



Burning your own CDs

You can use Windows Media Player to burn any mix of songs you want from your library to an audio CD. Once you have burned a CD, you can play it in any standard CD player. Burning mix CDs makes it easy to listen to only the songs you want.

This section covers:

- [Burn a CD](#)
- [Burn FAQ](#)
- [Change settings for burning](#)

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Burn a CD in Windows Media Player

You can easily create your own customized CDs using Windows Media Player.

1. Click the Burn tab, click the arrow below the Burn tab, and then click the type of CD you want to burn (audio or data).
2. Insert a blank CD-R or CD-RW disc into the CD burner. Or, insert a CD-RW disc that has files on it, and erase the contents of the disc by right-clicking the drive in the Navigation pane and then clicking Erase disc. (Erasing is required before you can burn to the disc again.)
3. If you have multiple CD burners and the burner you want to use is not the one selected, choose the one you want to use by clicking the Next Drive link in the List pane above the playlist.

Note that you can only burn CDs to one CD burner at a time.

4. To add albums or files from your Player library, drag them from the Details pane to the List pane to create a list of files to burn.

If you need to clear the List pane before beginning to build your burn list, click the Clear List pane button.

For audio CDs, the Player typically calculates how many minutes and seconds of empty space remain on the disc after each song is added to the burn list. However, occasionally the Player may not be able to detect the duration of songs in advance, which means it may not be able to accurately calculate how many songs can fit on a CD. If this occurs, playing the songs on the burn list first may help the Player to determine the correct duration of the songs.

To add a file that is on your computer but not in your library, right-click the file and then click Add to Burn List, or drag the file to the List pane.

5. If you have selected more files than can fit on one CD, the Player can burn all of the files to multiple CDs. Or you can try switching to burning the files to a data CD to fit more files on the CD (but note that many CD players cannot play music burned to a data CD). If you only want to burn one CD in this session, remove files from the list until they all fit on one CD. To do so, right-click the file you want to remove, and then click Remove from List. Note that removing files from the burn list will not delete the affected files from the library.

For an audio CD, it is possible that the last song will not fit even if the total time exactly matches the CD length, because the Player inserts two seconds between songs when burning.

6. In the list, drag files up or down to arrange them in the order you want them to appear on the CD. If you have chosen to burn more than one CD at once, make sure that the files will be burned to the CD you want.
7. Click Start Burn.
8. If you are burning multiple CDs, insert a blank CD when the first one has finished burning, and then click Start Burn. Repeat this step until you have finished burning all of the CDs.

As the CD is burned, you can check its progress in the burn list. Burning a CD will take some time.

It is recommended that you do not try to perform any other actions on the computer while burning a CD. For example, playback and recording may be affected if you try to play music from the library while burning a CD.

For information about burning, including the types of discs and types of files that you can burn, see the [Burn FAQ](#).

Note

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See also

[Change settings for burning a CD](#)



Burn a CD in Windows Media Player FAQ

[Show All](#)

Here are some answers to common questions about burning CDs in the Player. If you don't see your question listed here, see the [Windows Media Player FAQ online](#).

☐ What can I burn?

You can use the Player to [burn](#) a mix of songs from your Player [library](#) or computer to an audio CD, after which you can play the CD in any standard CD player. You can also burn files to data CDs. It is not possible to burn live [streams](#), such as radio stations, to a CD.

☐ What types of CDs can I burn?

You can use either a blank CD-R or CD-RW disc for burning in the Player, depending on the type(s) of removable storage that your CD burner supports, and the type of disc that you prefer. Note that not all CD players can play CD-RW discs. You can use the Player to burn the following types of CDs:

- **Audio CD.** Burn music CDs in standard Red Book audio format. Audio CDs can be played in most computers and in home and car CD players that play CD-R and CD-RW discs. You can burn an audio CD from either Windows Media Audio (WMA), MP3, or WAV file formats.
- **Data CD.** A data CD, also called a media CD, can store approximately 700 megabytes (MB) of music or video files. Data CDs are also useful if you want to back up your data files. Keep in mind, however, that some CD players and computers may not be able to play data CDs or to play some of the file types that can be burned to a data CD.

☐ Why do the songs on the CD I burned play in a different order than the list I created?

If you burn a data CD and play it on another computer or play it in a portable, home, or car CD player, the songs might not play in the order in which they appeared in your burn list. The playback order of data CDs is determined by the device or other program that you are using to play the CD. In most cases, the songs will play back in alphanumeric order by file name.

☐ Why doesn't the CD I burned play in my CD player?

If you burn a data CD with music files and it does not play in your portable, home, or car CD player, check the following:

- Your CD player may not support playback of data CDs. Refer to the CD player's documentation for details.
- The CD might be burned onto media, such as CD-RW, that is not compatible with the CD player. Refer to the CD player's documentation for details.
- Your CD player may not support playback of the type of music files burned on the disc (WMA or MP3). Refer to the CD player's documentation for details.
- The songs might be protected with media usage rights. Other computers may be able to acquire usage rights and play the songs if they have a connection to the Internet, but devices such as portable CD players and car stereos will not be able to acquire those rights, so protected content will be unplayable.
- The CD might not have been closed when it was burned. Usually you can resolve this problem by adding more songs to the burn list so you are close to the maximum capacity of the CD. Then, try burning the list again to a new CD.

☐ Why doesn't this blank disc work for burning?

If the disc you inserted is identified as "Blank disc" in the Navigation pane but a message in the List pane instructs you to insert a writable disc, the disc might be defective or no longer writable. This disc might not be writable, for example, if you previously tried to burn items to the disc but you stopped the burn before it was finished. Try inserting a writable disc that you have not previously used.

☐ Why do one or more of the items in the burn list have an information button next to them?

The appearance of the information button  next to an item in the burn list indicates there may be a problem with that item. It might indicate that the song file is protected by [media usage rights](#) that are either missing or do not

allow burning to a CD. It might also indicate that the item is something other than a song file in the supported .wma, .mp3 or .wav media file formats when attempting to burn an audio disc. All other types of files, such as digital video or photo files, can only be burned to a data disc. Lastly, the button could indicate the duration of the song is not yet known to the Player. Click the button to see the message it contains.

It is always good practice to listen to the songs you intend to burn all the way through at least once to confirm there are no quality problems with the recordings. By doing so, the Player will also resolve any possible incorrect duration data for those songs.

If the burn list was created from an existing playlist but one or more of the songs are no longer available on your computer, an error button  will appear next to the missing song.

Why are there occasionally long gaps between songs on the CDs I burn?

Some CDs, when some of their songs are ripped, may include one or more seconds of silence in the ripped music file after the music ends. Other CDs may include silence gaps at the beginning of some songs. Many CDs mark the beginning and ending of songs with the introduction and end of audible sound on each track. The Player automatically adds a two-second gap between songs when burning audio CDs to keep the next song from beginning immediately after the end of the previous song. The extra silence gaps included in the music files from the ripped CDs can create long, inconsistent pauses between songs. Since the Player's two-second pause cannot be turned off, the only way to resolve this issue is to use an audio file editor to remove the silence gaps in the song recordings themselves.

How can I tell if a custom burned CD is an audio or a data disc?

Put the disc in a CD-ROM drive in your computer. Start Windows Explorer and look at the contents on the CD you just inserted. If you see the file type .CDA on the CD, that indicates that the CD was burned as an audio CD. A data CD may contain any type of file, from .wma and .mp3 digital music files, .wmv digital video files, or even backups of document files.

How can I find out the status of the CD I am burning?

As the disc is burned, you can check its progress by clicking the **Burn** tab, and then clicking the disc burner that is burning in the Navigation pane. Burning a disc will take some time. For best results, don't try to perform other actions, such as playing other files, while burning a disc.

Why doesn't the Player recognize my USB-connected burner?

Check that the burner is connected to your computer. If it is connected, and you haven't yet created a list of files to burn, simply exit and then restart the Player. Once you do so, the Player should recognize your USB burner. If you had created a list of files to burn, you can save the list before exiting the Player by doing the following:

1. Click the **List** button at the top of the List pane, and then click **Save Playlist As**.
2. Type a name for the list, and then click **Save**.
3. Exit and then restart the Player.
4. Click the **Burn** tab. If you have multiple CD burners, click the arrow below the **Burn** tab, and then click your USB burner.
5. In the Navigation pane, click **Playlists**, and then drag the list you had saved to the List pane.
6. Click **Start Burn**.

Why am I asked if I want to skip a file when burning starts?

Before burning starts, the Player performs an initial check of the files in your burn list. In some cases, a file may have an error condition that prevents it from burning, or the file may be protected with [media usage rights](#) that either prohibit burning to an audio CD or limit the number of times the file can be burned to an audio CD. When the Player encounters one or more files with a problem during the initial check, the Player displays a dialog box to give you the option of either skipping the files (and continuing with burning the other files in the list) or stopping burning so that you can try to resolve the problem. If the Player finds problems with any other files after the initial check, it will be necessary to resolve the problems or remove the files from your burn list before you can continue burning.

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See also

[Burn a CD](#)

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Change settings for burning a CD in Windows Media Player

There are a number of settings you can customize to make [burning](#) in Windows Media Player work better for you.

1. Click the arrow below the Burn tab, and then click More Options.
2. Make one or more of the following changes:
 - Burn speed. It is not usually necessary to adjust the burn speed unless you are having problems burning; in that case reducing the burn speed might correct the problem. This setting applies to all burners that you use with your computer.
 - Automatically eject the disc after burning. Select this check box if you want CDs to be ejected automatically after they are burned.
 - Apply volume leveling across tracks on the CD. If you are burning songs that were originally recorded at different volume levels, select this check box to minimize the volume differences between the songs on audio CDs that you burn. Doing so helps you to avoid having to adjust the volume as you play the CD.
 - Add a list of all burned files to the disc in this format. When burning a data disc, the Player creates a playlist that lists the files being burned and then includes the playlist on the disc. If your playback device supports playlists, the items will play back in the order in which they appeared in your burn list. By default, the playlist is a file with a .wpl extension. If you want to play your data discs in a device that doesn't support .wpl playlists, you can use the .m3u format instead.

- Use media information to arrange burned files in folders on the data CD. Select this option if you want to organize files burned to data CDs into the following folders: \Music\Artist\Album, \TV, \Video, and \Picture (this folder will include a portion of the original path of the file as well). If you don't select this option, all of the burned files are stored together in the root folder of the CD. If album and album artist [media information](#) is missing from the files, they will be stored in folders titled Unknown Artist\Unknown Album. To prevent this from happening, make sure the files contain album and album artist information before burning. If necessary, you can [add or edit the media information](#) for the files.
- Fit more music on the disc by converting to a lower bit rate. If you want to fit more files onto a data CD, you can convert the files to a smaller size before burning. In addition to being converted to a smaller size, files that are in MP3 or WAV format will also be converted to WMA format. If you burn any files that are at or below the bit rate you specify, the files will not be converted. Note that the time required for burning will increase when you convert files, and that the audible audio quality may be diminished.

See also

[Burn a CD](#)