

Preflight Checklist

Overall

Content Goals and Materials Ready

Questions to ask: Call-to-Action and goals set.

Questions to ask: What's the goal of the email? Do the images and copy clearly reflect the goal?

Testing and Metrics Defined

Questions to ask: How have previous campaigns done? Do you have a way to track after clicks (Google Analytics, etc.)? Are you going to set up an A/B Test? Are you unsure about your subject line or content? Do you have time to test?

Time, Schedule and Conditions for Sending

Questions to ask: One-time send, recurring, or triggered? When is it appropriate to send? Are there conflicts with other campaigns? If it's recurring, when is a good time to send? If it's triggered, Is the trigger appropriate to the audience?

Inbox View Appearance

Subject Line Written and Checked

Questions to ask: Does it work with the From Label and Preheader? Look for typos. Is the Subject Line aligned with the main content of the email?

Preheader Written and Checked

Questions to ask: Is it updated? Does it work with the subject line? Check for Typos.

From Label

Questions to ask: Is it appropriate to the content? Does it work with the subject line (e.g. "News Herald Breaking News" allows you to keep your subject line shorter)?

Message View Appearance

Mobile First Design

Questions to ask: How does it look on a mobile phone? How does it look on desktop?

Body Copy

Questions to ask: is it concise? Is it clear and action-oriented? Is there a clear hierarchy? Any typos? Is the Body copy actual text and not just an image?

Images

Questions to ask: Are you including ALT text that describes the image content? Does it link to a landing page?

Call-to-Action Buttons

Questions to ask: Does it link to the right place? Is the language clear? Are there typos?

Footer

Questions to ask: Does it include your physical address? Does it include Unsubscribe Links? Does it have the appropriate disclaimer or compliance language? Are there typos?

Spam Filters

Questions to ask: any trigger phrases? Image to text ratio?

Test Message

Questions to ask: Did you send a test message? Did it work / appear as expected? Can you check appearance in multiple email clients?

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Sending

Audience Chosen

Questions to ask: Are you sending to people who want this email? Do you need to seed or suppress people or groups?

Scheduling

Questions to ask: Have you set a date and confirmed everything is approved and ready?

Coordination and Communication

Questions to ask: Does your boss know it's going out? Does your client know? Is there an approval workflow?

Message Sent

Follow-Up

Reporting: Engagement

Questions to ask: What's the open rate? What's the unsubscribe rate? How many complaints did you get?

Reporting: Actions

Questions to ask: How many clicks did you get? What's the Click-to-open rate?

Reporting: Conversions

Questions to ask: How many people completed the desired steps (purchase, content view, form submission)?

Analysis

How did it perform to your goals? What would you do differently next time? What would you add to this list?