CD burning FAQ

1. What is burning a CD? Do I need a match?
Burning a CD means using a laser to record (burn) data on the disc. So no, you don’t need a match unless you want to destroy it. (See point 10 below)

2. What is the difference between CD-R and CD-RW?
A CD-R can be written to one time until the disk is full. A CD-RW can be erased and written to again.

3. Which one do I want to use?
This depends on what you will be using it for. CD-RW’s are good if you are making CD’s for test purposes for instance, or if you are using them to move data between computers for instance. For most things though, CD-R is best, especially if you are going to send it to another person.

4. Do I want to finalize the session or the disc? What does this mean?
Finalizing or closing the disc means that you cannot write to the disk anymore. Finalizing the session means you can add more data later, until the disk is full. Set a disc to finalize the disc if you want everyone to be able to read it (i.e. very old computers).

5. My disc didn’t work, but now it does not? How do I clean it?
The best thing to do is use a soft tissue paper and wipe off the grease smudge. Now, I have used windex and a paper towel before, and have never had a problem. The important thing to remember is to always handle them by the edge to avoid getting fingerprints on them.

6. Do I need to get a cleaning disc for my CD drive?
These devices are made and sold, however, I have never had need to use one. Considering there is no physical contact between the CD and the reader, I don’t think this is needed. This sounds like a good idea, and was, when our stereos were using 8-track and cassette tapes, and even our 5¼ floppies touched the head in the drive, but CD’s use a laser beam, and a beam of light never gets dirty.

7. I have heard XP allows writing to the CD directly. Is this true? How do I do it?
The SNR computers have had this function turned off. Please use Roxio’s EZ-CD Creator.

8. Can I use my CD-R disc again after I have already written to it?
Yes you can if you did not finalize the CD.

9. How do I erase a CD?
You can only erase CD-RW’s, not CD-R’s.

10. I have a CD with sensitive data on it that I want to dispose of. What is the best way to do this?
    Break the disc by folding it in half. (Or you can throw it in a fire)
11. What are 5 simple steps to burn a CD or DVD?
   1. Use Roxio EZ-CD creator on Desktop
   2. Select Data CD/DVD project
   3. Choose CD or DVD
   4. Drag and drop files into the Project
   5. Press the Burn button in lower right

11. What is the difference between DVD-R and DVD+R?
These are two different ways the data is recorded on the disk. While any DVD drive
supposedly can read either format, for absolute safety, I recommend using DVD-R
format.

12. What is the difference between a combo-drive and super-drive?
Combo drives can read DVD’s and write CD’s. Super drives write CD’s as well as
DVD’s. Again, you have to think about the DVD + or – format, but these days most
drives are DVD+/-R format. This means they can write either kind of disc, which is
good. However, I still recommend using the –R format. This was the first format, and
thus it will work everywhere.