



Ripping & Burning-Windows Media Player

To rip music from a CD

If Windows Media Player isn't open, it will open in Now Playing mode when an audio CD is inserted into the CD drive. If the Player Library is open when you insert a CD, then the Player Library will remain open. You can rip a CD and adjust rip settings in either mode. Click the Switch to Library button  or the Switch to Now Playing button to  toggle between modes.



Rip controls in the Player Library

To rip music from a CD, do the following:

For best results, make sure that you are connected to the Internet before you begin.


When your computer is connected to the Internet, the Player attempts to retrieve media information about the tracks being ripped from an online database. The Player then adds the information to the files during ripping.

Note that you can rip a CD when your computer isn't connected to the Internet. However, the Player won't be able to identify the name of the CD, the artist who created it, or the names of the songs until you go online.

Insert an audio CD into the CD drive.

(Optional) If you want to select a different format (for example, MP3 instead of WMA) or bit rate (for example, 192 Kbps instead of 128 Kbps) for the files created during ripping, in the Player Library, click the Rip settings menu, and then click Format or Audio Quality.


(Optional) If you don't want to rip every song, in the Player Library, clear the check boxes next to the songs you don't want to rip.


Click the Rip CD button  in Now Playing mode or Rip CD in the Player Library to begin ripping.

After the songs have been ripped, you can find and play them in the Player Library.

There are two ways to change rip settings while in the Player Library. You can insert a CD into your CD drive and click Rip settings, or you can click the Rip Music tab in the Options dialog box. The Rip Music tab in the Options dialog box offers additional options that aren't available on the Rip settings menu.

To change rip settings in the Rip settings menu

1. Click the Start button , click All Programs, and then click Windows Media Player.

If the Player is currently open and you're in Now Playing mode, click the Switch to Library button  in the upper-right corner of the Player.

2. Insert a CD into your CD drive.

3. Click Rip settings.

4. Click one or more of the following menu items:



Rip settings menu

Format. Choose a format for the files that are created during the ripping process. The default format is Windows Media Audio. Here are other available options:

Windows Media Audio Pro. This format supports a broad range of uses, from full-resolution, multi-channel audio for surround sound systems to highly efficient audio compression at low bit rates for portable devices. Not all devices support this format.

Windows Media Audio (Variable Bit Rate). This format can reduce the file size, but ripping might also take longer.

Windows Media Audio Lossless. This format provides the best audio quality; however, the file size might increase.

MP3. This format is older than the Windows Media Audio format and is supported by most media devices.

WAV (Lossless). This format produces very large, uncompressed files.

Change settings for ripping music Vista.

You can use Windows Media Player to [rip](#) (or copy) the tracks from your audio CDs onto your computer, after which the tracks that you rip become files on your computer. There are a number of settings you can customize to make ripping work better for you.

1. Click the arrow below the Rip tab, and then click More Options.
2. Make one or more of the following changes:

Location. Click Change if you want to store ripped files in a different folder on your computer.

File Name. Click if you want to use a different naming convention for ripped files.

Format. Choose a format for the files that are created during ripping. The default format is Windows Media Audio, which optimizes the balance between file size and sound quality and is supported by PlaysForSure-verified devices. Other available options are:

Windows Media Audio Pro, which is designed to be used in low storage capacity portable devices, such as mobile phones, where the increased efficiencies of the format improve the audio quality at lower bit rates. Note that not all devices support this format.

Windows Media Audio (Variable Bit Rate), which can reduce the file size but may also take longer to rip.

Windows Media Audio Lossless, which provides the best audio quality but increases the file size.

MP3 and WAV (Lossless), which provide added flexibility.

Your selections apply to tracks you rip in the future; it is not possible to use the Player to change the format of a track you already ripped. If you are not sure which format works best for your needs, you can try ripping to different formats and quality settings and listen to the differences to help you decide.

Copy protect music. Select this option if you want ripped files to be protected with media usage rights...


Rip CD when inserted. If you select this option, you can choose either the option Only when in the Rip tab to have ripping automatically begin after inserting a CD only when you go to the Rip tab or Always to have ripping begin immediately upon inserting a CD. Note that with this feature turned on, you are not prompted to confirm your rip music settings, all tracks are selected for ripping, and that ripping will begin regardless of whether or not you have a connection to the Internet to get media information. If no media information was found during the ripping process, the Player will advise you to manually enter media information after ripping has completed.


These settings are also available by clicking the arrow below the Rip tab, pointing to Rip CD Automatically When Inserted, and then making your selection from the menu.

Eject CD when ripping is complete. Selecting this check box, in addition to Rip CD when inserted, is useful if you want to rip several CDs in succession.

Audio quality. You can adjust the compression quality used during ripping. Choose a quality setting that represents the best balance between quality and file size for your needs. If you are not sure what setting to use, try ripping to different formats and bit rates and then play the files. Note that it is not possible to adjust the quality if you have selected a lossless format.

To change rip settings in the Options dialog box Windows 7

Click the Start button , click All Programs, and then click Windows Media Player.

If the Player is currently open and you're in Now Playing mode, click the Switch to Library button  in the upper-right corner of the Player.

1. In the Player Library, click Organize, and then click Options.

2. Click the Rip Music tab.

3. Make one or more of the following changes:

1. Rip music to this location. Click this option and then click Change if you want to store ripped files in a different folder.

2. File Name. Click this option if you want to use a different naming convention for ripped files. Format. If you want to change the format for the files that are created during the ripping process, choose a format. The default format is Windows Media Audio. Other available options are:

Windows Media Audio Pro. This format supports a broad range of uses, from full-resolution, multi-channel audio for surround sound systems to highly efficient audio compression at low bit rates for portable devices. Not all devices support this format.

Windows Media Audio (Variable Bit Rate). This format can reduce the file size, but it might also take longer to rip a track.

Windows Media Audio Lossless. This format provides the best audio quality, but it increases the file size.

MP3. This option is older than the Windows Media Audio format and is supported by most media devices.

WAV (Lossless). This format is an uncompressed format that produces very large files.

Your selections apply to tracks you rip in the future; you can't use the Player to change the format of a track you've already ripped. If you're not sure which format works best for you, try ripping to different formats and quality settings and then listen to the different tracks to help you decide.

Copy protect music. Select this option if you want ripped files to be protected with `media_usage_rights`.

Rip CD automatically. If you select this option, ripping immediately begins when you insert a CD. You aren't prompted to confirm your rip music settings, all tracks are selected for ripping, and ripping begins regardless of whether or not you have a connection to the Internet to get media information. If no media information is found during the ripping process, the Player advises you to manually enter media information after ripping is complete.


Eject CD after ripping. If you want to rip several CDs in succession, you can select this check box, in addition to selecting Rip CD automatically.


Audio quality. You can adjust the compression quality used while ripping tracks. Choose a quality setting that represents the best balance between quality and file size for your needs. If you aren't sure what setting to use, try ripping to different formats and bit rates, and then playing the files. Note that you can't adjust the quality if you've selected a lossless format, such as Windows Media Audio Lossless or WAV (Lossless).

To add or edit media information after ripping

1. Connect to the Internet.

If media information is missing because you weren't connected to the Internet during ripping, the media information typically will appear for the newly ripped tracks soon after you connect to the Internet. If it doesn't, or if the information isn't correct, continue with the following steps to add or edit the information. If you don't have Internet access, you can manually edit the media information.

2. Click the Start button , click All Programs, and then click Windows Media Player.

If the Player is currently open and you're in Now Playing mode, click the Switch to Library button  in the upper-right corner of the Player.

3. In the Player Library, browse to the album you just ripped.

4. Right-click the album, and then click Find album info.

5. If you get an error message that says you must change your privacy settings, do the following:

1. Click the arrow under library, click More Options, and then click the Privacy tab.
2. Select the Update music files by retrieving media info from the Internet check box.
3. Repeat steps 3 and 4.

6. Do one of the following:

If the correct album or artist information appears in the search results, select the correct entry, and then follow the instructions on the page to automatically update the album art and media information. If the correct album doesn't appear in the search results, follow the instructions on the page to search again using different search criteria or to add the media information manually.

If the correct album information appears with a generic music icon displayed as the album art, then the album art isn't available for download.

Burn a CD or DVD in Windows Media Player

You can use Windows Media Player to copy music, pictures, and videos on your computer to a blank CD or DVD. This process is called burning.

Types of discs you can burn

Windows Media Player gives you the option of burning three kinds of discs: audio CDs, data CDs, and data DVDs. The type of disc you can use depends on what you want to copy (for example, whether it's only music or a combination of music, videos, and pictures), how much material you want to copy (for example, a single album or dozens of albums), and what type of device you want to use to play the disc (for example, a computer or a car CD player).

Disc type	Description
Audio CD	<p>This is ideal for making custom music CDs that you can play using any car or home stereo.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: Music only • Capacity: Up to 80 minutes • Playback devices: Almost any CD player, including those found in home stereos, car stereos, and computers.
Data CD	<p>This is a great option if you have lots of music and a car CD player that can play Windows Media Audio (WMA) files (the type of music file that most people have in their Player Library). It's also handy for backing up your media files.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: Music, pictures, and videos • Capacity: About 700 megabytes (MB), or roughly 8 hours of music • Playback devices: Computers and some CD and DVD players. The device must support the file types that you add to the disc, such as WMA, MP3, JPEG, or Windows Media Video (WMV).
Data DVD	<p>Because of its larger capacity, this type of disc is used for all the same reasons you would use a data CD, but especially if you have a larger volume of files that won't fit on a single data CD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: Music, pictures, and videos

- Capacity: About 4.7 gigabytes (GB), or roughly 54 hours of music
- Playback devices: Computers and some DVD players. The device must support the file types that you add to the disc, such as WMA, MP3, JPEG, or WMV.

What you'll need

To get started, you'll need the following:

A CD or DVD recorder drive (also known as a CD or DVD burner).

Almost all recent computers include a CD burner that lets you burn audio and data CDs. Some computers include a combination CD/DVD burner that lets you burn audio CDs, data CDs, and data DVDs.

If you don't know what kind of burner you have, check the documentation that came with your computer.

A blank CD or DVD.

The type of blank disc you need depends on what kind of burner you have and what kind of disc you're trying to make.

For audio CDs, your best bet is the CD-R format because it's relatively inexpensive and it's compatible with the widest range of playback devices.


For data CDs, CD-R is sufficient for most people's needs. However, if you want the ability to erase the disc later and add new files to it, choose CD-RW. Just keep in mind that blank CD-RW discs are typically more expensive than blank CD-R discs, and not all CD players can play CD-RW discs.


For data DVDs, choose DVD-R or DVD+R if you only need to add files to the disc once. Choose DVD-RW or DVD+RW if you want the ability to erase the disc later and add new files to it. Note that some DVD burners support all of these blank disc types and some only support certain ones. For more information, see the documentation that came with your computer.

Burn an audio CD

If you want to make a standard music CD that will play in nearly any CD player, choose the Audio CD option.

As you burn an audio CD, Windows Media Player makes temporary copies of the WMA and MP3 files in your burn list, converts the copies to another format (known as PCM), and then saves the converted copies to the disc. Here's how to burn an audio CD:

1. Click the Start button , click All Programs, and then click Windows Media Player.

If the Player is currently open and you're in Now Playing mode, click the Switch to Library button  in the upper-right corner of the Player.

2. In the Player Library, click the Burn tab, click the Burn options button , and then click Audio CD (this is the default choice).

3. Insert a blank CD-R disc into your CD burner.

If the AutoPlay dialog box appears, close it.

If your computer has more than one CD drive, click the drive you want to use in the navigation pane.

4. If necessary, click the Clear list button to remove all items from the previous burn list.

5. Find the items in your Player Library that you want to burn to the audio CD.

For example, you can search for a particular album, browse for individual songs, or locate a playlist.

6. To create a burn list, drag items from the details pane (the pane in the middle of the Player Library) to the list pane (the pane on the right side of the Player Library).

7. If you want to change the order of the songs in the burn list, drag a song up or down in the list.

8. If you want to remove a song from the burn list, right-click the song, and then click Remove from list.

Tip

Don't worry—removing an item from the burn list doesn't delete it from your Player Library or your computer.

9. When you're satisfied with the list, click Start burn.

Burning a disc might take several minutes to complete.

If you have more songs in your burn list than will fit on one audio CD, you'll have the option to burn the remaining items to a second blank CD.

Note


Because Windows Media Player doesn't support the CD-Text standard, the audio CDs that you burn don't include the media information from your original WMA or MP3 files. This means that if you burn audio CD containing songs from multiple albums and you try to play that CD on another computer, the other computer might not be able to automatically display the names of the songs on the disc.


Burn a data CD or data DVD

If you want to make a disc that can hold several hours of music (as opposed to an audio CD that only holds about 80 minutes of music), choose the Data CD or DVD option. You can also add picture and video files to data discs.

Unlike when you burn an audio CD, Windows Media Player doesn't convert your files to another format before it saves them to a data disc. Because the files remain in their compressed state, you can fit more items onto a disc, there is no loss of quality due to format conversion, and all media information in the files is retained.

There is one significant disadvantage of burning a data CD or DVD instead of an audio CD, however. The CD or DVD player that you use to play the data CD or DVD must be capable of playing the file types you put on the disc. For example, if all of your songs are in the WMA format and your car CD player only supports MP3 files, you'll need to use another program to convert them to the MP3 format, add the MP3 files to your Player Library, and then use the Player to burn them to a data CD.

Click the Start button , click All Programs, and then click Windows Media Player.

1. If the Player is currently open and you're in Now Playing mode, click the Switch to Library button  in the upper-right corner of the Player.

2. In the Player Library, click the Burn tab, click the Burn options button , and then click Data CD or DVD.

3. Insert a blank disc into your CD or DVD burner.

If the AutoPlay dialog box appears, close it.

4. If your computer has more than one CD or DVD drive, click the drive you want to use in the navigation pane.

If necessary, click the Clear list button to remove all items from the previous burn list.

5. Find the items in your Player Library that you want to copy to the disc.

For example, you can search for a particular album, browse for individual songs from different albums, or locate a playlist that you previously created.

6. To create a burn list, drag items from the details pane (the pane in the middle of the Player Library) to the list pane (the pane on the right side of the Player Library).

7. If you want to change the position of an item in the burn list, drag the item up or down in the list.

8. If you want to remove an item from the burn list, right-click the item, and then click Remove from list.

Tip

Don't worry—removing an item from the burn list doesn't delete it from your Player Library or your computer.

9. When you're satisfied with the list, click Start burn.

Burning a disc might take several minutes to complete.

If you have more items in your burn list than will fit on one disc, you'll have the option to burn the remaining items to a second disc.