

All About LCD's

Everyone wants to know about "those little thin screens". Actually they are called LCD monitors; the older television-looking monitors are called CRT monitors. There are many reasons for upgrading to an LCD monitor. One Important reason for many being increased free desk space. In addition an LCD also uses about 66% less power consumption than an equally sized CRT. Also LCD monitors have fewer parts that actually wear-out, because of this most quality built LCD monitor will last about twice as long as a CRT monitor.

Currently the most popular size for LCD monitors is 17". Unlike CRT monitors which are actually sized smaller than their listed diagonally measured size, LCD monitors are listed exactly what they measure. For example, a 17" CRT monitor will typically measure about 16" diagonally, however an LCD 17" monitor will actually measure 17" diagonally. The good news is, if you already have a 17" CRT monitor then upgrading to a 17" LCD monitor will give you extra monitor space without having to upgrade to a 19" monitor.

LCD monitor prices can vary greatly depending on the quality of the monitor. LCD monitors can be found in sizes ranging from 15" to over 23", however the 17" monitor is currently the best buy. Lower quality 17" monitors with 1-year warranty's can sell for less than \$200. However, higher quality 17" monitors with 3 year manufacture warranty's may cost between \$300-\$400. Larger 19" monitors may cost over \$450, while 21" monitor may cost nearly \$900.

Believe it or not, not everyone is a good candidate for an LCD monitor. LCD's have a couple of drawbacks. LCD monitors have viewing angle limitations. The colors and the brightness of the display can change dramatically depending on the angle at which you are viewing the monitor. In addition LCD monitors have slower response rates. When playing videos or action packed 3D games the image may look like it is smearing across the screen. The better quality LCD's with 12-ms or higher response rates will show less smearing, however if you are a professional graphics designer or a die-hard gamer a good quality CRT monitor may be a better choice.

The average computer user who uses their computer for word processing will find that an LCD monitor is the right choice for them. LCD's have smaller pixels which means that it will take more pixels to create the letter on the screen. More pixels translate into smoother sharper graphics.

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