

## **Recordable CDs (CD-R) vs. Rewritable CDs (CD-RW)**

The media used by your purchased software or music was probably a CD (compact disk). If you want to make a copy of it, you could use a CD-R (CD recordable) or a CD-RW (CD rewritable). With the CD-R you can only write to the media once. The CD-RW allows you to write to the media multiple times. While at first glance it may seem that the CD-RW is the better choice, it may not be. It all depends on why you made the copy in the first place.

If you want to use the copy only on the machine on which the copy was made, you can use either CD-R or CD-RW. If you want to use the copy on another machine, you should use CD-R. While it is possible that another machine could read the CD-RW, there is no guarantee. Sometimes a person using a CD-RW finds that a copy of a music CD will play on his computer but not on his portable CD player. The differences between the two have to do with the manufacturing and optical technologies.