

Warm Boot - what it is, when to use it, and simple restart tips

Gridinsoft Help Center

Warm Boot

What it is

A warm boot (soft boot) is a restart that brings your computer back to a clean state without fully powering off. In Windows, it's the Restart option. It clears running apps and reloads the OS, which often fixes freezes or finishes setting up new software. A cold boot is different: that's a full power off and back on.

Why it matters

Restarting clears glitches, stuck apps, and memory leaks. It's a quick first fix before you try deeper troubleshooting.

How it works Close apps: Windows tells programs and services to stop.

- Reload: the system shuts down parts of itself and then starts fresh.
- Reinitialize: drivers and hardware are reloaded, giving you a clean session.

Red flags

- Restart never completes or the PC loops on restart.
- You have to force power off often to clear freezes.
- After restart, the same app hangs right away.

Do it right

- Use Start -> Power -> Restart instead of holding the power button.
- Save your work first. If the system is stuck, try Ctrl+Alt+Delete to reach Restart.
- After installing drivers or big updates, prefer a restart to finish setup.
- If problems survive a warm boot, try a cold boot or Safe Mode, then update drivers and Windows.