

Windows laptops & PCs | Easy | 2 min read

What to look for when buying a Windows laptop or PC for everyday use

For email, browsing, video calls, documents and photos you do not need a top-of-the-range machine, but a few specifications decide whether it will still feel good in five years. This guide is general, with no prices, because those change quickly.

The processor

Look for a current mid-range chip, such as an Intel Core i5 or Core Ultra 5, or an AMD Ryzen 5. Very cheap, entry-level processors are fine for light use, but slow down sooner. Avoid anything several generations old unless it is a well-priced refurbished business model.

Memory (RAM)

- 8 GB is the minimum we would suggest today.
- 16 GB is a better choice if you keep lots of tabs open, work with large files or want the PC to last.
- Check whether it can be upgraded. In many laptops it is soldered in place.

Storage

- Insist on an SSD, which is far faster than a hard disk.
- 256 GB is tight, and 512 GB is comfortable. Beware of very small, cheap drives called **eMMC**.
- Cloud storage and external drives can make up the difference.

The screen and build

- Full HD (1920 x 1080) is plenty. A brighter, higher-quality screen is easier on the eyes.
- Check the keyboard and trackpad in a shop if you can. You use them all day.
- Check the weight and battery claims, and look for independent reviews.

Windows version

New PCs come with Windows 11. If you buy second-hand or refurbished, make sure it is eligible for Windows 11, because Windows 10 is no longer the version to build on.

- Enough ports, such as USB-A, USB-C, HDMI and a headphone socket.
- Wi-Fi 6 or newer, and a webcam if you take video calls.
- A proper warranty and a seller who can support you.
- You do not need to pay extra for AI features for ordinary use.

When to get more help

Get in touch before you buy, and send us the link to the model you like. We can tell you whether it is a good fit, and set it up when it arrives.

Still stuck? Email admin@visiontech336.com and tell us what you can see on the screen. Menus and button names can differ slightly between versions and makes. If something does not match, stop and ask rather than guess. Please never send passwords or card details.