

DIY NAS Planning Checklist for Beginners

This checklist is designed to guide first-time NAS builders through planning, selecting the right components, and preparing for setup. Use it to ensure you don't miss any critical steps!

- Define your NAS purpose (Media server, backups, surveillance, etc.)
- Decide number of users/devices accessing the NAS
- Choose between DIY NAS or Pre-built NAS system
- Select the NAS operating system (e.g., TrueNAS, UnRAID, Synology DSM)
- Determine storage capacity needed (2TB, 4TB, 8TB, etc.)
- Choose RAID level (RAID 0, 1, 5, 6, 10 or none)
- List preferred hard drive models and total bays required
- Confirm network speed needed (1GbE, 2.5GbE, 10GbE)
- Decide NAS placement (ventilated room, noise consideration)
- Check power backup options (UPS recommended)
- Plan for remote access (VPN, port forwarding, dynamic DNS)
- Set security options (user permissions, encryption, firewall)
- Budget estimation (hardware, software, UPS, accessories)
- Optional add-ons (SSD cache, hot-swap bays, fans, etc.)
- Mark purchase links or model numbers for each part