

Enabling System Restore

If you reinstall Windows XP with less than 200 MB of free hard-disk space available, System Restore is automatically disabled. To see if System Restore is enabled:

- 1 Click the **Start** button and click **Control Panel**.
- 2 Click **Performance and Maintenance**.
- 3 Click **System**.
- 4 Click the **System Restore** tab.
- 5 Ensure that **Turn off System Restore** is unchecked.

Reinstalling Microsoft® Windows® XP

NOTICE: You must use Windows XP Service Pack 1 (SP1) or later when you reinstall Windows XP.

Before You Begin

If you are considering reinstalling the Windows XP operating system to correct a problem with a newly installed driver, first try using Windows XP Device Driver Rollback (see page 61). If Device Driver Rollback does not resolve the problem, then use System Restore (see page 64) to return your operating system to the operating state it was in before you installed the new device driver.

NOTICE: Before performing the installation, back up all data files on your primary hard drive. For conventional hard drive configurations, the primary hard drive is the first drive detected by the computer.

To reinstall Windows XP, you need the following items:

- Dell™ *Operating System* CD
- Dell *Drivers and Utilities* CD

NOTE: The *Drivers and Utilities* CD contains drivers that were installed during assembly of the computer. Use the *Drivers and Utilities* CD to load any required drivers.

Reinstalling Windows XP

To reinstall Windows XP, perform all the steps in the following sections in the order in which they are listed.

The reinstallation process can take 1 to 2 hours to complete. After you reinstall the operating system, you must also reinstall the device drivers, virus protection program, and other software.

NOTICE: The *Operating System* CD provides options for reinstalling Windows XP. The options can overwrite files and possibly affect programs installed on your hard drive. Therefore, do not reinstall Windows XP unless a Dell technical support representative instructs you to do so.

NOTICE: To prevent conflicts with Windows XP, disable any virus protection software installed on your computer before you reinstall Windows XP. See the documentation that came with the software for instructions.

Booting From the Operating System CD

- 1 Save and close any open files and exit any open programs.
- 2 Insert the *Operating System* CD. Click **Exit** if the **Install Windows XP** message appears.
- 3 Restart the computer.
- 4 Press <F2> immediately after the DELL™ logo appears.
If the operating system logo appears, wait until you see the Windows desktop, and then shut down the computer and try again.
- 5 Press the arrow keys to select **CD-ROM**, and press <Enter>.
- 6 When the **Press any key to boot from CD** message appears, press any key.

Windows XP Setup

- 1 When the **Windows XP Setup** screen appears, press <Enter> to select **To set up Windows now**.
- 2 Read the information on the **Microsoft Windows Licensing Agreement** screen, and press <F8> to accept the license agreement.
- 3 If your computer already has Windows XP installed and you want to recover your current Windows XP data, type **r** to select the repair option, and remove the CD.
- 4 If you want to install a new copy of Windows XP, press <Esc> to select that option.
- 5 Press <Enter> to select the highlighted partition (recommended), and follow the instructions on the screen.

The **Windows XP Setup** screen appears, and the operating system begins to copy files and install the devices. The computer automatically restarts multiple times.

NOTE: The time required to complete the setup depends on the size of the hard drive and the speed of your computer.

NOTICE: Do not press any key when the following message appears: **Press any key to boot from the CD**.

- 6 When the **Regional and Language Options** screen appears, select the settings for your location and click **Next**.
- 7 Enter your name and organization (optional) in the **Personalize Your Software** screen, and click **Next**.
- 8 *If you are reinstalling Windows XP Home Edition*, at the **What's your computer's name** window, enter a name for your computer (or accept the name provided) and click **Next**.
If you are reinstalling Windows XP Professional, at the **Computer Name and Administrator Password** window, enter a name for your computer (or accept the one provided) and a password, and click **Next**.

- 9 If the **Modem Dialing Information** screen appears, enter the requested information and click **Next**.
- 10 Enter the date, time, and time zone in the **Date and Time Settings** window, and click **Next**.
- 11 If the **Networking Settings** screen appears, click **Typical** and click **Next**.
- 12 If you are reinstalling Windows XP Professional and you are prompted to provide further information regarding your network configuration, enter your selections. If you are unsure of your settings, accept the default selections.

Windows XP installs the operating system components and configures the computer. The computer automatically restarts.

NOTICE: Do not press any key when the following message appears: Press any key to boot from the CD.

- 13 When the **Welcome to Microsoft** screen appears, click **Next**.
- 14 When the **How will this computer connect to the Internet?** message appears, click **Skip**.
- 15 When the **Ready to register with Microsoft?** screen appears, select **No, not at this time** and click **Next**.
- 16 When the **Who will use this computer?** screen appears, you can enter up to five users.
- 17 Click **Next**.
- 18 Click **Finish** to complete the setup, and remove the CD.
- 19 Reinstall the appropriate drivers (see page 61) with the *Drivers and Utilities* CD.
- 20 Reinstall your virus protection software.
- 21 Reinstall your programs.

NOTE: To reinstall and activate your Microsoft Office or Microsoft Works Suite programs, you need the Product Key number located on the back of the Microsoft Office or Microsoft Works Suite CD sleeve.

Drive Problems



CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions in the *Product Information Guide*.

ENSURE THAT MICROSOFT® WINDOWS® RECOGNIZES THE DRIVE — Click the **Start** button and click **My Computer**. If the floppy, CD, or DVD drive, is not listed, perform a full scan with your antivirus software to check for and remove viruses. Viruses can sometimes prevent Windows from recognizing the drive.

TEST THE DRIVE —

- Insert another floppy disk, CD, or DVD to eliminate the possibility that the original one is defective.
- Insert a bootable floppy disk and restart the computer.

CLEAN THE DRIVE OR DISK — See the *Dell Inspiron Help* file for instructions. To access the help file, see page 10.

ENSURE THAT THE CD IS SNAPPED ONTO THE SPINDLE**CHECK THE CABLE CONNECTIONS****CHECK FOR HARDWARE INCOMPATIBILITIES****RUN THE DELL DIAGNOSTICS (SEE PAGE 57)****CD and DVD drive problems**

NOTE: High-speed CD or DVD drive vibration is normal and may cause noise, which does not indicate a defect in the drive or the CD or DVD.

NOTE: Because of different regions worldwide and different disc formats, not all DVD titles work in all DVD drives.

Problems writing to a CD/DVD-RW drive

CLOSE OTHER PROGRAMS — The CD/DVD-RW drive must receive a steady stream of data when writing. If the stream is interrupted, an error occurs. Try closing all programs before you write to the CD/DVD-RW.

TURN OFF STANDBY MODE IN WINDOWS BEFORE WRITING TO A CD/DVD-RW DISC — See the *Dell Inspiron Help* file (see page 10) or search for the keyword *standby* in the Windows Help and Support Center for information on power management modes.

CHANGE THE WRITE SPEED TO A SLOWER RATE — See the help files for your CD or DVD creation software.

If you cannot eject the CD, CD-RW, DVD, or DVD+RW drive tray

- 1** Ensure that the computer is shut down.
- 2** Straighten a paper clip and insert one end into the eject hole at the front of the drive; push firmly until the tray is partially ejected.
- 3** Gently pull out the tray until it stops.

If you hear an unfamiliar scraping or grinding sound

- Ensure that the sound is not caused by the program that is running.
- Ensure that the disk or disc is inserted properly.

Hard drive problems

ALLOW THE COMPUTER TO COOL BEFORE TURNING IT ON — A hot hard drive may prevent the operating system from starting. Try allowing the computer to return to room temperature before turning it on.

RUN CHECK DISK —

- 1** Click the **Start** button and click **My Computer**.
- 2** Right-click **Local Disk C:**.
- 3** Click **Properties**.
- 4** Click the **Tools** tab.
- 5** Under **Error-checking**, click **Check Now**.
- 6** Click **Scan for and attempt recovery of bad sectors**.
- 7** Click **Start**.

E-Mail, Modem, and Internet Problems



CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions in the *Product Information Guide*.

NOTE: Connect the modem to an analog telephone jack only. The modem does not operate while it is connected to a digital telephone network.

CHECK THE MICROSOFT OUTLOOK® EXPRESS SECURITY SETTINGS — If you cannot open your e-mail attachments:

- 1 In Outlook Express, click **Tools**, click **Options**, and then click **Security**.
- 2 Click **Do not allow attachments** to remove the checkmark.

CHECK THE TELEPHONE LINE CONNECTION —

CHECK THE TELEPHONE JACK —

CONNECT THE MODEM DIRECTLY TO THE TELEPHONE WALL JACK —

USE A DIFFERENT TELEPHONE LINE —

- Verify that the telephone line is connected to the jack on the modem. (The jack has either a green label or a connector-shaped icon next to it.)
- Ensure that you hear a click when you insert the telephone line connector into the modem.
- Disconnect the telephone line from the modem and connect it to a telephone. Listen for a dial tone.
- If you have other telephone devices sharing the line, such as an answering machine, fax machine, surge protector, or line splitter, then bypass them and use the telephone to connect the modem directly to the telephone wall jack. If you are using a line that is 3 m (10 ft) or more in length, try a shorter one.

RUN THE MODEM HELPER DIAGNOSTICS — Click the **Start** button, point to **All Programs**, and then click **Modem Helper**. Follow the instructions on the screen to identify and resolve modem problems. (Modem Helper is not available on all computers.)

VERIFY THAT THE MODEM IS COMMUNICATING WITH WINDOWS —

- 1 Click the **Start** button and click **Control Panel**.
 - 2 Click **Printers and Other Hardware**.
 - 3 Click **Phone and Modem Options**.
 - 4 Click the **Modems** tab.
 - 5 Click the COM port for your modem.
 - 6 Click **Properties**, click the **Diagnostics** tab, and then click **Query Modem** to verify that the modem is communicating with Windows.
- If all commands receive responses, the modem is operating properly.

ENSURE THAT YOU ARE CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET — Ensure that you have subscribed to an Internet provider. With the Outlook Express e-mail program open, click **File**. If **Work Offline** has a checkmark next to it, click the checkmark to remove it and connect to the Internet. For help, contact your Internet service provider.

SCAN THE COMPUTER FOR SPYWARE — If you are experiencing slow computer performance, you frequently receive pop-up advertisements, or you are having problems connecting to the Internet, your computer might be infected with spyware. Use an anti-virus program that includes anti-spyware protection (your program may require an upgrade) to scan the computer and remove spyware. For more information, go to support.dell.com and search for the keyword *spyware*.

Error Messages



CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions in the *Product Information Guide*.

If the message is not listed, see the documentation for the operating system or the program that was running when the message appeared.

BAD COMMAND OR FILE NAME — Ensure that you have spelled the command correctly, put spaces in the proper place, and used the correct pathname.

CD DRIVE CONTROLLER FAILURE — The CD drive does not respond to commands from the computer. See "Drive Problems" on page 67.

DATA ERROR — The hard drive cannot read the data. See "Drive Problems" on page 67.

THE FILE BEING COPIED IS TOO LARGE FOR THE DESTINATION DRIVE — The file that you are trying to copy is too large to fit on the disk, or the disk is too full. Try copying the file to a different disk or use a larger capacity disk.

A FILENAME CANNOT CONTAIN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERS: \ / : * ? " < > | — Do not use these characters in filenames.

INSERT BOOTABLE MEDIA — The operating system is trying to boot from a nonbootable CD. Insert a CD.

NOT ENOUGH MEMORY OR RESOURCES. EXIT SOME PROGRAMS AND TRY AGAIN — You have too many programs open. Close all windows and open the program that you want to use.

OPERATING SYSTEM NOT FOUND — Contact Dell (see page 109).

A REQUIRED .DLL FILE WAS NOT FOUND — The program that you are trying to open is missing an essential file. Remove and then reinstall the program.

- 1 Click the **Start** button and click **Control Panel**.
- 2 Click **Add or Remove Programs**.
- 3 Select the program you want to remove.
- 4 Click **Remove or Change/Remove** and follow the prompts on the screen.
- 5 See the program documentation for installation instructions.

X:\ IS NOT ACCESSIBLE. THE DEVICE IS NOT READY — Insert a disk into the drive and try again.

IEEE 1394 Device Problems



CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions in the *Product Information Guide*.

ENSURE THAT THE IEEE 1394 DEVICE IS PROPERLY INSERTED INTO THE CONNECTOR

ENSURE THAT THE IEEE 1394 DEVICE IS RECOGNIZED BY WINDOWS —

- 1 Click the **Start** button and click **Control Panel**.
 - 2 Click **Printers and Other Hardware**.
- If your IEEE 1394 device is listed, Windows recognizes the device.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH A DELL-PROVIDED IEEE 1394 DEVICE —

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH AN IEEE 1394 DEVICE NOT PROVIDED BY DELL —

Contact Dell (see page 109) or the IEEE 1394 device manufacturer.

Keyboard Problems



CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions in the *Product Information Guide*.

NOTE: Use the integrated keyboard when working in MS-DOS® mode or when running the Dell Diagnostics or the system setup program. When you attach an external keyboard, the integrated keyboard remains fully functional.

External Keyboard Problems

NOTE: When you attach an external keyboard, the integrated keyboard remains fully functional.

CHECK THE KEYBOARD CABLE — Shut down the computer. Disconnect the keyboard cable and check it for damage, and firmly reconnect the cable.

If you are using a keyboard extension cable, disconnect it and connect the keyboard directly to the computer.

CHECK THE EXTERNAL KEYBOARD —

- 1 Shut down the computer, wait 1 minute, and turn it on again.
- 2 Verify that the numbers, capitals, and scroll lock lights on the keyboard blink during the boot routine.
- 3 From the Windows desktop, click the **Start** button, point to **Programs**, point to **Accessories**, and click **Notepad**.
- 4 Type some characters on the external keyboard and verify that they appear on the display.

If you cannot verify these steps, you may have a defective external keyboard.

TO VERIFY THAT THE PROBLEM IS WITH THE EXTERNAL KEYBOARD, CHECK THE INTEGRATED KEYBOARD —

- 1 Shut down the computer.
- 2 Disconnect the external keyboard.
- 3 Turn on the computer.
- 4 From the Windows desktop, click the **Start** button, point to **Programs**, point to **Accessories**, and click **Notepad**.
- 5 Type some characters on the integrated keyboard and verify that they appear on the display.

If the characters appear now but did not with the external keyboard, you may have a defective external keyboard. Contact Dell (see page 109).

Unexpected Characters

DISABLE THE NUMERIC KEYPAD — Press <Num Lk> to disable the numeric keypad if numbers are displayed instead of letters. Verify that the numbers lock light is not lit.

Lockups and Software Problems



CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions in the *Product Information Guide*.

The computer does not start up

ENSURE THAT THE AC ADAPTER IS FIRMLY CONNECTED TO THE COMPUTER AND TO THE ELECTRICAL OUTLET

The computer stops responding

NOTICE: You might lose data if you are unable to perform an operating system shutdown.

TURN THE COMPUTER OFF — If you are unable to get a response by pressing a key on your keyboard or moving your mouse, press and hold the power button for at least 8 to 10 seconds until the computer turns off. Then restart your computer.

A program stops responding

END THE PROGRAM —

- 1 Press <Ctrl><Shift><Esc> simultaneously.
- 2 Click Applications.
- 3 Click the program that is no longer responding.
- 4 Click End Task.

A program crashes repeatedly

NOTE: Software usually includes installation instructions in its documentation or on a floppy disk or CD.

CHECK THE SOFTWARE DOCUMENTATION — If necessary, uninstall and then reinstall the program.

A program is designed for an earlier Windows operating system

RUN THE PROGRAM COMPATIBILITY WIZARD — The Program Compatibility Wizard configures a program so it runs in an environment similar to non-Windows XP operating system environments.

- 1 Click the **Start** button, point to **All Programs**→**Accessories**, and then click **Program Compatibility Wizard**.
- 2 In the welcome screen, click **Next**.
- 3 Follow the instructions on the screen.

A solid blue screen appears

TURN THE COMPUTER OFF — If you are unable to get a response by pressing a key on your keyboard or moving your mouse, press and hold the power button for at least 8 to 10 seconds until the computer turns off. Then restart your computer.

Other software problems

CHECK THE SOFTWARE DOCUMENTATION OR CONTACT THE SOFTWARE MANUFACTURER FOR TROUBLESHOOTING INFORMATION —

- Ensure that the program is compatible with the operating system installed on your computer.
- Ensure that your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements needed to run the software. See the software documentation for information.
- Ensure that the program is installed and configured properly.
- Verify that the device drivers do not conflict with the program.
- If necessary, uninstall and then reinstall the program.

BACK UP YOUR FILES IMMEDIATELY

USE A VIRUS-SCANNING PROGRAM TO CHECK THE HARD DRIVE, FLOPPY DISKS, OR CDS

SAVE AND CLOSE ANY OPEN FILES OR PROGRAMS AND SHUT DOWN YOUR COMPUTER THROUGH THE START MENU

SCAN THE COMPUTER FOR SPYWARE — If you are experiencing slow computer performance, you frequently receive pop-up advertisements, or you are having problems connecting to the Internet, your computer might be infected with spyware. Use an anti-virus program that includes anti-spyware protection (your program may require an upgrade) to scan the computer and remove spyware. For more information, go to support.dell.com and search for the keyword *spyware*.

RUN THE DELL DIAGNOSTICS (SEE PAGE 57) — If all tests run successfully, the error condition is related to a software problem.

Memory Problems

 **CAUTION:** Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions in the *Product Information Guide*.

IF YOU RECEIVE AN INSUFFICIENT MEMORY MESSAGE —

- Save and close any open files and exit any open programs you are not using to see if that resolves the problem.
- See the software documentation for minimum memory requirements. If necessary, install additional memory (see page 87).
- Reseat the memory modules (see page 87) to ensure that your computer is successfully communicating with the memory.
- Run the Dell Diagnostics (see page 57).

IF YOU EXPERIENCE OTHER MEMORY PROBLEMS —

- Reseat the memory modules (see page 87) to ensure that your computer is successfully communicating with the memory.
- Ensure that you are following the memory installation guidelines (see page 87).
- Run the Dell Diagnostics (see page 57).

Network Problems

 **CAUTION:** Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions in the *Product Information Guide*.

CHECK THE NETWORK CABLE CONNECTOR — Ensure that the network cable is firmly inserted into both the network connector on the back of the computer and the network jack.

CHECK THE NETWORK LIGHTS ON THE NETWORK CONNECTOR — No light indicates that no network communication exists. Replace the network cable.

RESTART THE COMPUTER AND LOG ON TO THE NETWORK AGAIN

CHECK YOUR NETWORK SETTINGS — Contact your network administrator or the person who set up your network to verify that your network settings are correct and that the network is functioning.

PC Card Problems

 **CAUTION:** Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions in the *Product Information Guide*.

CHECK THE PC CARD — Ensure that the PC Card is properly inserted into the connector.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH A DELL-PROVIDED PC CARD — Contact Dell (see page 109).

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH A PC CARD NOT PROVIDED BY DELL — Contact the PC Card manufacturer.

Power Problems

 **CAUTION:** Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions in the *Product Information Guide*.

NOTE: See the *Dell Inspiron Help* file for information on standby mode. To access the help file, see page 10.

CHECK THE POWER LIGHT — When the power light is lit or blinking, the computer has power. If the power light is blinking, the computer is in standby mode—press the power button to exit standby mode. If the light is off, press the power button to turn on the computer.

CHARGE THE BATTERY — The battery charge may be depleted.

- 1 Reinstall the battery.
- 2 Use the AC adapter to connect the computer to an electrical outlet.
- 3 Turn on the computer.

CHECK THE BATTERY TEMPERATURE — If the battery temperature is below 0° C (32° F), the computer will not start up.

TEST THE ELECTRICAL OUTLET — Ensure that the electrical outlet is working by testing it with another device, such as a lamp.

CHECK THE AC ADAPTER — Check the AC adapter cable connections. If the AC adapter has a light, ensure that the light is on.

CONNECT THE COMPUTER DIRECTLY TO AN ELECTRICAL OUTLET — Bypass power protection devices, power strips, and the extension cable to verify that the computer turns on.

ELIMINATE POSSIBLE INTERFERENCE — Turn off nearby fans, fluorescent lights, halogen lamps, or other appliances.

ADJUST THE POWER PROPERTIES — See the *Dell Inspiron Help* file or search for the keyword *standby* in the Help and Support Center. To access help, see page 10.

RESEAT THE MEMORY MODULES — If the computer power light turns on but the display remains blank, reinstall the memory modules (see page 87).

Ensuring Sufficient Power for Your Computer

Your computer is designed to use the 65-W AC adapter; for optimum system performance, you should always use this adapter.

Printer Problems



CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions in the *Product Information Guide*.

NOTE: If you need technical assistance for your printer, contact the printer's manufacturer.

CHECK THE PRINTER DOCUMENTATION — See the printer documentation for setup and troubleshooting information.

ENSURE THAT THE PRINTER IS TURNED ON

CHECK THE PRINTER CABLE CONNECTIONS —

- See the printer documentation for cable connection information.
- Ensure that the printer cables are securely connected to the printer and the computer (see page 23).

TEST THE ELECTRICAL OUTLET — Ensure that the electrical outlet is working by testing it with another device, such as a lamp.

VERIFY THAT THE PRINTER IS RECOGNIZED BY WINDOWS —

- 1 Click the Start button, click Control Panel, and then click Printers and Other Hardware.
- 2 Click View installed printers or fax printers.
If the printer is listed, right-click the printer icon.
- 3 Click Properties and click the Ports tab. For a USB printer, ensure that the Print to the following port(s): setting is USB.

REINSTALL THE PRINTER DRIVER — See the printer documentation for instructions

Scanner Problems



CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions in the *Product Information Guide*.

NOTE: If you need technical assistance for your scanner, contact the scanner's manufacturer.

CHECK THE SCANNER DOCUMENTATION — See the scanner documentation for setup and troubleshooting information.

UNLOCK THE SCANNER — Ensure that your scanner is unlocked if it has a locking tab or button.

RESTART THE COMPUTER AND TRY THE SCANNER AGAIN

CHECK THE CABLE CONNECTIONS —

- See the scanner documentation for cable connection information.
- Ensure that the scanner cables are securely connected to the scanner and the computer.

VERIFY THAT THE SCANNER IS RECOGNIZED BY MICROSOFT WINDOWS —

- 1 Click the Start button, click Control Panel, and then click Printers and Other Hardware.
- 2 Click Scanners and Cameras.
If your scanner is listed, Windows recognizes the scanner.

REINSTALL THE SCANNER DRIVER — See the scanner documentation for instructions.

Sound and Speaker Problems



CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions in the *Product Information Guide*.

No sound from integrated speakers

ADJUST THE WINDOWS VOLUME CONTROL — Double-click the speaker icon in the lower-right corner of your screen. Ensure that the volume is turned up and that the sound is not muted. Adjust the volume, bass, or treble controls to eliminate distortion.

ADJUST THE VOLUME USING KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS — Press <Fn><F5> to disable (mute) or reenable the integrated speakers.

REINSTALL THE SOUND (AUDIO) DRIVER — See "Reinstalling Drivers and Utilities" on page 61.

No sound from external speakers

NOTE: The volume control in some MP3 players overrides the Windows volume setting. If you have been listening to MP3 songs, ensure that you did not turn the player volume down or off.

ENSURE THAT THE SUBWOOFER AND THE SPEAKERS ARE TURNED ON — See the setup diagram supplied with the speakers. If your speakers have volume controls, adjust the volume, bass, or treble to eliminate distortion.

ADJUST THE WINDOWS VOLUME CONTROL — Click or double-click the speaker icon in the lower-right corner of your screen. Ensure that the volume is turned up and that the sound is not muted.

DISCONNECT HEADPHONES FROM THE HEADPHONE CONNECTOR — Sound from the speakers is automatically disabled when headphones are connected to the computer's front-panel headphone connector.

TEST THE ELECTRICAL OUTLET — Ensure that the electrical outlet is working by testing it with another device, such as a lamp.

ELIMINATE POSSIBLE INTERFERENCE — Turn off nearby fans, fluorescent lights, or halogen lamps to check for interference.

REINSTALL THE AUDIO DRIVER (SEE PAGE 61)

RUN THE DELL DIAGNOSTICS (SEE PAGE 57)

No sound from headphones

CHECK THE HEADPHONE CABLE CONNECTION — Ensure that the headphone cable is securely inserted into the headphone connector (see page 14).

ADJUST THE WINDOWS VOLUME CONTROL — Click or double-click the speaker icon in the lower-right corner of your screen. Ensure that the volume is turned up and that the sound is not muted.

Touch Pad or Mouse Problems

CHECK THE TOUCH PAD SETTINGS —

- 1 Click the **Start** button, click **Control Panel**, and then click **Printers and Other Hardware**.
- 2 Click **Mouse**.
- 3 Try adjusting the settings.

CHECK THE MOUSE CABLE — Shut down the computer. Disconnect the mouse cable, check it for damage, and firmly reconnect the cable.

If you are using a mouse extension cable, disconnect it and connect the mouse directly to the computer.

TO VERIFY THAT THE PROBLEM IS WITH THE MOUSE, CHECK THE TOUCH PAD —

- 1 Shut down the computer.
- 2 Disconnect the mouse.
- 3 Turn on the computer.
- 4 At the Windows desktop, use the touch pad to move the cursor around, select an icon, and open it.

If the touch pad operates correctly, the mouse may be defective.

REINSTALL THE TOUCH PAD DRIVER — See "Reinstalling Drivers and Utilities" on page 61.

Video and Display Problems



CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions in the *Product Information Guide*.

If the display is blank

NOTE: If you are using a program that requires a higher resolution than your computer supports, it is recommended that you attach an external monitor to your computer.

CHECK THE BATTERY — If you are using a battery to power your computer, the battery charge may be depleted. Connect the computer to an electrical outlet using the AC adapter, and turn on the computer.

TEST THE ELECTRICAL OUTLET — Ensure that the electrical outlet is working by testing it with another device, such as a lamp.

CHECK THE AC ADAPTER — Check the AC adapter cable connections. If the AC adapter has a light, ensure that the light is on.

CONNECT THE COMPUTER DIRECTLY TO AN ELECTRICAL OUTLET — Bypass power protection devices, power strips, and the extension cable to verify that the computer turns on.

ADJUST THE POWER PROPERTIES — Search for the keyword *standby* in the Windows Help and Support Center.

SWITCH THE VIDEO IMAGE — If your computer is attached to an external monitor, press <Fn><F8> to switch the video image to the display.

If the display is difficult to read

ADJUST THE BRIGHTNESS — Press <Fn> and the up- or down-arrow key.

MOVE THE EXTERNAL SUBWOOFER AWAY FROM THE COMPUTER OR MONITOR — If your external speaker system includes a subwoofer, ensure that the subwoofer is at least 60 cm (2 ft) away from the computer or external monitor.

ELIMINATE POSSIBLE INTERFERENCE — Turn off nearby fans, fluorescent lights, halogen lamps, or other appliances.

ROTATE THE COMPUTER TO FACE A DIFFERENT DIRECTION — Eliminate sunlight glare, which can cause poor picture quality.

ADJUST THE WINDOWS DISPLAY SETTINGS —

- 1** Click the **Start** button and then click **Control Panel**.
- 2** Click **Appearance and Themes**.
- 3** Click the area you want to change or click the **Display** icon.
- 4** Try different settings for **Color quality** and **Screen resolution**.

SEE "ERROR MESSAGES" — If an error message appears, see page 71.

If only part of the display is readable

CONNECT AN EXTERNAL MONITOR —

- 1** Shut down your computer and connect an external monitor to the computer.
- 2** Turn on the computer and the monitor and adjust the monitor brightness and contrast controls.

If the external monitor works, the computer display or video controller may be defective. Contact Dell (see page 109).

