



Install new keyboard

Installing a keyboard is one of the simplest and most straightforward things you do when upgrading or enhancing a PC. The main thing to look for is that you have the right kind of connector.

1. Determine connector type:

Keyboards have two kinds of connectors—a larger 5-pin DIN keyboard connector and the smaller 6-pin mini DIN connector, also called the PS/2 connector. When you buy a new keyboard, you want to choose a connector of the same type that you already have; otherwise it won't be able to be plugged into your PC.

2. Buy an adaptor:

If you get a keyboard with a 5-pin DIN connector, but your PC accepts only a 6-pin PS/2 connection—or vice versa—you can still plug it in. You need a keyboard adapter. To use it, plug your keyboard into one end of the adapter. The other end plugs into your PC. If your keyboard cable isn't long enough, you can also buy an extension cable for it.

3. Unplug the old keyboard:

Don't unplug the keyboard until the PC is turned off. When you unplug the keyboard, don't force it; it should slide off relatively easily.

4. Plug in the new keyboard:

Be sure when you plug in the new keyboard that you align the pin connectors properly. Also, check to see that you're plugging it into the keyboard connector and not the mouse connector—they often look identical, but the keyboard connector has a small picture of a keyboard next to it, while the mouse connector has a small picture of a mouse. Don't force the connector into the plug—if it doesn't plug in easily, the pins probably aren't aligned. If you push, you could damage the connector.

5. Turn on your computer:

When you turn it on, your computer should automatically recognize your new keyboard without any problems. However, if you haven't plugged it in properly, your keyboard might not boot up all the way. Many PCs beep twice to indicate when there's been a keyboard error, and often an error message also appears on your screen telling you there's been a problem with the keyboard. If this happens, turn off the computer, unplug the keyboard, and then plug it back in again. This should solve the problem.

6. Install any special drivers:

Some keyboards with extra features and capabilities might need to have drivers installed in order to make use of those features. If drivers are required, they come on a disk or CD with the keyboard. Install the drivers from the disk or CD to make full use of the keyboard's capabilities.

