



Storage Solutions Buying Guide Quick Reference Handout

Storage is a critical consideration for your computer, affecting data safety and performance. The right storage option should securely hold all your data now and in the future while making backups easy for data security.

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External Drives:

External drives are popular accessories that offer the easiest way to expand storage for computers, laptops, and game consoles. With ever-increasing file sizes, such as 4K movies and large game installs, external drives provide ample space for your media libraries and PC backups. Here are the main types:

Desktop Hard Drives: Proven and affordable technology with massive storage capacities up to 8TB or more. Ideal for media libraries and PC backups.

Portable Hard Drives: Compact and powered by the PC's connection, perfect for moving large data between computers.

Solid State Drives (SSDs): Faster, more reliable, and energy-efficient, offering up to 2TB capacity for PC backups and critical files.

Connectivity: The data transfer speed depends on the type of drive and the connection used. USB 3.0, USB 3.1, and USB-C Thunderbolt 4 offer varying data throughput.

Internal Drives:

Internal drives are non-removable storage used by your PC. Here are the main types:

Desktop Hard Drives: High-capacity 3.5-inch form factor drives for desktop PCs, available in 7200RPM or 5400RPM.

Laptop Hard Drives: Compact 2.5-inch form factor drives with power-saving features for laptops.

Solid State Drives (SSDs): Fast, power-efficient, and silent drives suitable for both desktop PCs and laptops.

Hybrid Drives: Combine SSD speed with hard drive capacity for a cost-effective solution.

USB Flash Drives:

Compact and portable, these drives are ideal for data transfer between devices. Check compatibility with USB Type-A or USB Type-C ports and the data transfer speed (USB 2.0, 3.0, or 3.1).

Memory Cards:

Used in digital cameras, smartphones, tablets, and other devices. Consider form factor, speed class, and capacity for compatibility.



Personal Cloud / NAS:

Network-attached storage for data backup and sharing within a network. Personal cloud drives allow secure remote access.

Optical Drives:

Less common but still useful for loading software and creating high-capacity data backups.

Computer Storage Accessories:

Find interface cables, drive enclosures, and other accessories for your storage needs.

Take the Next Step:

Decide on the capacity and form factor you need and explore Best Buy's extensive selection of storage solutions, including memory cards, thumb drives, SSDs, internal drives, gaming hard drives, portable hard drives, and more.