

Digital Imaging - Consumer Buying Guide

digitaltips.org Powered By  CEA

Digital Cameras-Storing Images

How To Save Your Digital Images For A Long Time

Film images can fade and digital images can disappear. Fortunately, there's a sure-fire way to preserve your digital memories. It's LOCKSS – or Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe. Make multiple backup copies using 2 or more of these 5 top choices. Check out photo management software, a personal image librarian.

Options for Saving Digital Images	Capacity	Cost	Details And Tips
1. Hard Drive	Large capacity.	Relatively inexpensive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy access to photos. • Most common method. • Available as internal drives or external and connected by USB or IEEE 1394 (FireWire®).
2. Backup Drive	Greatest storage capacity.	Relatively inexpensive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backup everything on your computer in case of more serious problems. • Often has an automated backup feature that can be set for regular intervals (e.g., nightly, weekly), so you don't have to remember to do it.
3. Portable Flash Media	Limited capacity, so not best choice for long-term storage.	Inexpensive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take pictures with you on the go when visiting family and friends, or for transferring to a professional print service.
4. CD and DVD	Stores 4 gigabytes per disc – about a year's worth of photos for many.	Inexpensive, fast and easy (if you have a CD or DVD burner).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Though designed for 100-year shelf life, discs can be seriously damaged by sunlight, heat or extreme cold. • Commercial discs are more durable because they use a different technology.
5. Third-party Archiving	Often unlimited storage capacity and company backs up the data.	Online storage space may be free or for a fee from online companies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can also order prints directly from the companies, set up slide shows, share pictures with friends and store other data. • Third-party companies have lost data or gone out of business.
Personal Photo Librarian	How It Works	Cost	Advantages
6. Photo Management Software	Install on your computer and use it to search your drives and make lists of every photo or media element. Then, sort lists by making thumbnail size images. Finally, organize your photos by name, date, keyword and more.	Ranges from inexpensive to expensive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to use. • Variety of levels of software available. More advanced programs have more features such as digital editing.