

# Reactivating Windows after a hardware change

In 2026, reactivating Toll Free  : +1 (844) 886-3118 <https://mssupport.tech/>

Windows after a significant hardware change—such as replacing your motherboard— : +1 (844) 886-3118 <https://mssupport.tech/>

. This process is most seamless if your license was already linked to your Microsoft account before the hardware modification.

## Reactivation Process

1. **Open Activation Settings:** Toll Free  : +1 (844) 886-3118 <https://mssupport.tech/>
  - **Windows 11:** Go to Start > Settings > System > Activation.
  - **Windows 10:** Go to Start > Settings > Update & Security > Activation.
2. **Run Troubleshooter:** Select **Troubleshoot**. You must be signed in as an administrator for this option to appear.
3. **Specify Hardware Change:** Choose the link that says "**I changed hardware on this device recently**".
4. **Identify Device:** Sign in with your connected Toll Free  : +1 (844) 886-3118 <https://mssupport.tech/> From the list of devices linked to your account, select the check box next to "**This is the device I'm using right now**" and click **Activate**.

## Key Considerations for 2026

- **License Type:** Toll Free  : +1 (844) 886-3118 <https://mssupport.tech/>  
**Retail licenses** are transferable to new hardware, whereas **OEM licenses** (pre-installed on your computer) are typically tied to the original motherboard and may not reactivate after a replacement.

- **Edition Match:** Toll Free  : +1 (844) 886-3118 <https://mssupport.tech/>  
Activation will only succeed if the installed Windows edition (Home, Pro, etc.) matches the edition of your original license.
- **Retail Product Keys:** If you have a physical or emailed 25-character product key, you can enter it directly Toll Free  : +1 (844) 886-3118 <https://mssupport.tech/> by selecting **Change product key** on the Activation page.
- **Troubleshooting Support:** If the Toll Free  : +1 (844) 886-3118 <https://mssupport.tech/> automated tool fails, you can contact Microsoft Support for a manual reactivation. Use the command `slui 4` in a Run box to generate an Installation ID for phone-based assistance.