

# New Computer Checklist

By Alex Strickland

- Finding the Right Computer
  - Decide what you'll use the computer for.
  - Decide if you want a desktop or a laptop.
  - Make a list of the primary tasks the computer will serve.
  - Create a budget and stick to it.
  - Start comparison shopping.
  - Stick with the better-known brands.
  - Go to a computer store and ask questions.
- Selection
  - Obtain parts' specification that includes every component of the PC.
  - Find out if the software that is provided with the computer is pre-installed and is provided on CD/DVDs.
  - Find out if a Recovery CD/DVD is provided with the system.
  - Make sure you get a hard disk drive that will have plenty of available space.
  - Make sure that PC that you buy has a decent amount of RAM memory.
  - If broadband Internet is not available in your area, make sure your computer includes a modem.
  - If you purchase a brand-name computer, find out if the company has a website that provides software device driver updates for its computers.
  - Look into any terms and conditions that might apply to the use of the service.
  - Before purchasing an extended warranty, obtain a copy and read the small print.
  - Weigh up the cost of an extended warranty against the likely cost of having repairs done by a third party.
  - Find out what kind of after-sales support is provided.
  - Look out for hidden costs.
  - Check the return policy.