

What Are The Best Offline Advertising Options for Your Money!

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**“He that controls others may be powerful,
but he who has mastered himself is mightier still.”**

- Lao Tsu

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Advertising Medium Comparisons-

All business owners are eventually confronted with a serious dilemma --how to advertise, and in which medium, and which offers the best deal for each dollar spent.

Do newspaper ads out pull radio spots; or is the power of television the only way to go? The answer is different for each business, each situation, each location and each product.

The following are the pros and cons of each medium.

Knowing these can help you decide which medium is right for advertising your product.

NEWSPAPERS:

The Good-

- ✓ It's fast. An ad in a magazine may take three months to break. A newspaper ad can come out the next day. If you need business fast, this is great.
- ✓ Newspapers have wide array of editorial topic selection to match what you are advertising. For example, if you are selling car parts, you can place your ad in the paper's automotive section, or have it placed next to news stories about cars. Newspapers also have international news, local news, etc., all of which help you focus your advertising effort.
- ✓ You get a lot of room, if you need it. Remember, long copy always sells better than short copy. The broad area of a newspaper page is ideal for long copy.
- ✓ Newspapers can insert your catalog, flyer or whatever preprinted materials you might have.
- ✓ You can use them to distribute reader response items, such as coupons, contest entry forms, surveys, and other such things.
- ✓ Newspapers can reach large numbers of people, depending on circulation.

Large urban dailies, for example, may easily reach 1 or 2 million potential buyers overnight.

- ✓ They are available nationally, regionally, or locally.
- ✓ Newspapers allows you to reach possible non-readers who might be part of your secondary target audience.
- ✓ Tends to be cheaper than other media, depending on a number of variables.
- ✓ Newspaper ads are easier to produce, and thus less costly. A TV ad, for example, may require special effects, actors and video footage, etc.
- ✓ Newspapers are good for repeat exposure, a vital element of effective advertising. Readers need to see something an average of six to eight times before they "see" an ad or respond to it.
- ✓ Newspapers can reach people who otherwise have little access to other media.
- ✓ Many people buy newspapers not for the news, but to find out what's on sale today, or what's happening today. Movie ads are a prime example.
- ✓ They have better local market penetration than magazines.
- ✓ You have more options in terms of space and unusual ad configurations.
- ✓ You can use dealer listings.

The Bad-

- x Newspapers tend to charge relatively high-cost premiums for less than full-run purchases.
- x They are flat. In other words, they don't beep, squeak, blast and make noise and colorful moving images as do radio and TV.
- x Do not have the reach other media forms do, such as national magazines.

- x Are not conducive to last minute changes because of tight printing schedules.
- x Large space ads are very expensive and their longevity is fleeting.
- x Ads in newspaper tend to compete heavily with other ads on the page. Clutter is not good for your ad, but in a newspaper, there is usually a lot of clutter.
- x Use of color is poor, and does not equal that of magazines color quality.
- x Tend to deliver to only an adult audience. If you have products targeted at teens or even college students, a newspaper probably won't reach these people.
- x Newspapers are usually only viewed by one person at a time.

RADIO:

The Good-

- ✓ Radio offers a wide array of formats which can reach listeners during a specific state of mind, which can complement a specific advertising message. Many people listen to radio while driving to and from work, others listen in the evening while relaxing next to a cozy fire.
- ✓ Delivers your message to everyone in the room or car at the same time.
- ✓ Is fast. Your ad could be heard the next day if production is available, ad copy is written and studio time is available.
- ✓ Radio advertising is intrusive- it butts in on your listening, and your only option is to listen or change the channel (or simply shut it off)!
- ✓ Reaches a national, regional or local audience.
- ✓ Can be effectively targeted to consumer segments, such as teenagers vs. seniors, or men vs. women.

- ✓ Can be repeated often, thus driving the message home. Once again, repetition is the heart of effective advertising.
- ✓ Radio ads can be heard 24 hours a day.
- ✓ Radio can reach people as they are on their way to the store. Messages delivered just prior to actual shopping are very powerful.
- ✓ Tends to be cheaper per announcement than either TV or print, and in fact, is probably the most cost efficient of all media.
- ✓ Uses "theater of the mind." Radio uses voice and sound effects to conjure up images in the listener's mind by engaging the human imagination. This can be more powerful than any pre-developed TV image or still photograph.
- ✓ Reaches people who do not like to read newspapers or magazines, or people who do not view outdoor mediums, such as billboards, and those who do not like TV.

The Bad:

- x Most people have the radio on "for noise." That is, they are usually otherwise engaged with something while listening, and often are only half-listening.
- x Repetition is more important to overcome general lack of attention on behalf of the listener, and thus, you have to spend more for more spots, which can not make up for the lower cost.
- x Makes it difficult for the listener to take physical action as a result of the advertising message. For example, most listeners do not have a pen in hand when they hear an 800 number to call or an address to remember.
- x You generally need more up-front money to buy up the large number of spots you need to get the job done.
- x Is not visual, and many people retain better what they can see than what they hear. Also does not move, another aspect of capturing individual attention.

TELEVISION:

The Good-

- ✓ Is usually provided in vivid exciting color, and color is a prime motivator of the human mind.
- ✓ Uses all elements of sight, sound and movement at once to form a powerful package that hits on all level of human senses (except touch and smell).
- ✓ Can deliver your message to all people in a room simultaneously.
- ✓ Is fast, but not as fast as newspapers or radio because it tends to require more production.
- ✓ Like radio it is intrusive. The customer does not have to seek out the ad, like they must to find a movie listing or a rummage sale. The ad comes to the viewer.
- ✓ Available nationally, regionally, or locally.
- ✓ Television ads can be purchased to focus on concentrated geographical areas, especially with the advent of cable.
- ✓ Has a wide variety of programming to match the nature or subject matter of your ad. Want to sell rock-n-roll CDs? Buy ads during Beavis and Buttthead or Melrose Place. Want to sell feminine hygiene products? Buy time during soap operas.
- ✓ TV has more reach than any other medium in terms of all segments of society. Just about everyone watches TV, but not everyone reads newspapers or magazines.
- ✓ Is good for repetition of ads.
- ✓ TV can deliver your ad at any time of the day, 24 hours a day.
- ✓ You can get an exclusive, that is, your ad need not compete with a clutter

of other ads --but you may have to pay dearly for it.

- ✓ Tends to be more cost efficient in terms of the number of responses it produces compared to dollars invested.
- ✓ Is probably best for reaching those people who tend not to use any other form of media.

The Bad-

- x Most often is very cluttered. Your commercial may be sandwiched deep within a string of other commercials, which have long since caused the viewer to head to the refrigerator. Also weakens long-term memory of your product message.
- x Is sometimes hard to get. There are usually a limited number of TV spots available, and you may not get the program you want.
- x Is perhaps the most expensive. There are a lot of production costs related to TV advertising.
- x May be less demographically selective as some other media forms, although cable TV has helped in this category.
- x Your audience can fluctuate widely. If 10,000 people see your ad one night, a mere 100 might see it the next if a high-interest program airs on another channel.
- x TV is cost-inefficient when you are after highly focused target markets.
- x DVDs are helping TV ads get beyond the "invisible ink" problem of broadcast media. A taped program may be viewed again and again. On the other hand; your commercial may be fast forwarded.

MAGAZINES:

The Good-

- ✓ Magazines offer a wide variety of subject matter and editorial focuses to reach readers when they have a state of mind you are looking for. Thus,

you can tailor your message to a high degree of specificity.

- ✓ Magazines have glossy, polished paper that makes color photographs and other graphic elements look like works of art. Your ad will look superb. (That doesn't mean it will sell, however!)
- ✓ Can reach very specific target markets without having to waste time or money on markets you do not care about.
- ✓ Like newspapers, you can have long copy. Full or even multiple pages let you make a pretty long and detailed pitch. Do people really read all that fine print? Yes- If you have their attention and interest!
- ✓ You can insert your catalog, card, flyer or whatever into the magazine.
- ✓ Like newspapers, they allow you to include reader response materials, such as coupons, entry or order forms, and more.
- ✓ They are not disappearing ink. In fact, magazines are even better on this count than newspapers because people are much more likely to re-read or go over a magazine a second time. Many people even collect magazines or go through them for research in the library, giving your ad the chance to be seen again and again.
- ✓ Can reach a huge audience, easily in the millions with the bigger magazines.
- ✓ Magazines allow for a breathtaking array of creative options: pop-ups, special inks, holograms, unusual space configurations, personalizing elements for each reader of the publication, etc.
- ✓ They have national, regional and local reach.
- ✓ Magazine ads can reach specific demographic segments within the total readership of the magazine. That's because most magazines have departments and areas of specific topic or subject matter, helping you to target your customers.
- ✓ Magazine ads can reach possible non-readers who might be part of an advertiser's secondary target audience.

- ✓ Because they are more highly focused and need less repetition, as in radio, they can actually be more cost effective than any other media form.
- ✓ Frequency of exposure is high, as we said, because magazines are often read more than once and by more than one person. Also, they may read other similar magazines you have targeted for your ads.
- ✓ May reach people that other media do not. Many people prefer to read magazines to newspapers, for example.
- ✓ Magazines can accommodate your listings.

The Bad-

- x One of the biggest drawbacks is the long period before you buy the ad and when it appears. A magazine ad may take three to four months before it appears. If you need fast cash and customers, this is no help. Also, a reader may not get to his or her magazine right away upon receiving it.
- x Tend to be expensive for one-time runs.
- x Does not offer the sound of movement, although some cutting edge ads, such as pop-ups or those with micro-chip insertions are breaching this drawback. These are mega-expensive, however.
- x Because they are more highly focused, they have less reach, which many do not consider a drawback.
- x You must submit your final copy and ad prep many months before deadline. Some magazines have a fast close, and others will call up repeat advertisers with last minute deals, often because they have space to fill or when others back out at the last minute.
- x Although once they start printing, you cannot back out; once you buy a magazine ad, you are locked in no matter what. Refunds are rare.
- x You do not get high frequency unless you buy an entire year's worth, but then readers will see them about once a month for most magazines.
- x You only get exposure to one person at a time, as opposed to a whole room or call-full as in radio or TV.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENTS:

The Good-

- ✓ You get superior quality color on high quality paper, allowing for effective product presentation, if you are willing to pay top dollar.
- ✓ Great for insertions. You know the way it is with all Sunday papers and magazines --lots of extras which many readers actually buy the publication for in the first place. Many people live to scan and clip

coupons.

- ✓ You get ample opportunity for long copy. Sunday magazines are among the best place to make a long, detailed pitch.
- ✓ As we said, people love to clip coupons, and this is the place people will most likely use any kind of special insertion, from coupons to sweepstakes, contests or surveys.
- ✓ Have a better chance of repeat exposure to your ad than newspapers or magazines. People tend to hang onto the Sunday paper longer and also give it a better read because they are more relaxed and have more time on Sunday to linger over the paper.
- ✓ Can reach large numbers of people in a short time.
- ✓ You can get very creative, as you can with magazines. This means pop-ups, special inks, scratch-and-sniff --even insertion of product samples.
- ✓ Distribution of the advertisement to possible nonreaders who might be part of an advertiser's secondary target audience.
- ✓ Because of high readership and better repetition factors; can be a good deal for your scarce advertising dollar.
- ✓ Production costs for your ad will be less than all other media, except for newspapers.
- ✓ Can reach people who do not ordinarily read newspapers or pay attention to other media. Many consider the Sunday paper special.
- ✓ You get immediate delivery to an entire audience --even millions of people --in just one day.
- ✓ They can have national, regional, or local distribution, although national is less likely with most Sundays, except the real biggies, such as the New York Times etc.
- ✓ Sunday publications have a higher penetration and greater readership locally than do competing publications or other media.

✓ You can use dealer listings.

The Bad-

- x Ads do not force themselves on reader as in radio or TV. In other words, they are non intrusive.
- x No sound or movement in general.
- x Usually require advertising materials well in advance of issue date. Some even have a longer lead time than magazines.
- x Relatively inflexible for accommodating last minute changes. Most Sunday ads are set in stone after you issue a check. You won't get a refund.
- x Frequency is lacking because they only come out on Sundays, and people don't make connections from one Sunday to the next, in most cases.
- x Are extremely expensive if you want national or regional coverage.
- x Large space ads are very expensive and they are here today and gone tomorrow most of the time.
- x Again, they are relatively short-lived, and quickly end up lining a bird cage or wrapping a fish.
- x Are not good for delivering ad messages to young people: teens, young adults and children.
- x Most often only expose an ad to one person at a time, unlike radio or TV, which can deliver a message to a roomful of people all at once.

In Closing-

Based on what you have learned above, you should now be in a better position to decide which off-line medium is [initially] best for your business, product or service.

We wish you success!

Sincerely,

Michael J. Keenan