

This year for Christmas many people will be receiving new computers. In fact, many of you will not only be getting a new computer but more specifically you will be getting a new laptop computer. Laptop computers are great. Current models are much faster than they used to be and power consumption is way down, which means they will last longer on a single charge and will not run as hot. Even though pricing has been going down I have noticed that quality of parts and workmanship is on the rise.

While taking all of this into consideration, you should still be wary of purchasing a laptop computer because the fact still remains that they are more prone to break down and cost more to fix when compared to a desktop computer. However, nothing can replace the convenience and portability factor of a laptop and because of this more people will see laptops under the tree this Holiday Season.

Here are a few tips that will help you keep your brand new laptop from becoming a large doorstop. First, Please keep all food and drink away from your laptop. I know it is tempting to drink your coffee while reading the morning's news online but we see spilled drinks into laptops every week. If you're lucky, a new keyboard will fix the problem. Unfortunately, there are times when the entire motherboard has to be replaced, a very costly mistake.

Please be gently with your laptop. A simple bump that may not seem like much to you can cause hundreds of dollars of damage. I have seen power jacks that were shoved up into the case not allowing a power connection. Hard drives can easily stop functioning when exposed to extreme drops. Be sure to be especially careful if you have cards plugged into the PCMCIA slots. It is not unusual to see these cards shoved way up into the body of the laptop.

The last little bit of advice is to hold on tight, but not too tight. You may think that dropping your laptop is the last thing you want to do. Holding on too tight though can do some pretty costly damage as well. Many laptop plastic lids can be very flimsy and if you press too hard on the middle of your screen while the lid is closed you may accidentally crack the screen. This type of repair can be very costly, a cracked LCD cannot be fixed, it must be replaced and the cost is over \$400 or more. Be sure not to place heavy objects on top of your laptop and be aware of where you are applying pressure when you pick your laptop up.

Even though there are many things that can go wrong with your laptop all of these accidents can be fixed. The question is, is it worth fixing. That's why the Computer Depot gives you free diagnostic service and upfront pricing. If you decide that it is going to cost too much to fix your computer, simply pick your computer up and owe absolutely nothing. Most people, however, find our prices to be very fair and choose to have us fix it. So give us a chance, Call Thomas, Roger, or Aaron at 947-0749.

Please note our Holiday Hours. We will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday December 26th. In addition we will be closed Monday January 1st. I want to personally wish every one of my customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. In addition I want to thank you for another successful year. See you next Year!