



About Your Tape Drive

The internal DDS-3 tape backup drive and accompanying software can perform full or partial backup and restore procedures for all of the data on your hard disks. In addition, the drive automatically performs error correction and data compression of the files that you back up and restore. The error-correction feature helps ensure a high level of data integrity. The data-compression feature allows more data to fit on a cassette than do conventional backup mechanisms.

Compatible Tapes

Your tape drive is fully compatible with tapes in DDS-3, DDS-2, DDS, and DDS-DC format. For best performance, use Sony Digital Data Storage (DDS) computer-grade tape, part number DGD 125P, with 12 gigabyte (GB) capacity (125 meters/410 feet).

Inserting and Ejecting Tapes

Once you insert a tape, it takes about 24 seconds for it to load. When you eject a tape, it takes about 20 seconds for it to unload.

Cleaning the Tape-Drive Heads

Your tape drive comes with a cleaning cassette that you should use to clean the tape-drive heads. The intervals at which you clean the tape drive depends on how often you use it. In general, if you back up daily, you should clean the tape drive weekly. If you back up weekly, you should clean the tape drive once a month. You should also clean the tape drive when the status light shows a Flash-2 pattern. Status lights are described in the next section.

When you insert the cleaning cassette into the drive, the drive automatically loads it and cleans the heads. When the cleaning process is completed, the drive automatically ejects the cassette. Keep a record of how many times you use the cleaning cassette. After 25 uses, replace it. For best results, replace the cleaning cassette with Sony part number DG5CL/2.

Status Lights

Underneath the tape drive opening are three lights that inform you of the status of tape operations. The lights are labeled (left to right) Busy, Tape, and Status.

The following table lists what a light indicates when it is on, off, or flashing a pattern.

Light behavior	Busy	Tape	Status
Off	Not busy	Not loaded	
Steady on	SCSI active	Loaded	Tape is write-protected
Flash 1 ¹	Drive active	Loading/unloading	Cleaning tape inserted
Flash 2 ²		Warning—tape has high number of errors	Cleaning needed
Flash 3 ³	Waiting for tape to reset	Waiting for tape to eject	
Flash 4 ⁴		Wrong firmware tape inserted	Self-test failure

¹ Flash 1—the light flashes .25 seconds on, .25 seconds off.

² Flash 2—the light flashes 3.5 seconds on, .5 seconds off.

³ Flash 3—the light flashes .25 seconds on, one second off.

⁴ Flash 4—the light flashes twice every 1.25 seconds.

Operating Environment

The tape drive will not operate properly in high humidity. Be sure to adhere to the environmental requirements for the server described in the technical information that came with your computer. In addition, follow the recommendations for use that came with your tape cassette.

Follow these guidelines to avoid temperature problems:

- Avoid exposing cassettes to extreme heat or cold. For example, don't store a cassette in a car in bright sunlight.
- Avoid transferring data to or from a tape cassette when the temperature is changing by more than 10 degrees F per hour (roughly 5 degrees C per hour).