

Windows 11 Home to Pro Upgrade — Use Generic Key Before Customer License

Important

Do not enter the customer's unique Windows 11 Pro product key while the computer is still running Windows 11 Home.

We have encountered computers where entering the customer's Pro key directly does not successfully complete the Home → Pro edition upgrade.

This can create an additional problem because the customer's unique product key has already been submitted during the failed activation/upgrade attempt and may subsequently have activation or reuse issues.

To avoid unnecessarily exposing or tying up a customer's unique Windows Pro key during a failed edition upgrade, first change Windows from **Home to Pro using Microsoft's generic Pro key**.

The recommended process is:

Windows 11 Home → Generic Pro Key → Windows 11 Pro → Customer's Unique Pro Key → Activation

Microsoft's normal instructions are to enter the Pro key directly, but recent Microsoft Q&A guidance specifically recommends the generic-key method when the edition upgrade gets stuck.

Step 1 — Confirm Windows Edition

Go to: **Settings → System → Activation**

Confirm that the computer is currently running: **Windows 11 Home**, If possible, also confirm that Windows Home is currently activated.

Step 2 — Disconnect the Computer From the Internet

Disconnect Ethernet and turn off Wi-Fi.

The generic key is being used to change the installed Windows edition, not to provide a Windows license.

Step 3 — Enter Microsoft's Generic Windows Pro Key

Go to:

Settings → System → Activation → Change product key

Enter:

This is Microsoft's generic Windows Pro edition key.

Important

This key **does not activate Windows Pro and does not provide a free Windows Pro license**. Its purpose is to change the installed edition from: **Windows 11 Home → Windows 11 Pro**

Step 4 — Complete the Edition Upgrade

Allow Windows to perform the upgrade.

Restart the computer when prompted.

If the upgrade does not start the first time, restart the computer and try the generic key again while disconnected from the Internet.

Step 5 — Verify Windows Is Now Pro

After restarting, go to: **Settings → System → Activation**

Before entering any customer product key, verify that Windows now says: **Windows 11 Pro**

It may show: **Not activated**

That is expected at this stage.

The important thing is that the **edition says Windows 11 Pro**.

Step 6 — Reconnect to the Internet

Reconnect Wi-Fi or Ethernet.

Step 7 — Enter the Customer's Unique Windows 11 Pro Key

Only after confirming that the computer is already running **Windows 11 Pro**, go to:

Settings → System → Activation → Change product key

Enter the customer's unique Windows 11 Pro product key.

The key is now being used primarily for its intended purpose:

Activating Windows 11 Pro

rather than being relied upon to both change the Windows edition and activate Windows

Automated Upgrade Script

If you prefer to automate this process, you can use our **Windows 11 Home to Pro Upgrade Script**.

The script checks that the computer is currently running Windows 11 Home, displays a warning that Windows Pro will not be activated by the generic key, and then performs the Home → Pro

edition upgrade.

Important: Save all open work before running the script. Windows may restart automatically during the upgrade.

Download the upgrade script here:

[Generic_Key.Home-Pro.ps1](#)

How to Run

1. Download the script.
2. Right-click `Generic_Key.Home-Pro.ps1`.
3. Select **Run with PowerShell**.
4. Run the script with Administrator privileges if prompted.
5. Read the warnings carefully before continuing.

After the computer restarts, confirm that Windows now shows **Windows 11 Pro** before entering the customer's unique Windows Pro product key.

Revision #7

Created 21 October 2026 14:57:54 by Admin

Updated 21 October 2026 15:29:16 by Admin