

Mac & Chromebook | Medium | 2 min read

Chromebook: automatic update expiry (AUE) explained

Every Chromebook has an end date for updates, called the Auto Update Expiration (AUE) date. After this date, Google no longer provides new ChromeOS updates for that model. It is important to know before you buy or when you are planning to replace one.

What it means

The Chromebook will still switch on and work after the date. But it stops getting security fixes and new features. Over time, some websites, apps and school or work services may stop working properly, and it becomes less safe to use for banking or shopping online.

How long do updates last?

Google has said that newer Chromebooks released from 2021 onward receive updates for ten years from the date the model was released, and older models had a shorter period, often around eight years. The end date is counted from when the model first launched, not from when you bought it. A Chromebook bought new today could therefore have fewer years left than you expect if it is an older model. Dates can change, so always check your own device.

How to check your date

1. Click the **time** in the bottom right, then the **Settings** cog.
2. Choose **About ChromeOS**.
3. Click **Additional details**.
4. Look for **Auto Update expiration date** (or similar wording such as **Update schedule**). The date is shown there.

If you cannot see it, search for the model name and "Auto Update Expiration" on Google's Chromebook help pages. The model name is on the same About screen or under the device.

Before you buy

Check the AUE date for the exact model on Google's list. Avoid buying second-hand Chromebooks without checking.

What to do when the date arrives

- You may keep using it for light, offline tasks with care.
- Avoid entering sensitive details on it.
- Back up your files to Google Drive.
- Plan a replacement.

Some people try to install other systems on old Chromebooks. This can be risky and may erase everything, so ask us first.

When to get more help

Contact us if your date is close, if the Chromebook says it has reached the end of support, or if you need help choosing a replacement and moving your files across.

Still stuck? Email admin@visiontech336.com and tell us what you can see on the screen. Menus and button names can differ slightly between versions and makes. If something does not match, stop and ask rather than guess. Please never send passwords or card details.