

Using Windows Restore Points: A Simple Guide

What Is a Restore Point?

A Restore Point saves the state of your Windows system—like a snapshot—so if something goes wrong (after a bad update or software install), you can go back in time to when things were working properly.

Before You Begin: Make Sure System Restore Is Turned On

1. Click the Start button and type “Create a restore point”, then click it.
2. In the System Properties window, under the System Protection tab:
 - Make sure your main drive (usually C:) has Protection set to “On”.
 - If it’s off, click the drive, then click Configure.
 - Select “Turn on system protection.”
 - Use the slider to allocate storage (5–10% is usually enough), then click OK.

How to Create a Restore Point Manually

1. In the System Protection tab (as above), click Create.
2. Type a short description (like “Before installing printer software”) and click Create again.
3. Wait a moment—Windows will let you know when it’s done.

How to Use a Restore Point (Go Back to a Previous State)

1. From the System Protection tab, click System Restore.
2. Click Next, then choose a restore point from the list (pick one from before the problem started).
3. Click Next, then Finish to begin the restore.
4. Your computer will restart and restore your system to that point.

Helpful Tips:

- Restore Points do not affect your personal files like photos or documents.
- It’s a good idea to create a restore point before installing new programs or drivers.
- Windows often creates them automatically before major updates.

Phil Davis Apr 24, 2025