

Buying Guide



Having an efficient payment system in place for a business is not only good practice, but is advantageous for customers, owners and managers too. Day to day running can be much easier, the service more efficient and profits boosted as a result.

There is a whole plethora of technology available, which is still developing, from digital apps to modern EPOS and cashless payment systems. However not every business is in a position to adopt this up to the minute technology or for some, it is not even a suitable option. Business efficiency and profitability can be enhanced by even the most basic of cash registers or entry level EPOS system.

Simple and affordable, cash registers have a surprising number of features that can enhance business performance, some can act as electronic journals, helping to audit product lines and aid in stock control and sales analysis. Helping significantly to improve order taking, stock takes, table turns and reservations, EPOS systems (Electronic Point of Sale) are the next step up and can make businesses even more efficient with orders going straight through to the kitchen.

We can advise on entry level and more bespoke sophisticated solutions.

Advantages

- Easy programming of PLU's and price entry on cash registers can help reduce operator error and potential losses.
- Some tills can even allow for SD cards or have a USB port to provide connection to various devices including kitchen printers, bar code scanners and computers for data back-up.
- End of day reconciliation to the cash drawer and hourly turnover sales data for constant management monitoring are possible on some models.
- With EPOS, software modules can include PoS, reservations and waiting list management, perpetual inventory management and kitchen display system to aid faster service.

Buying Tips

- **What equipment?** – Assess your real needs in line with your current business and service requirements. Ensure you explore the full capabilities of cash registers before considering EPOS options. If you determine EPOS is the route, be clear about what you want the system to do and consider its integration with any existing PC based systems. Ascertain whether the system is easy to learn, simple to use and adaptable to changing business needs. Look for Chip & Pin and Weights & Measures approval.
- **Build quality and reliability** – Choose the best you can afford – ideally a leading brand known for such systems expertise. Look at the reliability and after sales service. Check the availability of technical support plus access to maintenance engineers in case of equipment failure. Ascertain warranty period.
- **Operational features** – Look for easy to install, easy to programme solutions. For cash registers, look for stylish, compact designs with PLU's for automatic price entry; lockable cash drawers, separate bill/cash compartments; bright and clear display; battery backup for memory; reliable and quiet thermal printer for receipts and journal printing of stored lines and sales; hard wearing keys; customisable receipts and on/off option; 2-3 methods of payment; currency conversion; percent discount facility. For EPOS, check software modules available and possible integration with other packages – including accounts, inventory and payroll.

Key to icons

	Light Duty Designed for commercial use in a less busy environment
	Medium Duty Strongly constructed to perform in a busy situation
	Heavy Duty High standard of build to provide good service under heavy use
	Extra Heavy Duty High powered, fast throughput with the highest standard of build
	13 Amp Plug and go!
	Hardwired Hard wiring required
	Gas
	Stainless Steel Construction
	Warranty