

# XBOX 360 Buying Guide

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# XBOX 360 Buying Guide

## Table of Contents

Sign up For Xbox 360 News and Alerts .....	3
Xbox 360 vs. Other Gaming Systems .....	5
Choosing Accessories for the Xbox 360 .....	8
Games .....	11
Game Buying Guide .....	13
Technical Issues with the Xbox 360 .....	15
Conclusions .....	17

# XBOX 360 Buying Guide

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## Sign up For Xbox 360 News and Alerts

I wanted to take a moment to invite you join my Xbox 360 News list. This list will include the following:

1. Xbox 360 news
2. Critical Update information
3. New games to use with your console
4. And much, much more!

I will not send loads and loads of junk to your inbox--I respect you too much for that. But if there is something that you should know regarding the Xbox 360, I will send it to you. Send a blank e-mail to:

[xbox360@freeautobot.com](mailto:xbox360@freeautobot.com) to sign up!

# XBOX 360 Buying Guide

## Introduction

If you have a person in your life who is crazy about gaming and is begging you to get an XBOX 360 for Christmas, you may want to do some research ahead of time, so you can make an informed decision. At this time of the year, there are many products out there competing for your attention, and more importantly, your money. It will actually pay to get the information you need, so that you can avoid costly mistakes.

I will be reviewing the major technical issues of the Xbox 360, compare it to other gaming systems available, how to choose accessories to make the most of the gaming experience, give you resources for games to buy with the console, and the latest news concerning the Xbox 360. I am also including some tricks and tips for playing the games that you can give to your gaming person along with the gaming system this Christmas.

If you want to make an informed decision and save a lot of time, money and frustration, you will need to pay attention to this report, BEFORE you buy. Then you will be prepared, and you will have information that is not hype, and that you can be armed with when you do go shopping. This is information the stores would rather you not have, so they can work on you, instead of them working for you.

Take this information, use it, share it...whatever you need to do. Spread the word! Just remember the Master Resale rights disclaimer above. You must not alter any content whatsoever in this document.

# XBOX 360 Buying Guide

## Xbox 360 vs . Other Gaming Systems

There are many gaming systems available today, with some being much more expensive than others. The most popular system seems to be the Wii—well, at least it seems to be the most up and coming system against the Xbox anyway. There are some debates as to whether the Wii is the favorite, or whether the Xbox will remain the fan favorite. Here, we will go over some advantages and disadvantages of both systems, as well as some of the other gaming systems.

### *Advantages of the Xbox 360:*

1. Better graphics
2. More for the advanced player
3. More games available, due to being on the market longer
4. Affordable cost compared to other systems
5. Custom designed hardware, specifically for the Xbox360 console
6. 5 times more powerful than the average PC
7. Comes with a free month of Xbox Live Gold
8. Ability to stream audio and video to the system

### *Disadvantages of the Xbox 360:*

1. Not for the beginner player
2. Constant need to buy new games
3. All of the gaming components are sealed inside the unit. If there should be a problem you will have to replace most or all of unit, losing game data.

## XBOX 360 Buying Guide

4. Once a console becomes outdated you cannot up grade without buying a new console.
5. The games are not transferable. You can't take an Xbox game and play it in a PlayStation etc.
6. Having to pay more for the recharging cable
7. Power supply tends to get really hot while playing.

### *Advantages of the Wii System:*

1. Perfect for the new player, due to its simple design
2. 3-D Motion sensitive
3. Small and portable compared to the Xbox 360
4. Nintendo supplies the delightful Wii Sports Game Suite with its console.
5. Engages the player in physical action, thereby getting rid of the video game bad rap.
6. Very short learning curve

### *Disadvantages of the Wii System:*

1. Bad third party support
2. There is a slight chance of expensive items getting broke due to the “excitement” of the game.
3. Some people may want to sit and play—not get up and move.
4. Lack of large storage memory
5. Online access not what it could be, compared to other systems

## XBOX 360 Buying Guide

So, there you have it. I could review other systems, but these two systems are the only systems that are worth mentioning as of this season for 2007. The other systems out there are not near as good quality wise as the Nintendo Wii or the Microsoft Xbox 360. Should you want to see a review of some other systems, go to:

<http://www.lockergnome.com/tuxedojericho/2007/10/17/console-wars/>.

# XBOX 360 Buying Guide

## Choosing Accessories for the Xbox 360

If you have chosen to get the Xbox 360 for your gamer, then you will need to choose some accessories to make the gaming experience pleasurable for him or her. (For more accessories, visit the official web site at <http://xbox.com>.)

### The Basic Package

The basic package sells for \$299 and comes with, as the name suggests, the basics—only those accessories needed to make things work. But not well. Here is what you get for around \$300:

1. A console
2. A wired controller, and
3. Standard composite AV cables.

That's it. No hard drive to save progress of the game, no headset, no nothing. If you want to get a memory stick, you can get one with 64MB for \$40. Not bad, right? Well, considering that you can get a regular flash drive memory stick for your PC with at least 1 GB on it for about \$12, this is a complete rip-off. Why would anyone buy this pared down version? Let's look at the advantages of this bare-bones basic system.

1. Some people may not need, nor want the hard drive to keep track of the progress of the game, so it would be a waste of money.
2. People may not want to stream in huge environments
3. The no headset idea may be a good idea for those who do not want to jump on to Xbox live right away.

Now let's look at the Full system...

# XBOX 360 Buying Guide

## The Full System

The full system sells for about \$100 more than the basic system, but with the full system, you get the following to enhance the gaming experience:

1. The console
2. A wireless controller
3. A headset
4. Ethernet cable
5. HD component
6. AV composite cables, and
7. A 20 GB hard drive

The hard drive comes with a pre-loaded Xbox Arcade game. There are several advantages with this system as compared to the basic system. Not the least of which is that you would be getting a heck of a lot more for less money in the long run. Having to buy every other accessory along the way just costs more money, so you may as well start out with all the accessories you need to have a pleasant gaming experience.

Another advantage with this is that you get a wireless controller—not a wired. You get a headset...you get a silver subscription to the Xbox live...and a headset. Plus you get a pre-loaded game...do the math—what would you rather have? The bare bones basic where you would have to buy a lot more just to have a pleasant experience? Or the full system where you pay less to get more? It's up to you!

# XBOX 360 Buying Guide

## Choosing a Monitor

Do you need to buy a monitor to go with this system? Well, that depends. What kind of gaming experience do you want? Or rather, does your gamer want? If you want a real-life experience, then you will want either a high def TV, or an LCD monitor. If the graphics doesn't matter, then you can hook it up to your TV, and it should work just fine. This is more a personal preference thing, and the monitor that you choose to use will not affect the playability as much as the other accessories listed above would. Personal choice. Now...let's talk games.

# XBOX 360 Buying Guide

## Games

As with any gaming system, you do need to buy games—eventually. There are several options here that you can use to get fresh games every so often. They are:

1. Going to the store and buying 1 or more at a time.
2. Buying them online a few at a time, or
3. Getting a monthly subscription and getting them sent to you, much like the DVD clubs out there.

There are some advantages to each method, and you may want to employ all three of these in the coming months and years.

### *Brick and Mortar Store*

You could go to the store, pick out what you want, and pick it up, wait in line, wait in traffic, and fight the elements to get home with your purchase. While this gets you your games a lot faster than it would come if you would order it online, you do still need to leave the comfort of home to do so.

Sometimes, I actually enjoy leaving the house and going shopping in the stores. Most of the time, I don't like it, and would rather do my shopping online. The only annoying part is that I don't exactly like the wait times when it comes to shipping items. On the other hand, I do like the convenience of shopping at home. So, this method may still work for you in a pinch, and if you like shopping in person.

## XBOX 360 Buying Guide

[http://www.newcreationtechnologies.com/suggests/DDR\\_Game](http://www.newcreationtechnologies.com/suggests/DDR_Game)

Now the advantage here is obvious. You are at home, at your computer, searching for items for Christmas, sipping hot chocolate, while the kids are outside, playing in the new fallen snow. There is no need to hide the presents, no need to worry if the kids will see what is in the cart. All you need to do is minimize the browser, put your shopping on hold, and wait for them to finish the day and go to bed.

Later, after your gamer gets his/her Xbox 360, you can just have him or her get online with you and let them pick out exactly what they want—without leaving home. But then again, there is the waiting for the package to arrive before your gamer can play.

[http://www.newcreationtechnologies.com/suggests/Game\\_Fly](http://www.newcreationtechnologies.com/suggests/Game_Fly)

Now, let's imagine that you don't even need to go online, nor go to the store, and the games just show up on a set schedule for a low monthly fee. You could forget to go to the store one time, or get online, and you wouldn't be able to get new games. But with a subscription based service, you will be able set it and forget it, to a point. You will need to remember to keep your bank account sufficiently funded, so that the fee can go through every month, but other than that, you will not need to even think about it. Talk about a gift that keeps on giving, huh?

If you get any game this season, however, one of the hottest games to focus on getting this season is Mass Effect. This game was rated 10 out of 10 by the official Xbox Magazine for its "Transcendent Experience". Check it out before they are gone...

# XBOX 360 Buying Guide

## Game Buying Guide

[http://www.newcreationtechnologies.com/suggests/DDR\\_Game](http://www.newcreationtechnologies.com/suggests/DDR_Game)

*Game accessories for various gaming systems*

DDRGame is a leading distributor for interactive Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) pads and game accessories, As DDR Game is an innovative technology systems transforms the sports and fitness experience into daily life, it is a great product for fight off obesity and diabetes, help kids with ADHD behaviors.

In addition, we carry the newest game accessories for Nintendo Wii, PS, PS2, PS3, PSP, XBox, XBOX 360, Nintendo, NDS, NDS Lite, GameCube and NES platforms, and various of interactive TV games such TV dance pad, TV Pong Ping game, TV kicking box game, TV Tennis game and CamToy...etc.

[http://www.newcreationtechnologies.com/suggests/Game\\_Fly](http://www.newcreationtechnologies.com/suggests/Game_Fly)

*Online video game rentals for various gaming systems monthly subscription rates*

GameFly is the leading online video game rental service in the United States. We deliver the widest selection and availability of games for the Nintendo's Wii™, Sony's PlayStation® 3, Xbox 360, PlayStation® 2, Xbox™, GameCube™, Game Boy™ Advance, Nintendo DS™ and PSP™.

### Some of the benefits of membership:

- Value: Members start for as low as \$8.95!
- Selection: GameFly has the largest selection of video games anywhere with more than 5,000 titles including all the new releases and all classics.

## XBOX 360 Buying Guide

- Convenience: GameFly delivers games to your door. Shipping is free both ways. And, there are NO LATE FEES ever!

[http://www.newcreationtechnologies.com/suggests/Online\\_Sports](http://www.newcreationtechnologies.com/suggests/Online_Sports)

*A store for all sports, even games and gaming systems*

You will love our incredible selection of sports equipment, jerseys, jewelry, fan gear, gifts, and memorabilia with over 100,000 items to choose from! You'll also love our great prices, easy navigation and excellent customer service.

# XBOX 360 Buying Guide

## Technical Issues with the Xbox 360

So what are the technical issues with the Xbox 360? I think I will let some of the people who own this system to tell you about them, and how to resolve them. The information I have here is from various forums online, arranged in a Q & A format. For further technical information on your system, please refer to your owner's manual, after buying the system. Or refer to the official web site, <http://xbox.com> for more information.

*Should I send it back for repair?*

Question:

My Xbox 360 console started making this really annoying sound everytime a disc was being played in the console. It sounds like a buzzing sound or a vibrating sound...thats the best way I can describe it. It's getting worse now, as it is louder and too much to bear. I'm a little bit hesitant to send it for repair though...Anyone here send their 360's out for repair and get theirs back 100%fixed and with no problems?

Answer:

The Xbox 360 does have a three year warranty on them now. Write down the serial number on the front of your console, send it back, telling the problem. They will then send you back a refurbished console.

However, most 360's sound like jet engines starting up when it reads the discs. So, depending on how much it does this, you may or may not decide to send your model in for repair. Or, you could take it to the store you bought it from, go to their customer service counter, and see if you could exchange it, or ask what you should do.

## XBOX 360 Buying Guide

### *Freezing issues*

#### Question:

I just got an HD TV and tried to hook up my xbox. When I did, it was black and white with no sound and there were four different screens on my TV. I tried just plugging in the normal RWY cables and it worked fine, just not in HD.

I put in my brand new Assassins Creed. Just as I hit "new game", my Xbox freezes. So I restarted my Xbox and it wouldnt get past the 360 logo thing. I took it downstairs to my tube TV and hooked it up. Same thing. But now, it wont even start up. The ring will light up but nothing will come up. What should I do?

#### Answer:

Well, from personal experience, the "red ring of death" is due to a power supply failure or internal issues I'm not firmilar with. So when this one does it, I'm going to replace the power supply myself. If that doesn't work, look into alternative methods of fixing it.

# XBOX 360 Buying Guide

## Conclusions

All in all, this seems like a solid system. If your gamer is pretty experienced, or if they are technically-minded, it would be a great system to get. Even if they aren't, you may want to get this anyway, and you both can sit and figure it out together. Makes a great project for Christmas day.

Or, if you prefer the Wii, that would be a great gift too. Really—if your gamer really wants the Xbox 360, and you can afford the full system, then go for it! And enjoy the holidays!

*(Disclaimer: I am not an employee of any of the companies represented here. I am not endorsing any of the products mentioned here. I am giving an unbiased review of the above products, and do not have a personal interest in what you buy.)*