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| Storage  Medium | Method | Portability | Durability and Reliability |
| CD (Compact Disc) | Optical | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯  Fairly portable. Too big to fit in pocket but easily fit into bag | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯  Not very reliable - Can be easily scratched. Scratching can cause data to become corrupt. Needs protecting from extreme heat. |
| DVD (Digital  Versatile Disc) | Optical | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯  Fairly portable. Too big to fit in pocket but easily fit into bag | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯  Not very reliable - Can be easily scratched. Scratching can cause data to become corrupt. Needs protecting from extreme heat. |
| Blu-ray Disc | Optical | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯  Fairly portable. Too big to fit in pocket but easily fit into bag | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯  Not very reliable - Can be easily scratched. Scratching can cause data to become corrupt. Needs protecting from extreme heat. |
| Floppy Disk | Magnetic | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯  (4.5 Stars)  Will fit in good-sized pocket but larger than a USB stick. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯  Unreliable - Can be snapped easily. Can be damaged if exposed to strong magnets or extreme heat. |
| Internal Hard  Disk | Magnetic | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯  Not designed to be portable. Is attached directly to the computer chassis. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯  Fairly reliable but can be damaged if dropped or exposed to extreme heat or strong magnetic fields. |
| External Hard  Disk | Magnetic | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯  Fairly portable. Comes in various sizes but normally larger than a CD / USB stick. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯  Fairly reliable but can be damaged if dropped or exposed to extreme heat or strong magnetic fields. |
| Flash drive (USB stick or memory card) | Solid State | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯  Very portable. Easily fit in pocket. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯  (4.5 Stars)  Usually very reliable - Very durable. Not affected by magnets or extreme temperatures. USB connector can be snapped off with force rendering the device unusable. Data can become corrupt if not ejected correctly. |
| Solid State Drive (Internal) | Solid State | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯  Fairly portable. Comes in various sizes but normally larger than a CD. | **Rating:** ✯✯✯✯✯  Very reliable **-** Very durable. Not affected by magnets or extreme temperatures. Can be dropped without damaging contents. |