

Windows laptops & PCs | Easy | 2 min read

Windows takes ages to start up

If your laptop takes several minutes to reach the desktop, the usual cause is too many programs loading at once, or a drive that is nearly full.

Quick fixes to try first

- Do a proper restart. Click **Start**, then the power icon, then **Restart**.
- Install waiting updates and restart again.
- Unplug USB drives and other devices before you start the laptop, in case it is waiting on them.
- Give it five minutes after sign-in. Windows often does tidying jobs straight after starting.

Step by step

1. Press Ctrl, Shift and Esc together to open **Task Manager**.
2. Click **Startup apps** on the left (Windows 11) or the **Startup** tab (Windows 10). If you only see a small window, click **More details** first.
3. Look at the **Startup impact** column. Right-click programs marked **High** that you do not need straight away, and choose **Disable**.
4. Only disable things you recognise. Leave anything from Microsoft, your security software, and your touchpad or graphics software alone.
5. Restart and see if it is faster.

If that did not work

- Check your free space. Windows 11 and Windows 10: **Settings, System, Storage**. Try to keep at least 15 per cent of the drive free.
- Run a scan with **Windows Security** in case something unwanted is slowing it down.
- Older laptops with a traditional hard drive are naturally slow to start. Replacing it with a solid state drive (SSD) makes a huge difference, but that is a job for a professional.

Disabling a start-up item does not delete the program. You can turn it back on at any time.

When to get more help

Stop and email us if the laptop takes more than ten minutes to start, you hear clicking noises from the drive, Windows freezes during start-up, or the slowness started suddenly. Back up your files if you can. Tell us the make, model and approximate age of the laptop.

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.