



# Oregon

John Kitzhaber, Governor

## Department of Corrections

Operations Division  
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**Date:** January 17, 2013

**Subject:** Why do MP3 players cost so much?

DOC has received feedback from inmates as well as friends and family about the cost of the MP3 players that are sold on canteen. While it is true that MP3 players purchased on the street are less expensive, there are a number of reasons why the MP3 players we are selling are more costly.

- The Access Corrections Maxx MP3 player has a more advanced chipset/processor than any other MP3 player on the market (retail or any other correctional MP3 players).
- The chipset/processor allows the user to browse songs and make their purchase decision directly from the player.
- The Access Corrections Maxx MP3 player has a cushion inserted behind the screen to protect the chipset by absorbing the shock if dropped.
- The Access Corrections Maxx MP3 player is built with a hardened polymer shell that protects the screen and internal components. The construction of the player needs to be heavier to stand up to a correctional environment and the case must be clear to meet security requirements. Both of those requirements increase the cost.
- The Access Corrections Maxx MP3 player has a high resolution, 240x320 LCD screen that is designed to display crisp, high resolution photos, as compared to cheaper correctional players that have a 128x160 screen resolution.
- The Access Corrections Maxx MP3 player comes with high fidelity inner-ear headphones designed for the high noise levels of the correctional environment. Cheaper correctional players come with standard outer-ear headphones.
- Players you can purchase on the street are not capable of receiving, storing, composing, or sending messages.
- Access Corrections must store all incoming and outgoing messages and photos to meet security needs and the state's records retention requirements. The cost of the storage space affects the cost of the player.
- To load and manage music on a commercially available MP3 player, you need to have a personal computer and pay for an internet connection to download music and store the songs. Access Corrections provides that access through the Music Warden kiosk.
- Access Corrections also stores all the music that inmates purchase and provides a way for them to access all of their music, even if inmates own more than will fit on their MP3 players.
- MP3 players can be used at all prisons across the state.
- Upon release all security features can be removed at the inmate's request and the entire cache of purchased songs will be given to the inmate on CD.