



Essential colocation checklist

Select your colocation provider with confidence

While the criteria for selecting a colocation provider can vary according to your organization's specific needs, this checklist will help you consider which **factors to consider when choosing a colocation provider**.

Data Center Feature	Yes	No	Notes
Colocation Provider - General Information			
Customer references			
Owns/operates multiple data centers			
Offers geographic diversity/redundancy			
Core competency is developing and delivering IT infrastructure (data center and network) solutions			
Written Service Level Agreement			
Enterprise-class cloud services			
Diverse range of managed services			
Software optimized data center infrastructure			
Best-of-breed technologies and equipment			
Documented current business continuity, disaster recovery and emergency preparedness plans			
Provides access to documentation (possibly under NDA) expressing its processes, procedures, project management, security, emergency and other practices			
Power			
Backup generators on-site			
More than one day of fuel on site			
Multiple emergency refuel contracts in place			
Uninterruptible Conditioned Power			
UPS available			
Power density across entire data center			
High density cooling capability 80 + kW per cabinet			

Data Center Feature	Yes	No	Notes
Uninterruptible Conditioned Power <small>continued</small>			
Branch circuit monitoring in place of electrical circuits			
Overhead cabling capability			
Under-the-floor cabling capability			
Air Handling			
Redundant modular computer room air conditioner/computer room air handling units			
High efficiency raised floor			
High efficiency chilled water system			
Variable speed controls			
Liquid Cooling Capabilities			
Rear heat exchangers			
Immersion			
Direct-to-chip			
Compliance/Audits/Certifications			
SSAE 16 audited			
PCI DSS compliant			
HIPAA compliant			
All of the above in cloud			
Energy Efficiency			
Motion-activated lighting			
Variable frequency drive chillers			
Variable frequency drive pumps			
Variable frequency drive cooling towers			
Variable frequency drive air handlers			
White coated roof			
Physical Structure			
New or renovated in last 10 years			
Clients have room for significant growth			
Built or modified to withstand local severe weather conditions or natural disasters			
Easily accessible from airport/highway			
Overall cleanliness			
Truck/shipping bays easily available			

Data Center Feature	Yes	No	Notes
Physical Structure <small>continued</small>			
Capable of unloading large trailers			
Secure storage			
Managed shipping and receiving			
Physical Security			
Biometric fingerprint screening			
Multifactor authentication system			
Card/Personal Identification Number (PIN)			
Combination or key lock cabinets			
All doors alarmed and monitored			
Exterior landscaping to prevent concealment of intruders			
Customer defined access lists			
Visitor tracking			
Locking cabinets, cages, suites and modules			
Private access control systems permitted			
24/7/365 customer access			
24/7/365 monitored by another location			
Environmental Controls			
Single-point grounding system			
UL approved perimeter lightning protection system			
Discreet PLC/BMS automation			
Redundant controllers			
Fire detection/prevention/VESDA			
Interlocked, pre-action dry pipe and gas fire suppression			
Leak detection			
Self-service portal (DCIM) humidity, temperature and power consumption			
Network Connectivity			
Direct connectivity to leading cloud service providers			
Software-defined interconnection			
User-friendly portal with on-demand provisioning			
Carrier cross-connects			
Carrier-agnostic			
Diverse fiber entry vaults			

Data Center Feature	Yes	No	Notes
Network Connectivity <small>continued</small>			
Multiple network providers on-site with gateway access			
Enterprise-grade blended Internet bandwidth w/multiple connections (minimum 10 GB)			
Multiple private connections (minimum 1 GB) to other data centers			
Dark fiber available			
Support Services			
Remote hands			
Rack and stack			
Cabling			
24/7/365 Technical Assistance Center (TAC) with on-site operations and technical support			
Customer Amenities			
Customer work areas			
Conference room/war room availability			
Wi-Fi			
Lounge			
Disaster recovery planning assistance			
Environmental Controls			
Single-point grounding system			
UL approved perimeter lightning protection system			
Discreet PLC/BMS automation			
Redundant controllers			
Fire detection/prevention/VESDA			
Interlocked, pre-action dry pipe and gas fire suppression			
Leak detection			
Self-service portal (DCIM) humidity, temperature and power consumption			

Contact us for more help choosing a colocation provider that will accelerate your hybrid IT journey. Our team of experts is ready to meet any business challenge or infrastructure goal.