

Backup media compared

DVDs are the cheapest backup media, with 1GB of storage costing as little as four pence. External hard disks are more expensive, but faster and offering more capacity. And don't overlook good old streaming tape, either.

Backup media prices

	CD-R	CD-RW	DVD-R	DVD-RW	DVD-RAM	DVD-DL	USB HARD DISK	STREAMING TAPE
Capacity (GB)	0.7	0.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	8.5	Up to 750	36
Typical price (£)	0.10	0.22	0.20	0.26	1.41	0.92	Depends on size	10
Price per GB (£)	0.14	0.31	0.04	0.06	0.3	0.11	0.22 – 0.75	0.28
Transfer rate in Mbytes/sec	up to 8.2	up to 4.7	up to 21.6	up to 10.8	2	up to 5.4	Up to 60	3

Disc prices in £ based on media from www.svp.co.uk, including Vat