



4 things to consider when buying a CAD printer

You've decided to buy a CAD printer and understand how cost-effective and advantageous it is. Wonderful. All that's left for you to do is buy the printer. Now, do note: choosing the right printer for your firm is as important a decision as deciding to buy one.

Here are a few thoughts to consider before you go shopping:

1. Economic vs cheap

While the price of the printer is important, it is not always wisest to buy the cheapest printer. Very often a printer that costs a little more with a lower running cost can prove to be a smarter solution than a cheap printer. Also, cheap printers often tend to sacrifice on print quality, ease of use and performance.



4. Printer or plotter

While plotters were once famed for their accuracy, today large format printers outdo plotters in accuracy with brands like Epson offering printers that print lines as fine as 0.02 mm. Further, as an added advantage, such printers are capable of rendering beautiful multi-colour (even gradient filled) prints of your designs.

2. Printer capability

This includes everything from image quality to colour reproduction to durability of ink. Being in an industry that demands accuracy, make sure you get high levels of precision from your printer too. Check for the minimum line width printable. This will usually give you a true idea of the printer's capabilities.

3. Keep your office in mind

Space, IT infrastructure and your organisation's preferred printing size are crucial factors to consider when buying a printer. Check the compatibility of the printer with your current operating system. And, preferably choose one that offers complete accessibility even when placed against a wall – this usually allows for minimum space consumption. It's equally important to ensure that the printer you've chosen is user-friendly, so that it can be operated by anyone with an awareness of its basic functions.