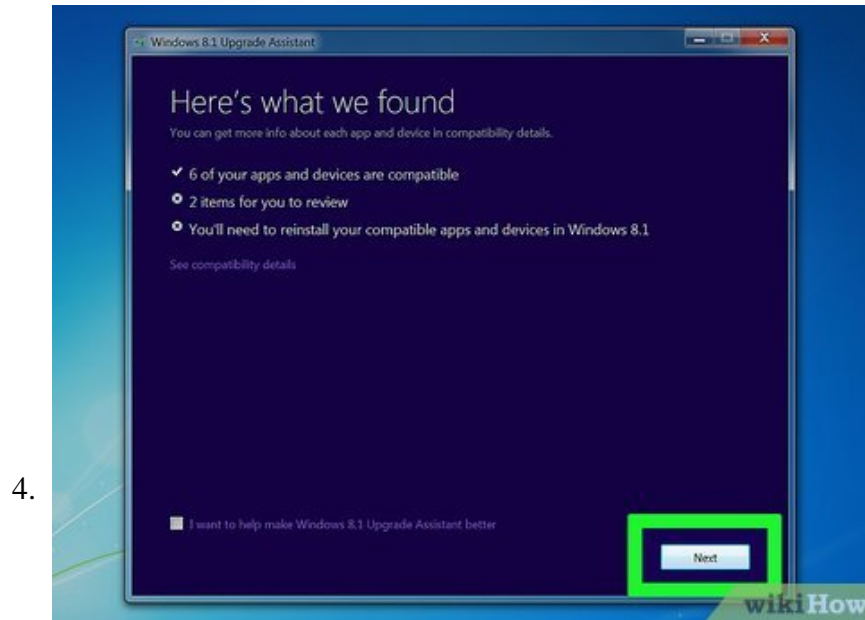
1. You may have to click **Yes** to give the tool permission to run.[2]

3.

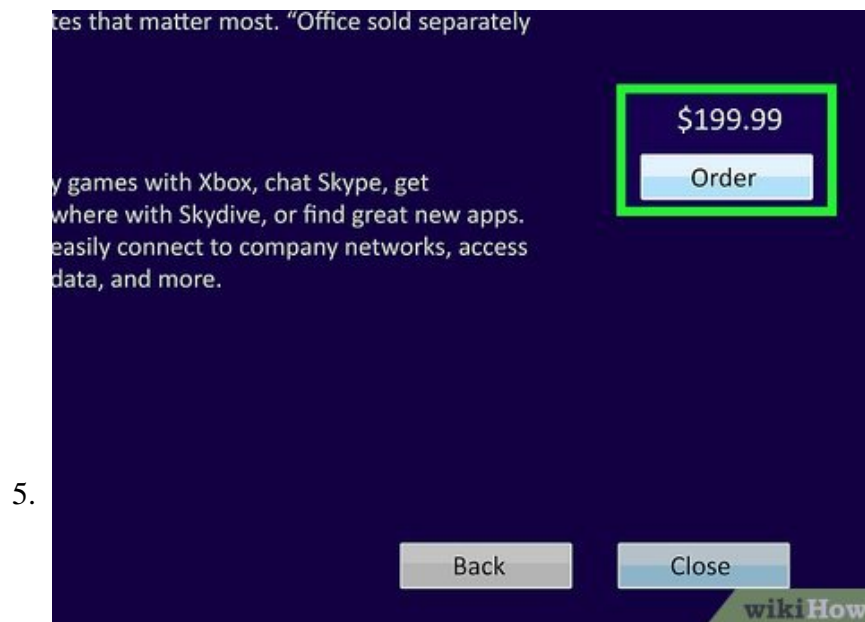


Click **See compatibility details**. This displays a list of apps and drivers that may not work in Windows 8.1. Click **Close** when you're finished.

1. In most cases, app developers and manufacturers have created new versions and drivers you can install to correct these issues on your new operating system.

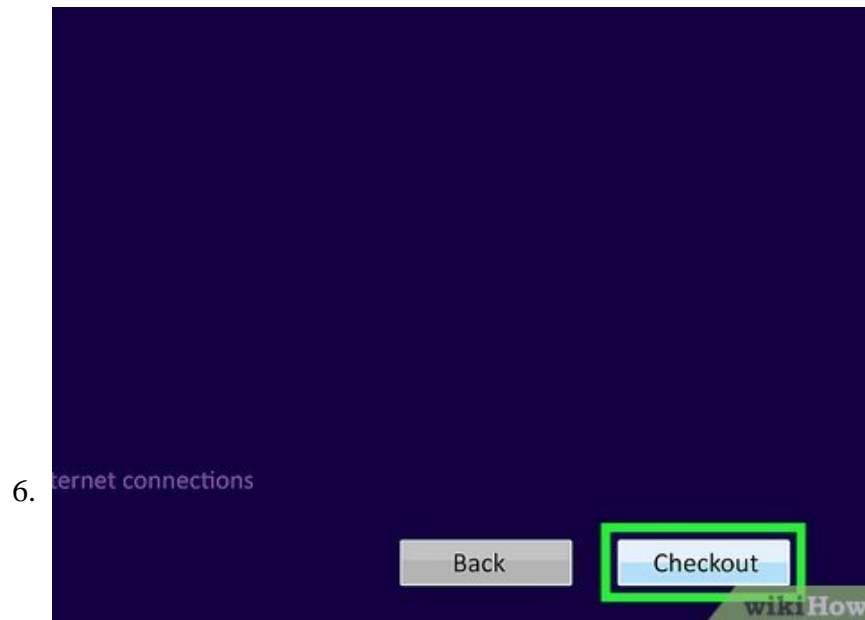


Click **Next** if you want to continue with the upgrade.^[3] This displays a list of Windows 8.1 versions available for purchase. The options will vary by location.



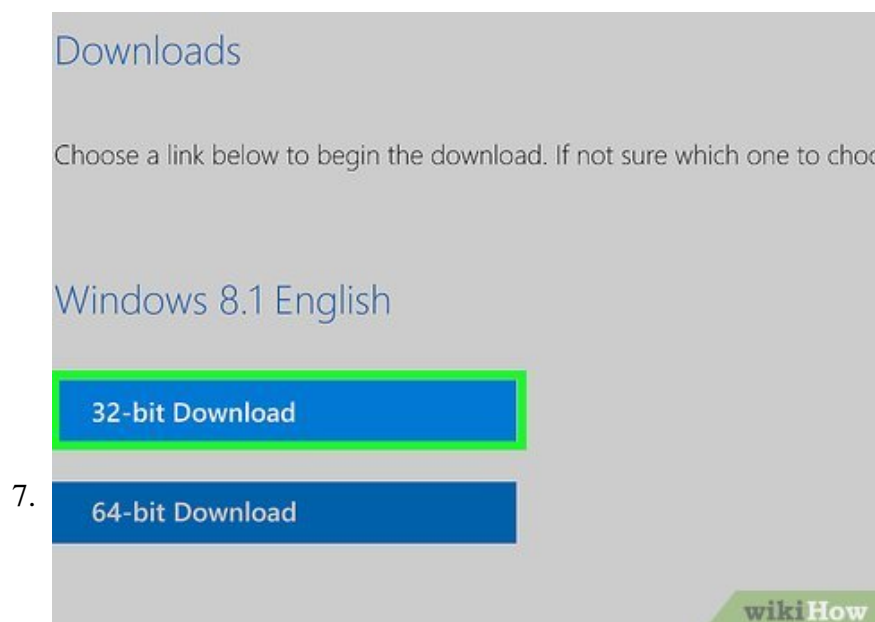
Click **Order** next to the version you want to purchase. The contents of your order, including the size of the download, will appear.

1. If you want to purchase a DVD, check the box next to 'Windows DVD.'



Click **Checkout** and follow the on-screen instructions to purchase. You'll have to provide your contact information and enter your payment method to complete the purchase. Once your purchase is complete, you'll see a link to download Windows 8.1, as well as your product key.

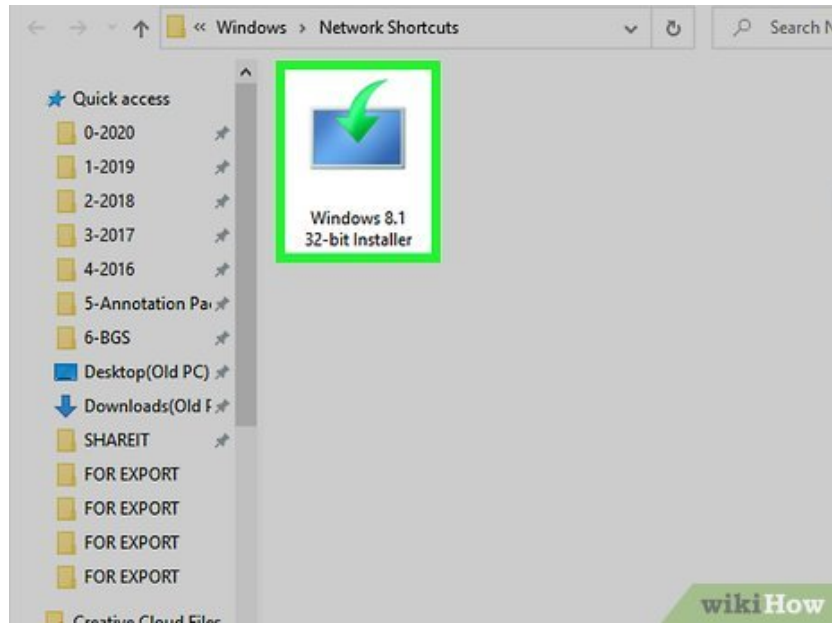
1. Write down your product key and store it somewhere safe. You'll need it to install Windows 8.1.



Click the link to download the installer. If prompted, click **Save** to start the download.

1. The installer is pretty big (around 2 GB), so it may take a while to download.

8.



Double-click the downloaded file to install Windows. You'll be taken through a series of steps to install the operating system. Follow the on-screen instructions to choose your settings, install the upgrade, and then set up your new desktop.

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