

# How To Make An OS X 10.8 'Mountain Lion' Bootable USB Drive

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Time to answer a reader's question, this one relating to [Apple's OS X 10.8 'Mountain Lion'](#) operating system.

I've just bought a new Mac and noticed that it doesn't come with a DVD containing OS X 10.8 'Mountain Lion'—it doesn't even have a DVD drive! I'm worried that if something happens to my Mac's drive, I won't be able to get my system up and running. Is there a way I can create a recovery file?

You're right, modern Macs don't come with either a recovery DVD or even a DVD drive. If something happens to your Mac's hard drive with results in OS X being wiped, Macs are designed to be able to download an operating system over the Web. This is a really handy feature, but downloading four gigabytes isn't for everyone.

Fortunately, you can create a backup of your Mac OS X install. All you need is a USB flash drive with at least 1GB of free space, and the OS X Recovery Disk Assistant.

Here's how.

- Plug a USB flash drive into a free USB port.

- Download the [OS X Recovery Disk Assistant](#) from the Apple site.
- Once downloaded, fire up the app and point it at the USB drive. Note that everything on the USB flash drive will be wiped. Also, ignore the Lion on the screen, this also works for Mountain Lion.



- Click **Continue** and follow the simple steps.



- Once you're done, pop the USB flash drive somewhere safe in case you ever need it.



That's it.