

Windows Vista to XP Downgrade

Due to rapid advancements in technology, older technologies are frequently replaced with newer ones. While Microsoft® Windows Vista® is the latest Operating System (OS) to be offered by Microsoft, many people are simply not ready to switch from its predecessor, Windows® XP Professional. Microsoft uses a phased approach to ease customers into new software such as Vista by offering end-user downgrade rights. When customers purchase select, legally licensed versions of Microsoft® OS software they are permitted to run a compatible previous version until they are ready to upgrade or migrate to the new OS. However, it is important to understand that Microsoft does not offer downgrade rights on all versions of software and these rights are warranted for a limited time.

What does this mean to you?

In short, when you receive a computer with Windows® XP as your preinstalled OS you are actually paying for Windows Vista OS® software and choosing to delay its installation by taking advantage of the downgrade rights that are contained within Vista. When migrating to or installing the new Vista OS, you are simply installing the Vista OS software that you purchased with your computer. Microsoft does not require you to purchase a licensed copy of Windows® XP because the migration to Vista results in the deletion of preinstalled software.

What does Howard offer?

Howard will, at your request, pre-install Windows® XP Professional ...at no additional charge. You may purchase Howard installation media, which is required to migrate to Vista, when you order your computer or at a later date. And like every product we sell, Howard's first-rate customer service doesn't end when you receive your Howard system. Customer service representatives are available 24/7/365 at 888.323.3151 to provide support during the upgrade process as well as assistance with the purchase of necessary recovery media, additional software, and hardware that may be required to keep your computer running at peak performance. Providing services from start to finish—that's just part of the Howard advantage.

FAQs

Q. What are downgrade rights?

A. Downgrade rights, which are documented in the End-User License Agreement (EULA), refer to the end-user's right to acquire the most recent version of Microsoft® Operating System (OS) software but continue to run a previous version.

Q. Do all versions of Windows Vista® software contain downgrade rights?

A. No. Microsoft does not offer downgrade rights on all versions of OS software. Windows Vista® Business and Windows Vista® Ultimate include downgrade rights to Microsoft Windows® XP Professional, Windows® XP Professional x64 Edition, and Windows® XP Tablet PC Edition.

Q. Does Howard offer factory downgrade services on all computers?

A. Yes. When authorized by the customer, Howard will facilitate a downgrade from Windows Vista® Business or Windows Vista® Ultimate to a qualified version of Windows® XP Professional at no additional charge. Your product registration and licensing will detail a Windows Vista® Certificate of Authenticity (COA).

Q. Am I required to purchase Windows® XP installation media?

A. No. You may purchase both Windows® XP and Windows Vista® media, however the Vista® license is the only part necessary to perform the preinstallation.

Q. How do I migrate to Windows Vista® software?

A. Transitioning or upgrading from the preinstalled Windows® XP to Windows Vista® will require Howard installation media. Media may be purchased when you order your computer or at a later date by calling our customer service team, which is available 24/7/365 at 888.323.3151. Please note that Howard recovery media is the only recovery media that is compatible with Howard computer systems.

Q. Will I need to change or update my computer when I migrate to Windows Vista® software?

A. There is a possibility that you may need to update your computer when you upgrade to Vista. To help you determine if this is the case, contact our customer service team, which is available 24/7/365 at 888.323.3151.

Q. Will I lose data when migrating to the Windows Vista® OS?

A. Yes. Because this is a complete reinstallation of a different OS, we suggest you backup all files and applications to prevent data loss.