

Buyer's Checklist

10 questions to ask before you buy a channel-letter 3D printer

Investing in a channel-letter 3D printer is a big decision. Use this checklist to compare any machine on the things that actually affect your output and your margins - not just the spec-sheet headlines. Tick the boxes as you go.

- ☐ **1. Build size & throughput**
Does the build size fit my typical letter sizes and volumes, with some headroom? Too small bottlenecks big jobs; too large is capacity you won't use.
- ☐ **2. Lighting effects**
Can it produce the effects my clients want - front-lit, halo, side-lit, RGB, liquid/sheet-acrylic faces, infinity mirror? The wider the range, the more work you can say yes to.
- ☐ **3. Software & ease of use**
How does artwork become a printed letter, and how much 3D skill does it take? One-click file generation from vector art means a sign maker, not a specialist, can run it.
- ☐ **4. Automation & labour**
Can it run unattended / overnight, and can one person manage several machines? Unattended production scales output without scaling headcount.
- ☐ **5. Running costs**
What does it cost to run - electricity and filament per letter? A few pounds of filament and pennies of power protect your margin over the machine's life.
- ☐ **6. Materials**
What materials does it use, and is a signage-grade material available? Signage-grade material is what delivers even illumination and outdoor durability.
- ☐ **7. UK support & spares**
Is it assembled and supported in the UK, with locally stocked spare parts? Downtime is lost revenue — distant support can turn a small fault into a long delay.
- ☐ **8. Training**
Is training included, and how quickly will my team be productive? On-site training should have you producing from day one.
- ☐ **9. Warranty**
What warranty is provided? It signals how much the manufacturer stands behind the machine.
- ☐ **10. Finance**
Are finance or leasing options available? Spreading the cost lets the machine pay for itself from the work it produces.

Tip: score each machine out of 10. The right printer for your shop is the one that ticks the boxes that matter to your work — not necessarily the cheapest or the biggest.

Ready to compare machines for your shop?

Book a demo or request a quote and we'll help you choose the right machine - not the most expensive one. Visit sg3dprinters.com or get in touch today.