

CD ROM Conversion Factors
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Convincing people of the merits of CD ROMs is easy if you are able to quote the equivalent information capacity in whatever terms that will mean the most to the person concerned. Here are a few that have worked for me:

One CD ROM is equivalent to 150,000 sheets of paper (8 1/2 x 11", normal text, printed on both sides), which weighs about 1,500 pounds, takes up 15 feet of shelf space, and requires 8 trees to produce.

One CD ROM is equivalent to 800 floppy disks, which would make a stack 7 feet high, weighing 36 pounds.

One CD ROM would require one month of continuous downloading from an online service at 2400 baud, costing \$3,600 at a typical minimum rate of \$5/hour.