

## Re: Fresh Install of XP Home?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2005-12/msg04586.html>

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- *From:* "REDWAGON" <[REDWAGON@XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX](mailto:REDWAGON@XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX)>
  - *Date:* Sat, 10 Dec 2005 14:16:02 -0800
- 

You are absolutely right Malke in regards to me formatting the complete HD. However, my restore disks worked to replace that 100% formatted HD which indicates to me that the restore disks have all the necessary information to restore to the original condition also, not just the original HD (files Hidden or otherwise). So I guess with my HP even if my HD goes out and HP replaces it with a blank HD (it's still under warranty with HP) I could still get my original system back using the restore disks that came with the computer.

By the way, HP changes it's tactics every so often so what works for me at any given purchase time may not be the same for someone else.

Cheers  
Redwagon

"Malke" wrote:

> REDWAGON wrote:  
>  
>> "...although if you use the same CD  
>> that came with the laptop you probably won't need to enter the key or  
>> activate".  
>>  
>> In regards to the portion statement above that you suggested Malke, I  
>> would like to include some suggestions and experience I had. I just  
>> recently purchased a new "HP" laptop computer. It came with everything  
>> installed along with some free programming. It also came with an  
>> original XP Home (SP2) operating system disk AND also 4 other CD's  
>> that were the "restore" disks with all the identical stuff that the  
>> original computer had on it. Well, I decided to do (I think) what this  
>> OP might be suggesting. I placed the original XP operating system disk  
>> in my CD drive (set the BIOS to boot from that drive first) and then  
>> proceeded to re-format the entire HD and install a new "clean"  
>> operating system. Everything went great, however, I did have to  
>> (elected to call rather than on the internet) call MS on the phone and  
>> re-activate the system. Also, since then I decided to see what the 4  
>> restore disks would do, so I did the same thing with those disks and

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>> this time (After a considerable time I might add) everything was put  
>> back to when I purchased the computer new AND this time I did not have  
>> to re-activate the system.  
>  
> The reason you had a problem was probably that you formatted the entire  
> drive. HP has a partition on the hard drive (can't remember if it is  
> hidden or not) that has the information for their recovery process and  
> you apparently removed it. The reason for making the physical CD's  
> (which HP now permits you to do once, bless their greedy ugly little  
> hearts) is for when you need to replace the hard drive. Even if you get  
> a replacement hard drive from HP under warranty, it will be a blank  
> hard drive (and let's not even discuss how stupid that is, HP) without  
> the recovery stuff on it. Normally when you want to restore an HP  
> computer to factory condition, you press F10 as the computer is  
> starting up. You'll then get the option to either restore to factory  
> condition or to "repair" and keep your files/programs, etc.  
>  
> I've redone an awful lot of computers since XP came out in 2001, and  
> haven't had to call on an OEM one once. My understanding is that if you  
> replace the motherboard on an OEM machine with a different model/make  
> (like sticking an Asus in your Dell), you'll run into the necessity of  
> activating by phone. Notice that I'm not going to comment on activation  
> whatsoever. I never participate in activation threads and there's a  
> reason for that. ;-)  
>  
> Malke  
> --  
> MS-MVP Windows User/Shell  
> Elephant Boy Computers  
> www.elephantboycomputers.com  
> "Don't Panic"  
>  
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• **References:**

- ◆ **Fresh Install of XP Home?**  
    ◇ From: HotRod
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