

Computer Recommendations Win 11

This document contains:

- A summary of the Consumer Report laptop ratings.
- Various websites with recommendations.
- How to search for your next computer.
- Setting up the New Computer

Consumer Reports Ratings

Consumer Reports has a buying guide which helps you select the laptop which best suits your needs. If you do not need the top-of-the-line performance, there are models costing a few hundred dollars that manage email and web browsing very well. And they can manage your Word and Excel needs simply fine.

Size is the next important consideration. For most of us a larger screen is better for our vision. The downside is that a larger laptop is also heavier and therefore not as portable. So, if you do not intend to carry it around much, the larger screen may be the deciding factor.

The size categories are:

- Small (10-to-13-inch screen)
- Medium (14-to-16-inch screen)
- Large (17-to-18-inch screen)

Many people find the medium screen acceptable.

Next comes the internal features of the computer: processor, memory, storage. Here is the current list of desired features for a device with adequate performance.

Desired Features

At a minimum a laptop needs at least these specifications'

- 16 GB RAM memory
- 512 GB or 1 TB SSD storage
- Touch Screen if you play games, solitaire, etc.

Consumer Reports tests more than two hundred laptops and rates them with a score. Consumer Report ratings are: Predicted Reliability, Owner Satisfaction, Portability, Performance, Display, Ergonomics, Versatility. Battery life is one criterion. They rate over two hundred models of laptops.

In general, a higher rating means a higher price. The top-rated Windows laptops are in the \$1500 price range.

There are many models from many brands under \$1000 and even under \$600. There are often sales going on. These are capable machines and perform well for most tasks.

Website Recommendations

Here are some links to sites with recent laptop recommendations. They mostly emphasize the best performance, which may be more than what you require.

<https://www.tomsguide.com/best-picks/best-laptops>

<https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/best-laptops/#the-best-windows-laptop>

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-laptops>

Shopping for Laptops on Amazon

Amazon lets you search for laptop computers and many options along the left-hand side for different brands and specs. Lots of choices but it is difficult to focus on just a few choices.

Shopping for a Particular Brand

You may have had good experience with whatever brand of computer you currently own. So, you could concentrate on searching for its current offers. Even then each brand has many choices. Most brands have sales that change weekly. The best way of shopping is to visit the website for several weeks and look for the model that best fits your needs and budget.

Even better select two brands (say HP and Dell) and visit both of their websites weekly waiting for the model that you want. You will find that most brands have models that match in features and price.

Help Setting up Your New Computer

Setting up a new computer that is delivered to your door is not difficult. But if you feel that you need help with it, you might look for professional help. That is especially true if you want to transfer all your files, photos, and documents from your old computer to the new one. That is a piece of cake if you use Microsoft OneDrive. It is just a bit more challenging if you use a thumb drive.

However, if you need assistance, you should consider going to a nearby business that does Computer Sales & Service. You can find them by searching in your web browser. Erickson IT can do this as well. They will charge you for the time it takes to do this, as will the outside business. They can tell you an estimated cost up front.