

# Safeguard Your Irreplaceable Pictures and Documents

By Edward Zeidan, Nerd4Rent



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Every week, we receive at least one frantic call from someone whose hard drive has crashed, and they have no backup of their irreplaceable files. Most of the time, people are aware that they should be backing up their data, but they haven't gotten around to it, because they're busy, or don't know how. What many people don't know is that every hard drive will crash eventually. Hard drives crash for a variety of reasons: moving parts wear out; power surges damage sen-

sitive drive electronics; viruses corrupt or erase files; etc. We've seen brand new hard drives crash, 10 year old drives working perfectly, and everything in between. Sometimes there are warning signs of hard drive problems, such as clicking or grinding sounds--but not always. Since we can't know when a hard drive will fail, it's critical that all important files be backed up.

There are several popular options for backing up your files (data):

1. Backup to CDs or DVDs
2. Backup to a portable hard drive
3. Back up to an online service

### Backup to CD's or DVDs

This option is fine if you only have a few hundred files to backup. You use your computers CD/DVD burner to make a copy of your files.

### Backup to portable hard drive

Portable hard drives are inexpensive, fast, and hold thousands of files. You can even set your computer to automatically backup your files.

### Backup to an online service

Some popular online backup services are idrive ([www.idrive.com](http://www.idrive.com)) and Carbonite

([www.carbonite.com](http://www.carbonite.com)). Online backup services protect your data by using passwords to restrict access, and by encrypting it so it can't be read by unauthorized persons. Idrive offers up to two gigabytes of personal data storage absolutely free.

Whichever option you choose, we recommend that you always keep

one copy of your data off-site, (such as at your office, safe deposit box or relative's home), in case of disaster or theft.

What should I do if my hard drive crashes?

If your hard drive crashes, then it's important to turn your computer off, and take it to your local computer support company for an initial diagnosis. Many times it's your operating system that has crashed, not your hard drive, and your files are fine. If we are unable to recover your files, we refer our clients to DriveSavers 800.440.1904. DriveSavers has special equipment, and they can usually get your files back.

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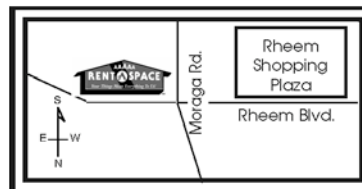
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