

**SERIES**



*HOW TO CHOOSE  
A WORLD-CLASS*

# **CAD/TECHNICAL PRINTER**

The 2021 Epson SureColor®  
T-Series Buyer's Guide

**EPSON®**  
EXCEED YOUR VISION

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## *NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN TODAY'S PRINTERS*

So much has changed in the computing world over the course of five to 10 years and yesterday's outmoded printers simply struggle to keep up. Needs change and maybe it's time to retire the old plotter? From more compact sizes, to faster connectivity, to smarter controllers and sensors that optimize speed and paper handling, the printing experience is vastly improved.

After a series of halts and delays in areas such as residential construction last year, the economy is projected to catch fire in the second half of 2021. And while some are returning to the office, many won't return full time, and some technical printing may shift to smaller and home offices. A 2021 report by I.T. Strategies foresees a shift to "more productive printers" and, in hybrid work situations, those CAD/technical printers may require a broad range of capabilities.





Today's CAD/technical printers earn their keep by being fast, durable, connected and user friendly. For example, they're much smarter at identifying and self-correcting issues that would have taken any printer offline just a few years ago. They're easily manageable from a web browser. And they feature more robust security than ever before.

Of course, when it comes to finding the perfect wide-format printer, it's never one-size-fits-all. This Epson SureColor® T-Series Buyer's Guide will help you determine which CAD/technical printers best suit your company's business objectives and printing needs. Do you seek an everyday CAD/technical printer with the versatility to smoothly manage CAD files, renderings and blueprints—or one capable of scaling up to tackle more rigorous or unusual assignments such as posters, signage, process maps or even large spreadsheets? Gain the confidence of knowing that either way, you won't soon outgrow whichever model you choose.

How many people will share the printer—and how many wide-format prints do you anticipate making each day or week? Fortunately, there are CAD/technical/graphics printers and feature packages suitable for various size organizations. It's not unusual to see a team run a printer on full throttle, while other organizations may print less frequently though on a wide range of media.

Whether it's primarily for your home, or you belong to a midsize or enterprise company, we'll spotlight what's new, what's changed, and what you should be looking for now in a CAD/technical printer.

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## *EVALUATE THE ENVIRONMENT THE PRINTS WILL BE USED IN ... and the people who will be using them*

Where is your sweet spot on the spectrum of state-of-the-art CAD/technical printers? To find out, let's look at how architects, engineers and construction professionals in small, midsize and enterprise businesses use them.

### **Small Office, Home Office**

Entry-Level CAD. For many technical professionals, a hybrid work arrangement is the new normal. Whether you're taking work home, working from home, or printing out documents to take to a job site, Epson offers a variety of desktop and floor-standing CAD/technical printers that are appropriately sized, scaled, and priced for home or small office use, including multifunction printers with built-in scanners to archive, share, and copy large documents.

*These CAD/  
technical printers  
fit well in any  
office design*







### **Workgroups and Offices**

Mid-Range CAD Printing. Your workgroup has no time to spare and dislikes waiting around for print jobs. Fortunately, Epson offers a fast printer for line drawings, renderings and D-sized plots—one that's also capable of tackling wide-format assignments such as indoor matte borderless posters.

### **Production/Enterprise**

Production CAD & Graphics. Versatility and value are key to the production CAD/technical printers that serve the needs of growing businesses. Epson's SureColor® T-Series production CAD/technical printers can be used constantly and can be expanded to print on a wide array of media. T-Series CAD/technical printers produce CAD and graphics output of unrivaled quality and performance.



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## PRIORITIZE THE FEATURES THAT MATTER FOR YOUR WORKGROUP AND AUDIENCE


Consider these important CAD/technical printer features

*Speed* 

 *Multifunction vs.  
Single Function*

*Inks* 

 *Printhead technology*

*Rolls and media* 

 *Workflow and connectivity*

*Security features* 

 *Other printer features and  
accessories*

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### *How much speed do you need?*

**Here's a good rule-of-thumb:** the more teammates you have, or the more jobs you're printing daily, the faster the CAD/technical printer you need. How fast are we talking about? For comparison purposes, printer speed is usually measured in D-size output.

Your needs may vary, but here's a possible scenario:

- **Epson CAD/Technical printers for small or home offices** typically serve 1-5 employees or 2-3 sets per week and print A1/D-Size prints in as little as 31 seconds.
- **Epson CAD/Technical printers for mid-size offices/workgroups** good for 10-50 users or 3-10 sets per week and print A1/D-Size prints in as little as 22 seconds.
- **Epson CAD/Technical printers for enterprise/production** good for 50+ employees or 10+ sets per week and print A1/D-size prints in as little as 25 seconds.

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## *Do you need multiple functions?*

If you need a scanner in your workflow, a multifunction printer may be the most efficient way to go. Will your team benefit from scanning, archiving, sharing or making copies? If so, a scanner built into a multifunction unit is now both more affordable and productive than ever before. Scanning large documents is easier with a multifunction production printer capable of handling 36" wide media.

Wouldn't it be nice to send high-quality scans without having to put them in a tube and overnight them to clients, partners, or other reviewers? Many Epson multifunction printers with scanners allow you to email scans directly to colleagues without the use of a computer, scan from shared network drives, or put scanned files on a USB thumb drive so they can be shared easily in the office.



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## *Assess how many colors you need to print*

The vast majority of CAD/technical printers use four or more colors. In fact, four colors typically cover most renderings or line drawings, including color versions. For technical drawings, four colors, which is standard CMYK, does a great job of producing what's shown in a plan. Larger color sets increase the capabilities of what you can do with the printer. For example, five color Epson CAD/technical printers include an additional black photo ink for printing not just on matte but also glossy media such as photo paper. Photo black is useful for posters, media, artwork and graphics. With more ink colors in addition to Cyan, Magenta, and Yellow you can increase the color gamut and more faithfully reproduce colors—the perfect foundation for more creative use of media, signage and renderings.

And finally, there's the ink container itself. Generally, the bigger the ink capacity, the better the value. Ink cartridges in many Epson CAD/Technical printers range in sizes from 50 mL up to 700 mL. While most of us are familiar with ink cartridges, there are also high-capacity SuperTank refillable ink tank options which can offer a considerably lower cost per mL.



*CAD/technical printers such as the Epson SureColor T3170X use low cost ink bottles instead of cartridges.*

Do inks matter? Definitely. The first thing to know is that this isn't the kind of ink we use to refill a pen. Pigment inks, like Epson's UltraChrome® XD2, can be smudge, fade, and water resistant, which is helpful for technical documents used in the field. Manufacturers such as Epson design their inks to match their printheads, which provides optimum performance.

### *Printheads provide the “engine” of the car*

Epson SureColor® T-Series printers use PrecisionCore® Printheads, based on MicroTFP technology, which provides ink drop control for a true 720 dpi per color channel at resolutions up to 2880 dpi. The technology is notable for neither requiring nor generating heat. PrecisionCore® delivers outstanding line accuracy, color accuracy, and consistency on a wide variety of media.

Lowering user intervention is important—especially when several users are printing on the same unit. For example, Epson employs Nozzle Verification Technology (NVT), which checks on the health of the nozzle and helps ensure that our inkjet printheads operate clog-free. If it comes back normal, it prints; otherwise, it may run a cleaning cycle.





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### *Will you print on a wide range of media?*

Most CAD/technical printers come in either a single or dual roll configuration. Dual roll enables offices to toggle between different size papers, such as

17-inches wide, 36-inches wide, or 44-inches wide, making it easy to switch between media types such as basic bond paper, glossy paper, matte paper, or even poster paper. In fact, less paper switching is a key benefit of dual roll printers.

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### *How connectivity drives higher productivity*

Connectivity is an area where you can boost team productivity because today support for faster Wi-Fi allow your team to print from virtually anywhere and high-speed USB 3.0 enable jobs to move in and out faster. For CAD users who tend to print large size files, and don't want to be tethered to a desk, consider printers that support high network speed and enable printing from mobile devices.

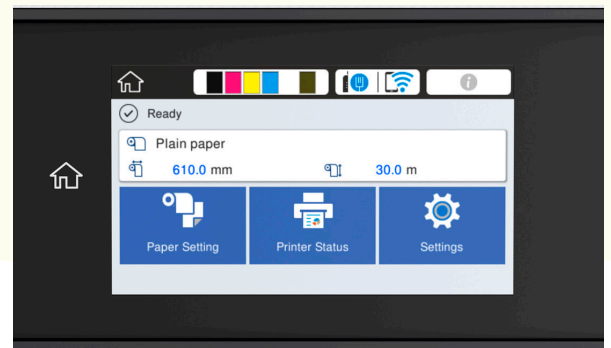
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### *Printers with security features*

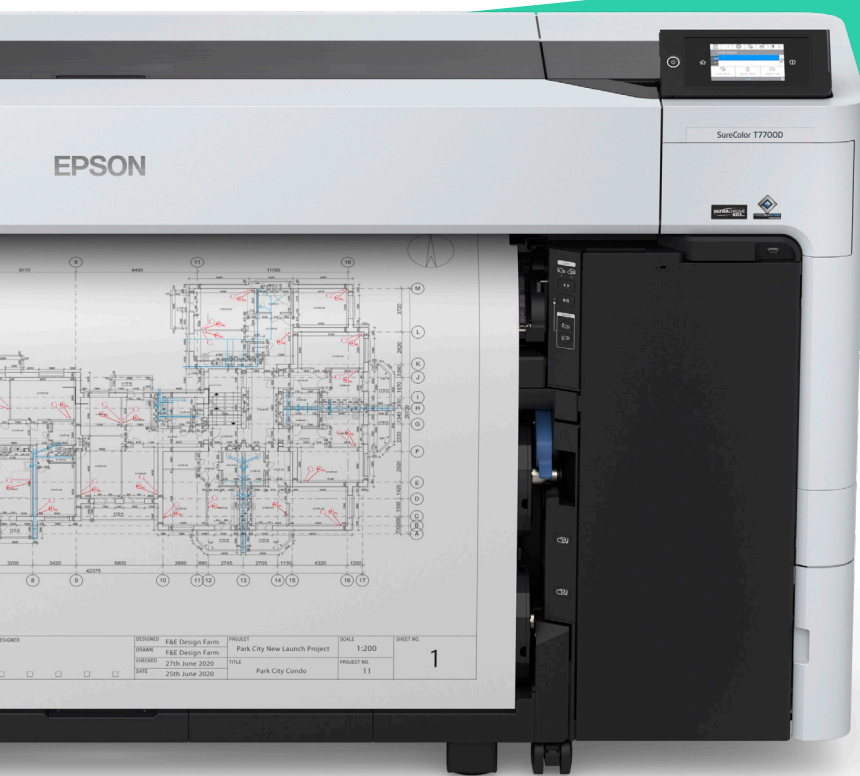
In today's business, no endpoints can be left unprotected. Whether your CAD/technical printer is located in your home or in a massive office building, it must be protected as well as any other device on your network. Consider a printer with IT security features such as restricting unauthorized access by requiring user authentication. Epson printers help IT administrators to adapt them to their remote networks, printer servers, and office networks.

## Evaluating everything else you may need

Conveniently, the newest models enable CAD/technical printer management directly from web browsers. Many T-Series printers feature a sharp 4.3" LCD touch screen, enabling fast navigation and easy user access to printer features.



Need more space? There are also ways to expand functionality by adding extra storage, such as a HDD on select printers, which enables print jobs to immediately transfer from a computer to a printer without clogging up a network. In fact, with an internal print server on a hard drive, you can reprint directly from the printer control panel without using a computer.



**Now this:** Some printers print edge to edge but trim the top and bottom. The Epson T-Series supports true border-free prints, enabling edge-to-edge printing at top and bottom without unwanted cuts.

**Workflow tip:** There's also support for TrueAdobe® Postscript 3™ in production CAD/technical printers, which enables hot-folder batch printing, secure PDF printing, job reprinting and easily integrates into the most complex printing workflows.

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## PRINTING SUCCESSFULLY WITH GREATER FLEXIBILITY

Perhaps the most unexpected feature of today's CAD/technical printers is their impressive versatility. From durable pigment ink to PrecisionCore® print heads that provide superior line accuracy, color accuracy and consistency across a wide range of media, the SureColor T-Series delivers world-class CAD/technical professional imaging.

With hybrid home-office work life likely to become the new normal, having the flexibility to print professional CAD/technical documents directly from a home office is no longer just a nice-to-have—it's nearly essential. With workers splitting their time between office and home, there's even less time to wait, and production quality printers must be faster and better connected than ever before.

[Click here to learn more about the Epson SureColor T-Series line of printers.](#)

