How To Fix Sticky Keyboard Keys on a MacBook

Learn how to fix sticky MacBook keyboard keys.

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INTRODUCTION

Sticky keyboard keys are a common problem with laptops, usually resulting from drink spillage, food crumbs, or other substances gumming up the keys. Fortunately, with this guide, it is an easy fix.

🔧 TOOLS:

- Toothpick (1)
- Paper Towels (1)
- Cup or Mug (1)
- Dish Soap (1)
- Heavy-Duty Spudger (1)
- Spudger (1)
- High Content Rubbing Alcohol (1)
- Cotton Swabs (1)

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Step 1 — How To Fix Sticky Keyboard Keys on a MacBook
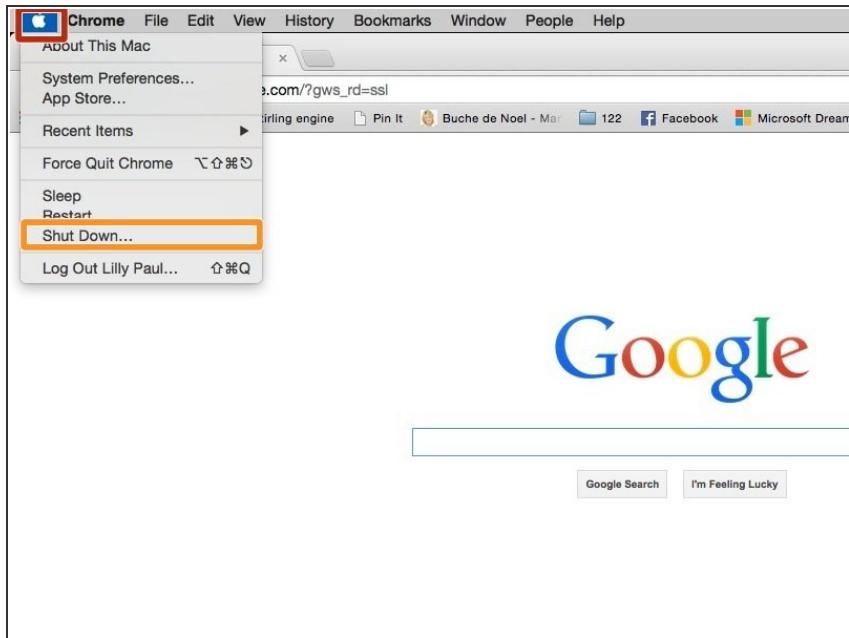
- Before getting started make sure to completely turn off your computer.
  - Click on the apple in the upper left-hand corner of your computer screen. A drop down menu will appear.
  - Click "shut down".

Step 2
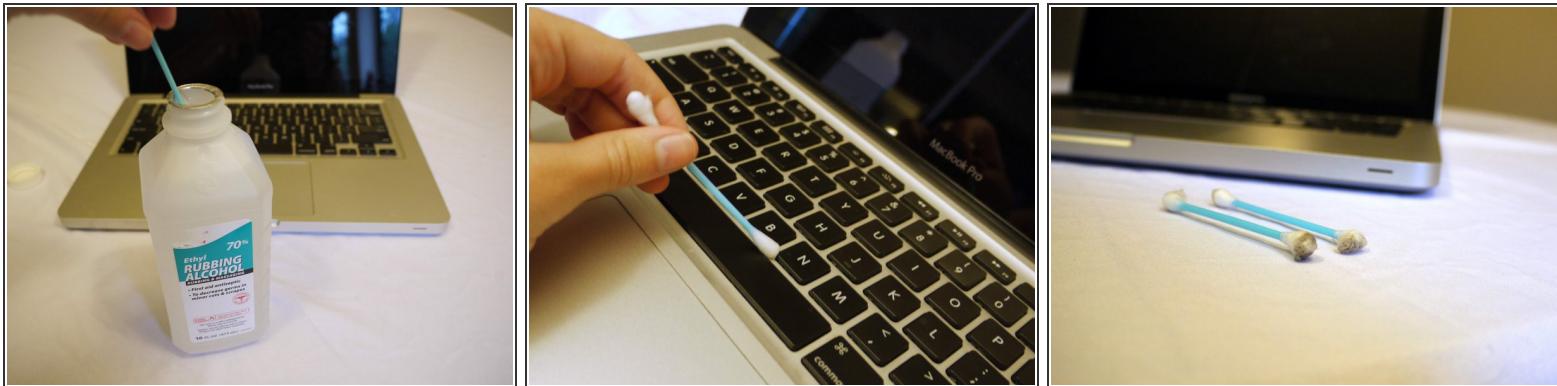
- Dip a q-tip in isopropanol, and wipe around each sticky key.

⚠ Make sure the q-tip is damp, not dripping.

ⓘ You may need multiple q-tips, as they get pretty dirty.

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Step 3
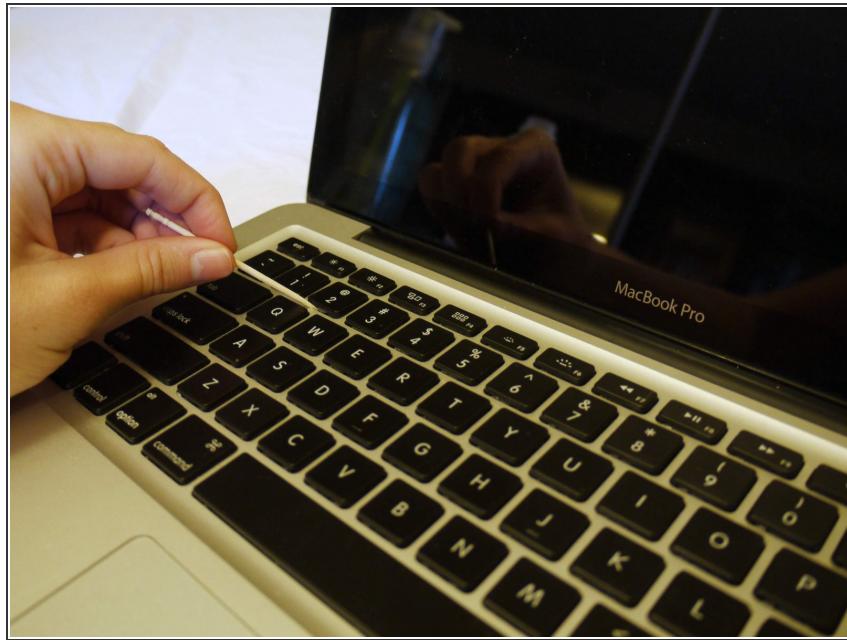
- Use a toothpick to remove crumbs or debris from under the sticky keys.

Step 4
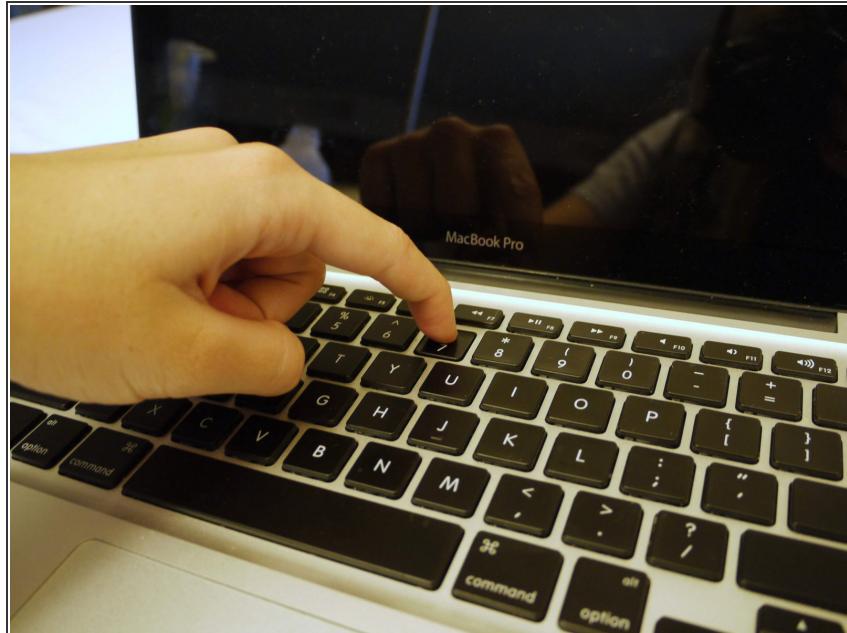
- Now test out your keys. If they are still sticky continue on to Step 5.

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Step 5
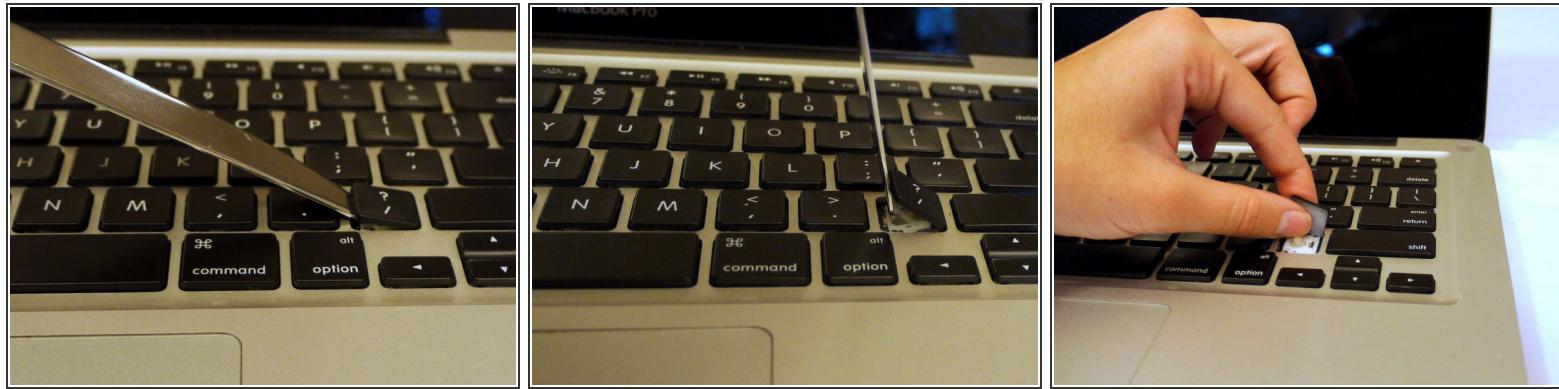
- Use a spudger or plastic opening tool to pry up sticky keys.

  - Insert the spudger under the side of a key.

  - Lift up.

  - Use your fingers to twist the key off.

⚠️ To avoid damaging your laptop, use a spudger or plastic opening tool rather than the butter knife shown in the image.

Step 6
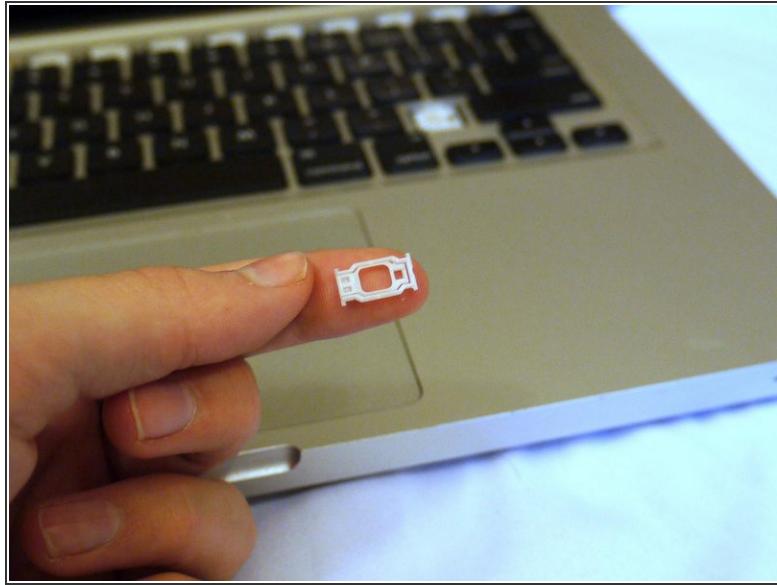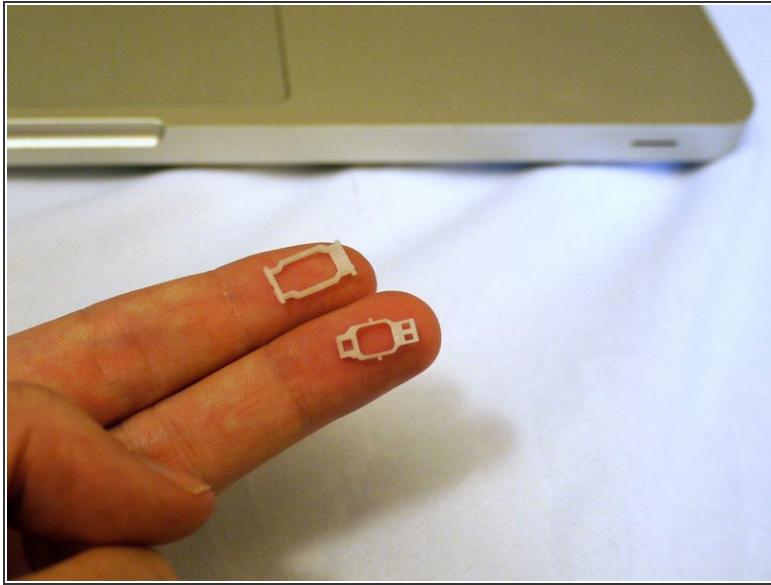
- When you are removing a key if one or both of these white plastic pieces come off the key board, don't worry. They are called key carriers and are very easy to put back on.

  - If one part of the carrier is still in the keyboard, remove it so you have both in you hands.

  - Look at the second picture and align the two piece then push them together. There should be a soft clicking sound.

  - In the same alignment as the second picture, place the carrier in the spot on the keyboard where it came off and press firmly into place.

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Step 7

- Put soap and warm water in a cup.

- As you remove the keys, put them in the soapy water.

- Let the keys soak for 10 minutes.

Step 8
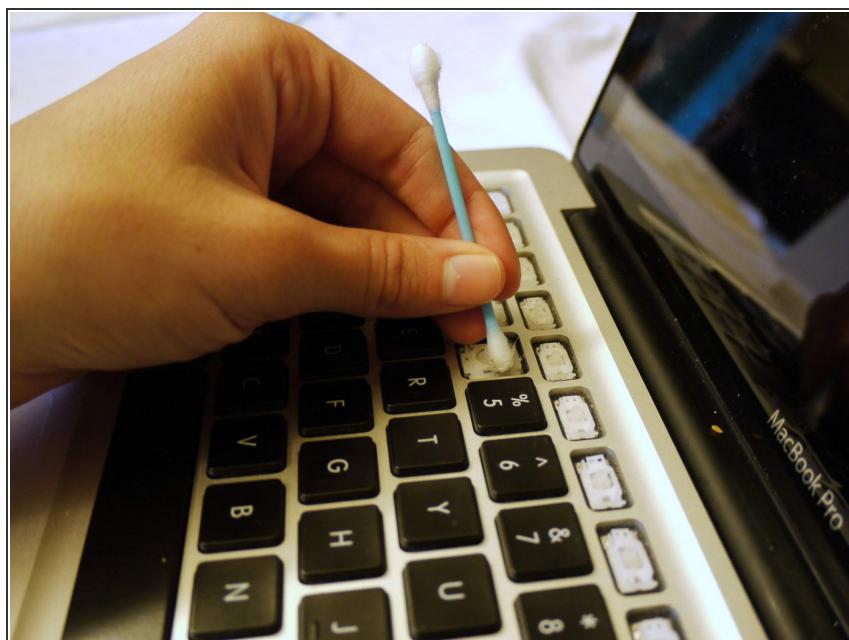
- Wipe down your keyboard with q-tips damp with rubbing alcohol.

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Step 9
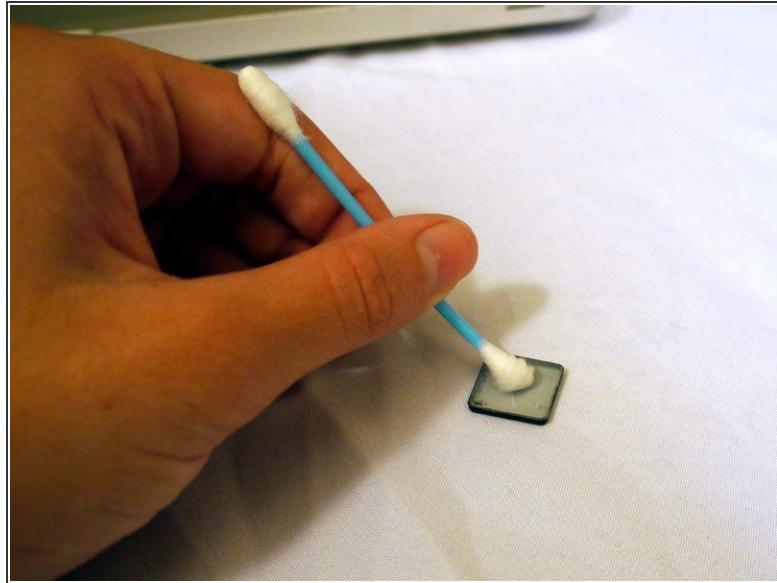
- Optional: If your keys are particularly sticky use rubbing alcohol and a q-tip to wipe the back of the keys.

- Dry the keys completely with a paper towel.

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Step 10
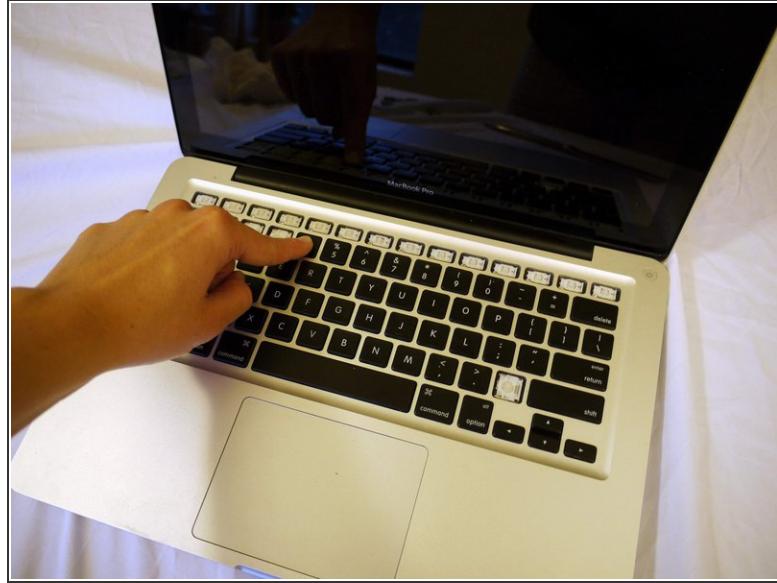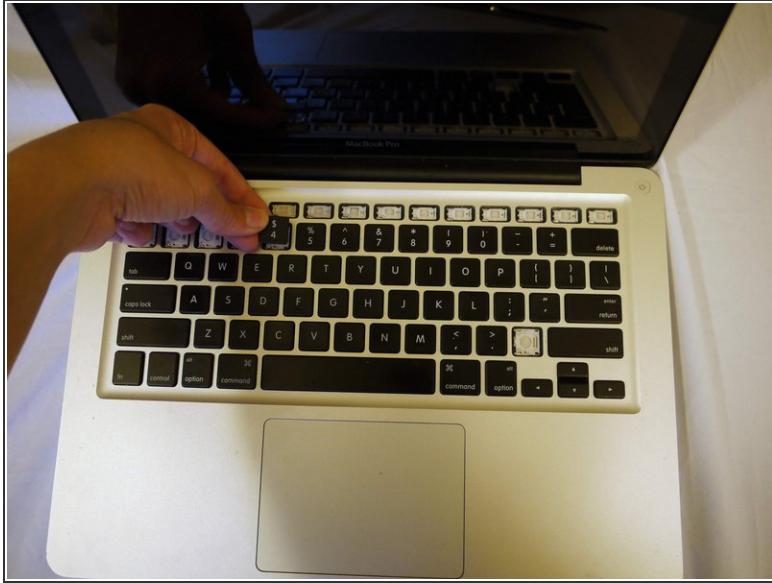
- Pop the keys back on:
  - First align the key and press firmly into place.
  - Then, move your finger side to side until you hear a double clicking sound.

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