

# Matchup: Single-Sided vs. Dual-Sided Card Printers

Which type of card printer is best for your application?

The heart of an ID card printing program is the ID card printer. One of the first decisions you'll need to make when choosing a printer is whether you'll need a single- or dual-sided printer.

What's the difference? And how do you know which is best for you?

Simply put, a single-sided printer prints on one side of your cards and a dual-sided printer prints on both sides of your cards in one process. Here are a few considerations to help you make a decision:

## Single-Sided ID Card Printers

Single-sided photo ID printers print on one side of your card in one pass. Most single-sided ID badge printers are lightweight and compact in size, making them ideal for any workstation.

### Is it right for me?

Single-sided card printers work well for those needing basic ID cards with limited cardholder information (cards with only the employee name, photo, and company logo, for example).

**TIP:** Some single-sided ID badge printers can be upgraded to two-sided card printing as your needs change. So if your needs may change in the future, opt for a printer that is upgradeable!

## Dual-Sided ID Card Printers

Dual-sided ID badge printers (aka, duplex printers) print to both sides of your card in one pass, eliminating the time consuming process of manually flipping your cards. They also help prevent smudging your cards or damaging your printhead from unnecessary handling.

### Is it right for me?

Choose a dual-sided printer if you want the front of your cards to remain clean and uncluttered. Printing some of your cardholder info on the back of your cards will keep the front of your cards looking their best!



Dual-sided printers allow you to add additional information to your cards, such as:

**Additional Card Holder Data:** birth date, contact info, etc.

**Schedule/Calendar:** listing of upcoming events, sales, activities, holidays, etc.

**Rewards/Membership:** program requirements, contact information, expiration date

**Disclaimer/Lost Card:** property information, how to return a lost card

**TIP:** Another way to use dual-sided printers is to print your card design on both sides of your card. That way, no matter which way the card is turned, the ID is always visible.

### Can I print on both sides of my cards with a single-sided printer?

Technically yes, you can print one side of your cards with a single-sided ID card printer, load them back into your card hopper, and send them through your printer again to print the other side.

However, it's not recommended because:

- Damage to a printhead from this type of non-standard use may void printer warranty coverage.
- When you handle your cards after printing them, the cards will collect dust and debris from the air and oils from your hands. These contaminants can result in costly printhead damage.
- It's time consuming.



Ready to get started? [Shop Single-Sided ID Card Printers](#) | [Shop Dual-Sided ID Card Printers](#)

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