

Computer Buying Checklist

A practical checklist to help you choose the right computer before you buy.

Primary use identified

- Have you clearly defined what you will use this computer for most often (productivity, creative work, gaming, general home use)?

Portability requirements assessed

- Do you need to carry this computer regularly, or will it live on a desk?

Operating system chosen

- Windows, macOS, or ChromeOS - based on the software you need and the ecosystem you prefer?

RAM is sufficient for your workload

- At least 16 GB for most users, 32 GB or more for creative professionals and developers?

Storage matches your needs

- Enough SSD capacity for your operating system, applications, and files, with room for growth?

Display quality checked

- Resolution, panel type, brightness, and colour accuracy appropriate for how you will use the screen?

Ports and connectivity verified

- Does the machine have the connections you need for your existing peripherals and accessories?

Keyboard and trackpad considered

- Especially for laptops, have you assessed (or read about) typing comfort?

Upgradeability evaluated

- If you might need more RAM or storage in the future, can this machine accommodate upgrades?

Monitor ergonomics checked

- For desktop setups, does the monitor offer height adjustment, tilt, and swivel, or is it VESA-mountable?

Budget includes peripherals

- Have you accounted for any additional items you will need, such as an external monitor, keyboard, mouse, or USB hub?

Warranty and return policy reviewed

- Understand the manufacturer warranty and the retailer's return window before purchasing.

Tip: compare any shortlisted models against this checklist before you commit to a purchase.