



How to Open and Clean an Xbox Series X

Use this guide to open up and clean dust and...

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INTRODUCTION

[video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnOmCOFyC7A>]

Use this guide to open up and clean dust and debris out of the fan, grilles, or vents of an Xbox Series X.

If your console is loud, overheating, or underperforming, it may have built-up dust in the cooling fan, heatsink, or main vents.

In the Xbox Series X, when upright, the large top fan pulls air in from the bottom, which cools the console, then pushes the air out of the top vent. If your Xbox lives in a TV cabinet with limited airflow, consider opening the door while gaming or moving it out to open air. If your Xbox is on the ground, it may suck in extra dust, dirt, or hair and limit its ability to keep cool.

TOOLS:

[Xbox Toolkit](#) (1)

[Game Console Cleaning Kit](#) (1)

[TR8 Torx Security Screwdriver](#) (1)

[Spudger](#) (1)

[ESD Safe Blunt Nose Tweezers](#) (1)

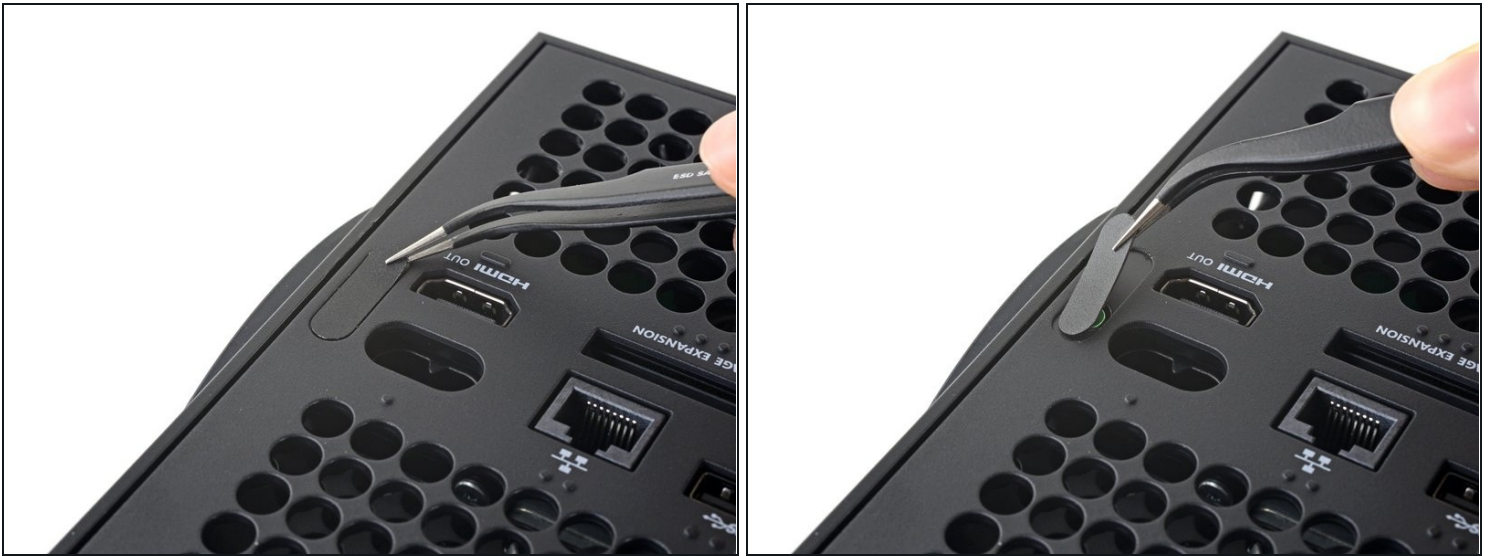
[Tweezers](#) (1)

[Microfiber Cleaning Cloths](#) (1)

[Dust Blower](#) (1)

[Anti-Static Brush](#) (1)

Step 1 — Uncover the back panel screws



⚠ Before you begin, completely power down and unplug all cables from your console.

- Use a pair of tweezers to remove the sticker hiding the first screw on the back panel, near the base.

Step 2



- ① For cleaner removal, use an [iOpener](#) or [hair dryer](#) to heat the sticker.
- Use a pair of tweezers or a sharp blade to peel up a corner of the large sticker on the back panel. Use your fingers to peel it farther, just enough to reveal the second screw.
- ① You only need to peel this sticker to where you can access the hidden screw. You don't need to pull it completely off.
- ① Technically, these are tamper-evident stickers, but don't worry—[Microsoft can't legally void your warranty](#), as long as you don't damage anything. Have fun!

Step 3 — Remove the back panel screws



- Use a T8 Torx driver to remove the two 7.4 mm-long screws securing the back panel.
- ⓘ Throughout this repair, [keep track of each screw](#) and make sure it goes back exactly where it came from to avoid damaging your console.

Step 4 — Unclip the back panel



- Insert the flat end of a spudger into the gap between the back panel and the shell, near the left side of the base.
- Pry up the back panel to release it from the locking clips.

Step 5



- Insert the flat end of a spudger into the gap between the back panel and the shell, near the right side of the base.
- Pry up the back panel to release it from the locking clips.

Step 6 — Remove the back panel



- Grip the back panel at the opening you just created and pull it up and away from the shell to unclip the long edges.
- ☒ During reassembly, press along the edges of the back panel to snap it into place.

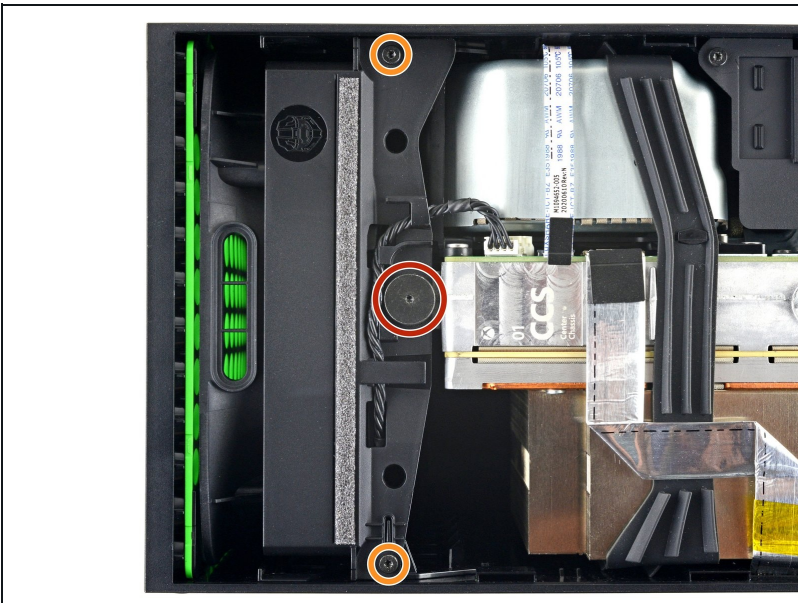
Step 7



① The back panel slots into a gap at the top of the shell.

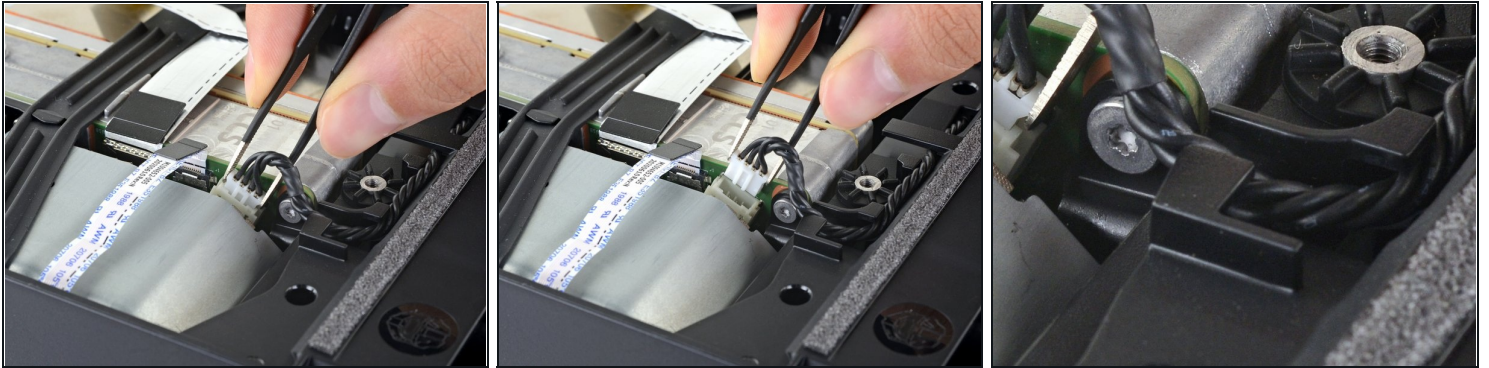
- Tilt the back panel up and pull it away from the top edge of the shell to release it from the gap.
- Remove the back panel.

Step 8 — Remove the fan screws



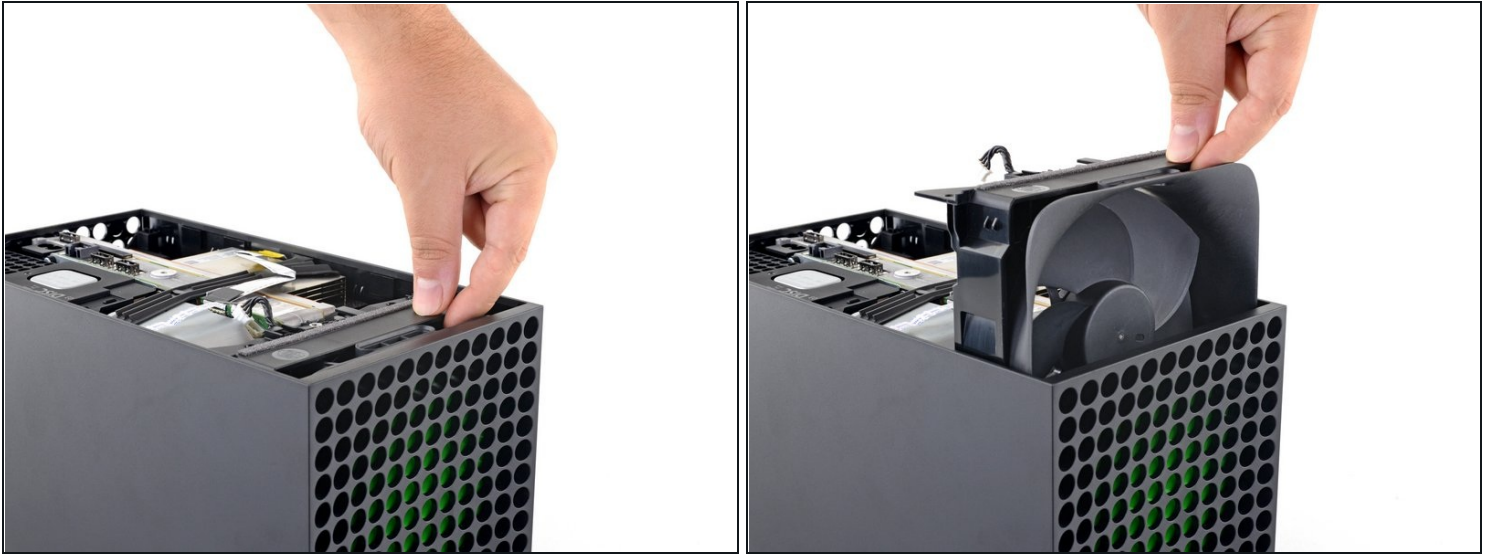
- Use a T8 Torx driver to remove the three screws securing the fan to the center chassis:
 - One 10.5 mm pancake screw
 - Two 8.8 mm screws

Step 9 — Disconnect the fan cable



- Use your fingers or a pair of [blunt tweezers](#) to grip the edges of the fan cable connector, and pull up to disconnect it from the center chassis.
⚠ Always pull cables by their connectors and not the wires themselves.
- ★ During reassembly, route the fan cable underneath its small cable guide on the fan housing so it doesn't interfere with the back panel.

Step 10 — Remove the fan



- Slide the fan out of its slot to remove it.
- ☑ During reinstallation, note that the fan can only be installed one way—make sure [Master Chief](#) is facing you.
- ⓘ If you're replacing the fan, a new fan might not include the plastic installation bracket, which is attached to the fan with four T10 Torx screws. This isn't pictured in this guide.

Step 11 — Clean the fan



- ① Over time, dust will build up inside the fan and on the fan blades.
- Use a pair of tweezers to grab loose hairs and dust clumps off of the fan.
- Use a small [dust blower](#) or light compressed air to blow remaining dust off of the fan.
- ① Use a finger to keep the fan blades steady—it makes them easier to clean.
- If there's a layer of grime on the fan blades, use soapy water on a damp rag or an isopropyl alcohol wipe to clean it off.

Step 12 — Clean the exterior panels and vent holes



- Use a clean rag or [microfiber cloth](#) to wipe both sides of the back panel clean.

Step 13 — Clean the heatsink



- ① The Xbox Series X draws air up through the large heatsink fins, and they may clog with dust and debris over time.
- Use a dust blower to blow out any trapped dust from both sides of the heatsink fins.
- If you need to remove the heatsink for deeper cleaning, [follow this guide](#).

Step 14 — Clean hard-to-reach areas



- ① Depending on how dirty the inside of your console is, you might need to use a soft bristle brush to dislodge more dust and grime.
- Using an [anti-static brush](#) or a new toothbrush, clean any dust out of hard to reach areas.
- Once most dust is dislodged, use a dust blower to blow it out of the console.
- ★ **Remember:** use this time to clean any other dirty internal surfaces before you seal your console back up. Happy gaming!

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.

Disassembly or cleaning didn't go as planned? Try some [basic troubleshooting](#), or ask our [Xbox Series X Answers community](#) for help.