BEGINNER · 5 min read · November 13, 2026 · By Kelly Stratton

Custom GPTs Will Be Retired December 11: How to Move Them to Plugins

Keep the ChatGPT helpers you rely on working after custom GPTs go away on December 11. How to move a GPT to a plugin, what to do when there's no plugin yet, and what you keep, whether you built the GPT or use someone else's.

On December 11, the custom GPTs you use in ChatGPT stop working. That includes the ones you built and the ones other people built. A few minutes now means your favorite helpers keep working the next day, and nothing catches you off guard in the middle of a project.

> IN A NUTSHELL
>
> OpenAI is retiring custom GPTs on December 11, 2026. Your old chats with them stay. Built your own? Migrate it to a plugin in one click. Use someone else's? Switch to their plugin version, and if there isn't one yet, ask the creator and save what you need from the GPT before December 11.

STEP 1 What Happens to Custom GPTs on December 11?

They stop working in ChatGPT. Your past conversations with them stay in your chat history, so nothing you already got from a GPT disappears. OpenAI's replacements are **projects**, which keep your chats, instructions, and files together, and **plugins**, which bring a GPT's instructions, files, and connected apps into any chat.

STEP 2 Where Do I Find My GPTs in ChatGPT Now?

In the ChatGPT sidebar, click **Explore**, then **GPTs**. A notice at the top tells you GPTs retire on December 11. If you built your own GPT, that notice has a **Migrate GPTs** button that takes you straight to them. Plugins have their own spot in the sidebar too, right under Library.

STEP 3 What If I Use Someone Else's GPT?

You don’t need to migrate anything yourself. Here’s what to do:

1. **Look for the plugin version.** On the GPTs page, click **Explore plugins** and search for the GPT’s name, or check the creator’s page or posts. If it’s there, add it. Your access to the GPT doesn’t carry over to the plugin on its own, so add the plugin yourself.
2. **No plugin version yet? Ask the creator.** GPTs their creators migrate stay available as plugins after December 11, so a quick comment or message asking if they plan to migrate is worth sending. Popular GPTs are the ones creators are most likely to move.
3. **Stock up before December 11.** A lot of the best GPTs are built on the creator’s own library, like hundreds of viral hooks, and you can’t copy that into a project. What you can do is use the GPT hard while it still works. Run it on your topics for the next few months and save what it gives you. Your past chats with it stay in your history after December 11, so nothing you’ve already made is lost.
4. **Look for another plugin that does the same job.** Click **Explore plugins** and search for the task, like “hooks” or “ad copy,” not just the GPT’s name.
5. **Make a project with what you have.** Write down what you used the GPT for and what made its answers good. Put that in the project’s instructions, add your own best examples as files, and keep working there.

STEP 4 What If I Built My Own GPT?

1. **Open your GPTs.** Go to Explore, then GPTs, and click **Migrate GPTs** on the notice at the top. You'll see each GPT you built with a **Migrate to plugin** button next to it.
2. **Click Migrate to plugin.** ChatGPT checks your instructions, files, apps, and sharing, then turns the GPT into a plugin with the same instructions and knowledge files. If it says it couldn't check your profile picture, you can still migrate. You may just need to add the picture again.
3. **Test it.** Your new plugin opens with a note that the migration worked, and your GPT now lives inside it as a skill. Click **Try now** and run the tasks you normally use your GPT for. It may work a little differently.
4. **Share it again.** Every new plugin starts private, so only you can see it. If other people use your GPT, click **Copy link** on the plugin's page and send it to them. You can also submit it to the plugin directory, where OpenAI reviews it.

After you migrate, your original GPT keeps working until December 11, but you can't edit it anymore. Changes happen in the plugin now: click **Edit plugin** and tell ChatGPT what you want different.

> ONLY USE IT FOR YOURSELF?
> Migrating still makes sense. It takes one click, and the plugin starts private. A project works too: copy your GPT's instructions into a new project, add the same files, and you're done.

Want every detail? OpenAI's own guide is here: Custom GPT retirement and migration FAQ.

FAQ Questions People Ask About Custom GPTs Retiring

Straight answers

Are custom GPTs going away?
Yes. OpenAI is retiring custom GPTs on December 11, 2026. After that date they stop working in ChatGPT. Your past conversations with them stay in your chat history. OpenAI's replacements are projects, for your own ongoing work, and plugins, which carry a GPT's instructions and files into your chats.

What does "GPTs will be retired on December 11" mean?
It's the notice ChatGPT now shows on the GPTs page. On December 11, 2026, custom GPTs stop working. GPTs their creators move to plugins keep working as plugins. If you built a GPT, click Migrate GPTs on that notice to move it. Your old chats stay in your history.

What happened to custom GPTs in ChatGPT?
OpenAI is replacing them with two things you may already have: projects and plugins. A project keeps your chats, instructions, and files together so every new chat starts with the same background. A plugin brings reusable instructions, files, and connected apps into any chat. GPTs keep working until December 11, 2026.

Should I use a ChatGPT project or a custom GPT?
Not a custom GPT, since they retire on December 11, 2026. If you built one, migrate it to a plugin so it keeps working. For your own ongoing work, a project is the simple option: put your instructions and files in it once, and every chat inside it starts with that same background.

How do I migrate a custom GPT to a plugin?
If you built the GPT, go to Explore, then GPTs, and click Migrate GPTs on the notice at the top. Click Migrate to plugin next to your GPT. The new plugin starts private, so test it with Try now, then use Copy link to share it with anyone who used your GPT.

Will I lose my chats with custom GPTs?
No. OpenAI says you'll still be able to see your past conversations with GPTs after December 11, 2026. What stops is using the GPT itself in new chats. If you want to keep going, set up a project or switch to the GPT's replacement plugin before then.

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