

Caring for Your Tower Desktop

While tower desktops are generally hardier than laptops, they are not invincible. Use these tips to help keep your computer safe.

1. Make sure any ventilation and fans on the case are unobstructed (Figure 1). These are necessary for airflow. Failure to keep these clear may shorten the life of your desktop.
2. Get it regularly checked for dust build up in critical areas. Dust can impede cooling and thus damage your desktop. An experienced technician can perform a clean for you, then give you an idea based upon the age of the computer and the level of dust build up when you should bring it in next. If your desktop is rebooting spontaneously, that can be a sign of overheating and is definite cause for action. Keeping the desktop tower higher off the ground can limit the amount of dust drawn in.
3. Make sure you have a good backup system in place. Even brand new hard drives can fail at any time due to manufacturing defects that were not immediately obvious. Ask us for help to figure out which backup is best for you. Your files, particularly photos, are invaluable. Do not risk it.
4. Make sure you have up to date and effective anti-virus. If you see an error message saying something along the lines of “your subscription has expired”, then it means it is no longer getting updates and so is effectively useless. Paid anti-virus systems are generally better but if you are short of money there are some free systems available. Contact us for advice.
5. Listen out for a change in the noise generated by the desktop during normal operation. If something is louder or harsher than it once was, this might indicate a problem that needs attention. Failure to act might make that problem worse.



Figure 1: Vent Blocked by Dust