

AED

Buyer's Guide



What is an AED?

We help you understand the world of defibs! They may seem like technical, professional devices; but they're actually all designed to be user-friendly and simple for anyone to operate.



An AED, or Automated External Defibrillator is a life-saving device which is used to deliver a shock of electricity to a victim of cardiac arrest. Cardiac arrest (also known as a cardiopulmonary arrest) is where a person's heart cannot give a normal circulation of blood as the heart is failing to beat a regular rhythm; delivering a shock from a defibrillator stops the heart, allowing the heart to restore a natural rhythm and ultimately save a life.

Delivering this life-saving shock used to be a role only fitted for healthcare professionals, Paramedics, Nurses and Doctors; however these devices have now been specially adapted to ensure anyone (trained or untrained) can use it to save a life! Now accessible in local communities and public locations all over the UK, from train stations to swimming pools, to offices and shopping centres. Chances are if it's a public place, there'll be a defibrillator available on-site to ensure your safety.

Why buy from defibshop?

As well as being the UK's largest online supplier, defibshop is the ONLY company in the which stocks and sells defibrillators, electrode pads, batteries, cabinets and carry cases from EVERY defibrillator manufacturer that sells their products! This means we are also the only company that can give you completely honest and impartial advice on exactly which defib meets your needs and budget, giving you total peace of mind.

experienced CPR and AED trainers who will come to your premises and teach your staff on a training defibrillator safely, promptly and effectively. As we stock AEDs from every manufacturer, we can offer training on the training unit of your model. The training defib will be exactly the same as the clinical AED you own on-site; allowing your staff to build their confidence should they ever need to use it.

Defibshop is also the only company with its own team of expert and



Common Features

AEDs come with a variety of features, some of which are common to all but other features can be unique to a specific model or manufacturer. This helps you decide what kind of defib is going to fit in with your needs, it's then up to us to make sure you purchase the right model to fit your requirements.



Ease of Use

Although AEDs seem super advanced, they are designed to be easy to use; even if you've never been trained to use one! There are two types of units available; Semi-Automatic or a Fully Automatic defibrillator. The difference between the two is simple; with a semi-auto model, you control the delivery of the shock using the shock button and with a fully, the unit will deliver the shock automatically – leaving you to concentrate on chest compressions, which the defibrillator also talks you through on both devices. All defibs comes with a voice prompt and a visual prompt of some kind, however they differ in terms of how detailed they are! Language options are also available on some defibrillators. These kinds of feature options should be considered when deciding which AED is best for you, but remember – all defibs are easy-to-use.

Warranty

Every single AED we sell comes with a manufacturer's warranty which range from 5 to 10 years; giving you total peace of mind with your investment.

Biphasic Waveform

All AEDs are designed to give a biphasic waveform – a type of shock given to the patient when suffering from Cardiac Arrest. The shock is achieved when two pads are placed on the body of a casualty, creating a circuit for the shock to travel through to the heart. This has been tried, tested and confirmed to be more effective than monophasic shock!

Reliability

We hope that you will never need to use your AED, but if you do, you can trust your defib will always be in working order! All defibrillator perform daily, weekly or monthly self checks of circuitry and battery levels, giving you peace of mind that your device is functioning correctly, ready use. Having your defib stored in a wall bracket is great as it allows a centralised location for you to notice and fix any warnings. If a problem with the device was to arise, the AED would inform you with a visible or audible alarm, handy for keeping on top of your AED's maintenance! Storing your defib on the wall is also useful for alerting people in the environment of its location and easy accessibility.

Training

If you make only one other optional purchase, then purchasing an effective training programme will be the best investment for you. Providing effective training has actually proven a more effective rescue in a real-life emergency situation, it will also build your staff's confidence and allow them to experience an AED on their own terms. At defibshop we offer the most comprehensive AED user course available which exceeds current UK Resuscitation Council guidelines, helping your staff become comfortable with your chosen device and also teaching them to give effective CPR! Providing your rescuers with effective training will increase their self-belief and could be the very thing which saves a life.

Wall Cabinet

A wall cabinet will keep your investment safe from dust or moisture, but it will also alert everyone to the location of your AED should they need it during an emergency situation. You can choose your cabinet based on material to suit its environment, and whether to have it equipped with or without audible alarms and strobe light alarms. These features can also help signal that an emergency situation is taking place, as well as deter thieves!

Spare Battery

It's a common case of Murphy's law for your batteries to expire in the very instance that you need them, it is actually the primary source of failure in all electronic devices! Although each unit has an alarm which sounds when the battery is due to expire, it's good practice to have a spare battery on hand to make sure your AED is ready to go at all times.

Unique AED Features

Colour, size and weight

All AEDs are designed differently depending on manufacturer, but whilst each one has its own personal flair, all have the soul-purpose to look as appealing as possible to the user. Each defib is designed to look friendly and non-threatening whilst still being compact and lightweight, perfect to be placed alongside first aid kits or in rescue bags for easy portability! Some units are even designed with an inbuilt carry handle to make them easily mobile for the user. With this in mind, you can rest assure that your defibrillator will deliver a life-saving shock regardless of what colour, size or design you choose.

Shock Levels: Fixed Energy V Escalating Energy

As we mentioned before, all the AEDs we sell deliver a biphasic shock, but the way this is delivered can be one of two ways. An AED with fixed energy delivery has

fixed energy levels, which mean the first and all shocks following will be delivered at the same energy level, typically 300/350 joules. An AED with escalated energy delivery provides escalating energy levels; the first shock may be delivered at 150 joules, and then followed by a higher energy level, typically around 200 joules and then a third shock at 300 joules which would be then the set amount for following shocks.

Manufacturers may claim their method of delivery is the most effective, however there has been no actual research to suggest one is better than the other, so it's best to go with your personal preference if this is an important factor to your needs.

Manual Override

Manual override is a function which can only be found on certain defibs, which allows the user to have more control over how the rescue process. This is essentially great for medical professionals as it has the ability to override the visual and/or voice prompts and the analysing stage to give a shock, allowing you to take control of the rescue from your professional opinion. We advise that only medically trained users purchase a defib with a manual override feature to ensure the most effective shock is given.

Battery Life

Battery life is a very important factor when choosing which AED to invest in, as with the defibrillator you buy, you will have to replace the battery over time, regardless of use. We also provide a free reminder

service for your battery which will alert you one month before expiry. It is crucial to ensure your AED battery is constantly working and replaced when it needs to be, this will give you peace of mind that your defib is working and ready to use when you need it!

Rechargeable Batteries

Some defibs come with the option to buy rechargeable batteries for the device; these are not available to all defibs. The defibrillators with rechargeable battery options are usually more higher-scale units and come with additional features such as ECG screens and manual override capability. These units are more popular with healthcare professionals and clinical use where the AED may be used more frequently, in this case a rechargeable battery is handy to ensure full battery levels at all times and also helps to reduce the cost of ownership.

Electrode Self Test

All defibrillators complete self tests to ensure everything is in working order for use! This includes the checking of internal circuitry and battery levels which is done automatically by the defib and will alert the user of any problems.

Some devices check that the electrode pads are connect to the AED and Cardiac Science AEDs even check the efficiency of the gel on those pads so you can be completely satisfied that every element of the AED will work when you need to use it!

Carry Case

Not all AEDs come equipped with a carry case, so it's a good idea to protect your investment by purchasing a soft or hard carry case. Having a carry case is also beneficial for carrying other items essential during a rescue such as gloves, pocket masks, towels, scissors, razors or spare electrode pads; allowing you to keep your life-saving equipment accessible and to hand at all times!

Spare Electrodes/Paediatric pads

As electrode pads are single use only, we always advise for you to keep a spare pair with your rescue kit. Giving you peace of mind that should one pair become compromised or used, you have another pair to be able to successfully complete the rescue process. A defib has the ability to offer a life-saving shock to both adults and children; however this can only be achieved by changing the electrode pads to special paediatric electrodes, which allow the AED to reduce the energy levels, providing a shock which is safe for a child's size and frame. An alternative method for use of a paediatric key – whilst it is not available for all defibs, for those it is available for, removes the need for paediatric pads and can reduce the amount of shock quickly and efficiently. Some defibs even come with a switch which alters the amount of shock given depending on whether it is set to "Adult" or "Child"; this is incredibly beneficial for environments which is inhabited mainly by children, where the defib can easily be altered without the need of changing paediatric pads.



ECG Display

An ECG is a record of the electrical rhythm and electrical activity of your heart and appears on screen in a graph style display; useful for those who are medically trained as it allows the rescuer to track the progress of the victim's heart rate. Whilst this is a nifty addition to your life-saving defibrillator, it is not a required feature and can be distracting to a less-confident or untrained user. A defib with an ECG are also found typically on the more expensive and professional AED models, so you can save yourself an unnecessary expense by not having ECG functionality.



IP Ratings

Every defibrillator comes with an IP rating, however each design of defibrillator has a unique code, allowing you to make your decision based on your environment and needs. An IP rating establishes exactly how protected your defibrillator is in terms of common elements, the first number demonstrating its protection level against dust and the second water, the higher the number the more protection it has. For example an AED with an IP rating of IP64 means it is substantially protected from dust and splashing water; this would make it an ideal defibrillator to have in an outside environment or a leisure centre, knowing that should any water splash onto the device, it will still function perfectly should it be needed for a rescue process.



Visual Prompts

All AEDs are equipped with visual prompts, due to current guidance from the UK resuscitation Council who advise AED users to follow the voice and visual prompts of the AED they are using. Whilst a visual prompt can be found on all defibs, manufacturers have taken their own routes into how to present visual guidance, meaning a lot of them vary into how detailed they are for the user!

Some units opt for simplicity and display the elapsed time between shocks, number of shocks delivered and CPR guidance using an LCD text solution. Others have gone to the other end of the spectrum and have animations of the full rescue sequence presented on the AEDs. Similar to the voice prompts, you need to think about who will be using the unit and how much guidance you feel your potential users may need from your AED; this is something we can help with when you're looking to purchase your defibrillator.



Voice Prompts

A built-in voice prompt to guide the user through the rescue process is a great element of an AED, and whilst this is a feature all defibrillators have, what makes them different is how much detail they provide to guide the user. Some units are very specific in their vocal coaching, taking you step by step on how to prepare the casualty for a shock, and even talking

you through the CPR process and how to administer it in the correct rhythm. This is a great option for those who are untrained or a not-so confident defib user as it helps them provide a more effective rescue!

Other units will go quiet during this process only offering information such as elapsed time to next analysis. This is more appealing to healthcare professionals as they practice their skills so much, they would prefer not to use the voice prompts. There are also devices which allow you to choose either option by simple pressing a button on the unit, suiting all users' needs.

Try before you buy? Check out our product video demos at defibshop, or come in and see us! This will allow you to experience every AED before you make your decision!



Accessories

There are lots of essential as well as optional extras to consider when choosing your defibrillator. All AEDs come already equipped with a battery and at least one set of adult electrode pads, however as all pads are single use only, we always advise you buy a second pair to keep with your rescue kit! When comparing AEDs, be sure you're looking at everything each unit comes with to assess its real value; some come supplied with an additional set of adult electrode pads, a carry case or an extra battery, reducing your overall cost to your investment! Our ongoing costs page will help you to evaluate the added investment with your AED.

Wall Signs

A Wall Sign is an essential purchase to ensure your life-saving AED is visible and easily located in the event of an emergency. Available in a range of sizes and with varying degrees of informations, we'll help you find the right size for your environment.

Finance Options

At defibshop, we understand that the total cost of the products you would like to purchase may be out of your price range; this is why we offer a finance option where the overall cost is split over a few years! This can be useful where tax is concerned as well as your company funds.



Buying Tips

Purchasing a defibrillator involves some very important purchasing considerations. At defibshop, we advise that you should purchase an AED which looks non-threatening that your rescuers will be comfortable to use, purchase an AED which is within your budget and consider the cost of replacement batteries and electrode pads over the term of your defibrillator ownership.

It is also a good idea to consider optional items such as training and accessories to ensure your rescuers are confident with handling the AED and performing the rescue process in an emergency situation!

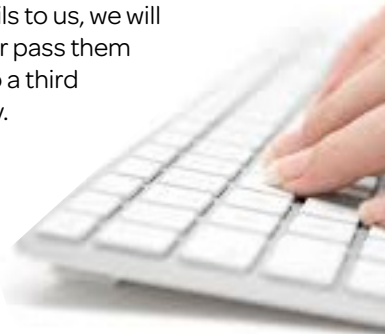


How to order

If you want to learn a little bit more, our website has lots of information, downloads and videos to answer all the questions you might have at defibshop. Alternatively, you can call **015079907** to speak to one of our customer care team about any of our defibrillators, accessories or training options. Be sure to have your questions or considerations (including budget, environment & location) at the ready to help us locate your perfect defibrillator as quick as we can!

Absolute Privacy

We are registered with the Data Protection Agency, so you can rest assure that when you give your details to us, we will never pass them on to a third party.



Secure Shopping

We can guarantee, whether you decide to order by phone, fax, email or on the web that your order will be safe and secure. We accept all major credit and debit cards; or if you prefer we can issue your accounts department with an invoice.



Pre approved & Government Purchase Orders

You can fax or email your government or NHS purchase order for immediate dispatch.

