

20 July 2007

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This is what a CD that's been left in the microwave oven for 10 seconds looks like, so don't try this at home if you plan on using the disk again.
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Gianola/Princeton

How to Recover Unreadable CDs/DVDs: Just Boil Them!

Boiling a disc in water makes it readable again

Did it ever happen to you to buy a new CD or DVD only to find out that the optical drive doesn't recognize it? There's a good way of making it readable again and it doesn't involve rocket science. It just requires a good hot bath. Not for you, for the disk. Boiling disks in water for a short time can recover even the most stubborn of them and can save you from pulling out some hairs from not being able to play the coolest game in the world that you just purchased. One of the reasons why a brand new disk can become unrecognizable for the drive is the exposure to condensation, a phenomenon that occurs within the plastic wrapped subscription, as water molecules trapped in the air turn liquid when the temperature drops, for example during shipping. The thin layer of plastic covering all discs, meant to protect the readable surface, can expand and contract in the optical drives, where the temperature is much higher than in the room or on a store shelf. The simplest way to eliminate water from the disk is to boil it. Now don't go boil them like you were making soup, you just need enough water in a bowl to cover the disk, then place the bowl **WITHOUT THE DISK** in the microwave oven for about 60 seconds. If you put the actual disk in the oven, you won't get a readable disk back, you will only get to see a fireworks display and will be stuck with a probably useless appliance. After you take the bowl out of the oven, put the disk inside for 30 to 40 seconds that take it out using a tool, not your fingers, to grab it by the inner orifice and then dry it off with a paper towel gently. The reason this process works is because the small elastomeric film on the disk is forced to expand, thus fixing all minor twists caused by shipping and removing the particles or debris from the surface in the hot water. Now that you know a new use for your microwave, get ready for an instant RPG soup...