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If you're shopping for a printer for your home or office, the first major decision you'll be faced with is inkjet vs. laser. While the difference between the two was once much greater with inkjet printers being used largely for home use and laser printers for professional use, the gaps between the two are becoming increasingly narrow. Consider your printing habits and what you print most often. Then, reference the helpful information below to determine whether an inkjet or laser printer is best for you.

Inkjet printers are best for:

Color: Color inkjet printers do a better job blending colors than laser printers. Therefore, they're great for producing quality output for things like craft projects, invitations, school assignments and business presentations.

Photos: Again, since color inkjet printers are better than color laser printers at reproducing more subtly shaded, contoured color, they're a superior choice for printing photos.

Compact spaces: Inkjet printers are generally lighter and smaller than laser printers. So, if you're looking for a printer that can fit in a small space, an inkjet is for you.

Laser printers are best for:

Black and white text: Laser printers reign supreme when it comes to creating crisp black and white text-based printouts. For business documents or school papers, they're the best option.

Speed: If you're shopping for a business, or just need to print things quickly, a laser printer is the ideal choice. With print speeds of up to twenty pages per minute, compared to an inkjet printer's six, there's no comparison. However, if your speedy print demands include color print-outs and quality outweighs speed, an inkjet is a better bet.

Frequency: Laser printers are designed to manage high-volume printing. Perfect for businesses that print often, you'll get more for your money with a laser printer. Plus, most come with high-capacity trays which accommodate 150-250 sheets of paper.

Don't forget printer ink and toner

Once you've decided which type of printer is right for you, the next step is purchasing printer ink for either a laser or inkjet printer. Both types of printers have many different types available for purchase and typically come in two types: dye-based or pigment based. These printer inks are also available in black or color. Should you go with a laser jet printer, you will need to purchase printer toner. Make sure to research the various types and brands of printer toner and ink to select the best type for your printer.

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