

BY WYNNE EVERETT | GATEHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Buying a printer for your home office seemed like a great idea until the costs of ink, paper and power started piling up. But you can maximize your budget - Gadget SOS guru Gregg Steiner had these suggestions for making the most of your home office printer:

**Go with laser instead of ink jet** While bargain models are available in both styles, Steiner says you will save money in the long run with a laser printer model.

**Get a surge protector** Without a surge protector, your electronics draw power even when they're turned off. Steiner suggests investing in a smart-model surge protector for your printer and other office equipment, and although it's more expensive than the older variety, it's worth the extra cost, he said.

**Consider an all-in-one office printer** Machines that print, fax and scan documents can be a good investment for a home office. They're generally well made and save space by doing the work of three appliances. "These have come a long way from the original models," he said.

**Look for deals on bulk paper** Paper in slickly packaged small bundles at high-end office supply stores isn't any better than the bargain brand. "If you buy the generic kind, it's all the same quality," he said.

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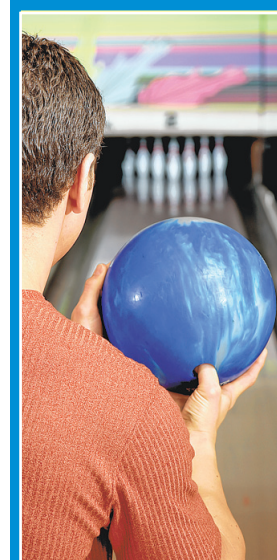
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