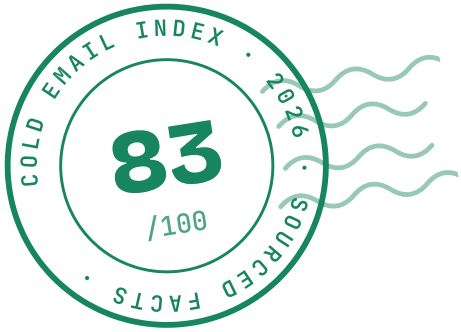
The Best Cold Email Inbox Providers — 2026

52 providers ranked on 20 verifiable conditions, and the honest limit of each of the top ten.

The short version up front: **MailOptimal** takes first place with 83/100. Next: Outreach2day (77), MailDeck (76) and Icemail (73). Scores count the conditions each vendor confirms on its own site, plus up to 25 points for the cost of a working setup.



Report v1.0 — November 2026, next re-score February 2027 · Prices as published on each vendor's site, checked October 31, 2026 — sources on p.13. Vendor verification and corrections: p.14. Online: coldemailindex.com/inbox-providers/

Key findings

The answers up front

$3.15	7/52	19/52	10/52
median price per inbox	include warm-up in the price	replace burned inboxes	trial or money-back

MailOptimal takes first place among 52 inbox providers in the Cold Email Index 2026 with 83/100. The ranking counts only conditions a vendor confirms on its own site — warm-up, DNS setup, placement tests, inbox replacement, inbox types, sending tools, API and MCP access, and buying terms, plus the cost of a working setup.

Which cold email inbox provider scores highest in 2026?	MailOptimal — 83/100 on 20 conditions.
Where are cold email inboxes cheapest?	Inframail publishes $0.37 per inbox at its smallest package; the median across 50 providers is $3.15.
Which Google Workspace inbox providers score highest?	MailOptimal (83/100); then MailDeck (76) and Icemail (73).
Which Microsoft 365 inbox providers score highest?	MailOptimal (83/100); then MailDeck (76) and Icemail (73).
Which private SMTP inbox providers score highest?	MailOptimal (83/100); then Outreach2day (77) and MailDeck (76).
Which providers score highest for agencies?	MailOptimal (83/100); then Outreach2day (77) and MailDeck (76).
Which providers with an API and an MCP server score highest?	Outreach2day (77/100); then Icemail (73) and Zapmail (63).

"Highest score" means the most points under the method on p.12, not a measured inbox placement rate.

Scorecard

The ranking at a glance

	Provider	Deliverability	Inbox choice	Sending and workflow	API and AI agents	Buying terms	Cost of a working setup	Score	Per inbox*
1	MailOptimal	◐	●	●	◐	●	●	83	$2/inbox
2	Outreach2day	◐	◐	●	●	◐	●	77	$2.50/inbox
3	MailDeck	●	●	◐	◐	◐	●	76	$0.60/inbox
4	Icemail	◐	●	◐	●	◐	◐	73	$2.50/inbox
5	Zapmail	●	●	◐	●	◐	◐	63	$3.90/inbox
=6	Hypertide	◐	●	◐	◐	◐	◐	62	$3.30/inbox
=6	SkySenders	◐	◐	●	◐	●	◐	62	$2.95/inbox
8	Smtpfox	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	●	61	$1.63/inbox
=9	Maildoso	◐	◐	◐	●	●	◐	60	$2.50/inbox
=9	ScaledMail	◐	●	◐	◐	◐	●	60	$0.94/inbox

● strong (75%+ of the group's points) · ◐ partial · ○ nothing confirmed. Score out of 100 from conditions confirmed on the vendor's site (method p.12); equal scores share a position, "=" marks a tie. *Monthly billing, smallest public package, as published on October 31, 2026 — the price itself is not scored, the setup cost is (p.12); sources p.13. The full ranking of all 52 is on p.10.

How to read this table

The groups are not equally heavy: deliverability 27; inbox choice 16; sending and workflow 15; API and AI agents 7; buying terms 10; cost of a working setup 25 points. The cost of a working setup — 30 inboxes plus warm-up and a sequencer — is calculated the same way for every provider (method p.12). A half-filled dot in a group means the vendor confirms some of its conditions, not that the product is weak there — check the card or the evidence on the website before you decide.

1. MailOptimal



Why it ranks here

Sells Google Workspace, Microsoft 365 and private SMTP inboxes. A working setup of 30 inboxes with warm-up and a sequencer costs $119 a month, one of the lowest in the index. Deliverability: automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC, inbox placement tests and dedicated IPs. It has a public API for automation. Agencies get client workspaces or a white-label option.

Key features

- Automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC
- Inbox placement tests
- Google Workspace inboxes
- Microsoft 365 inboxes
- A built-in sequencer

Best for

Agencies that run inboxes for several clients.

Pricing

$2 per inbox, $1 at volume, minimum 10 inboxes, from $20/month. Monthly billing, as published — verify with the vendor.

> **The honest limit**
>
> Not offered, according to its own site: ongoing warm-up in the price and pre-warmed inboxes. Not stated on its site: replacement of burned inboxes and an official MCP server.

2. Outreach2day



Why it ranks here

Sells private SMTP inboxes. A working setup of 30 inboxes with warm-up and a sequencer costs $75 a month, one of the lowest in the index. Warm-up and a sequencer are included in the inbox price, so there is no second subscription. Deliverability: automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC and inbox placement tests. It has a public API and an official MCP server for automation.

Key features

- Ongoing warm-up in the price
- Automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC
- Inbox placement tests
- A built-in sequencer
- A unified inbox

Best for

Teams that set up inboxes from code or an AI agent.

Pricing

$2.50 per inbox, minimum 12 inboxes, from $30/month. Monthly billing, as published — verify with the vendor.

> **The honest limit**
>
> Not offered, according to its own site: replacement of burned inboxes, Google Workspace inboxes, Microsoft 365 inboxes and a way to try before paying in full. Not stated on its site: dedicated IPs.

3. MailDeck



Why it ranks here

Sells Google Workspace, Microsoft 365 and private SMTP inboxes. A working setup of 50 inboxes with warm-up and a sequencer costs $127 a month, one of the lowest in the index. Warm-up keeps running for the life of the inbox at no extra cost. Deliverability: automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC, replacement of burned inboxes and dedicated IPs. It has a public API for automation.

Key features

- Ongoing warm-up in the price
- Automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC
- Replacement of burned inboxes
- Google Workspace inboxes
- Microsoft 365 inboxes

Best for

Agencies that run inboxes for several clients.

Pricing

$0.60 per inbox, $0.40 at volume, minimum 50 inboxes, from $30/month. Monthly billing, as published — verify with the vendor.

> **The honest limit**
>
> Not offered, according to its own site: a built-in sequencer. Not stated on its site: inbox placement tests, a unified inbox and a way to try before paying in full. The minimum order is 50 inboxes.

4. Icemail



Why it ranks here

Sells Google Workspace, Microsoft 365 and private SMTP inboxes. Inboxes arrive pre-warmed, so you can start sending sooner. Deliverability: automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC, replacement of burned inboxes and dedicated IPs. It has a public API and an official MCP server for automation. Agencies get client workspaces or a white-label option.

Key features

- Automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC
- Replacement of burned inboxes
- Google Workspace inboxes
- Microsoft 365 inboxes
- Dedicated IPs

Best for

Agencies that run inboxes for several clients.

Pricing

$2.50 per inbox, from $2.50/month. Monthly billing, as published — verify with the vendor.

> **The honest limit**
>
> Not offered, according to its own site: a built-in sequencer. Not stated on its site: ongoing warm-up in the price, inbox placement tests and a way to try before paying in full.

5. Zapmail



Why it ranks here

Sells Google Workspace and Microsoft 365 inboxes. Inboxes arrive pre-warmed, so you can start sending sooner. Deliverability: automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC, inbox placement tests, replacement of burned inboxes and dedicated IPs. It has a public API and an official MCP server for automation. Agencies get client workspaces or a white-label option.

Key features

- Automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC
- Inbox placement tests
- Replacement of burned inboxes
- Google Workspace inboxes
- Microsoft 365 inboxes

Best for

Agencies that run inboxes for several clients.

Pricing

$3.90 per inbox, $2.99 at volume, minimum 10 inboxes, from $39/month. Monthly billing, as published — verify with the vendor.

> **The honest limit**
>
> Not offered, according to its own site: a built-in sequencer, a way to try before paying in full and private SMTP inboxes. Not stated on its site: ongoing warm-up in the price.

=6. Hypertide



Why it ranks here

Sells Google Workspace and Microsoft 365 inboxes. Deliverability: automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC, inbox placement tests, replacement of burned inboxes and dedicated IPs. It has a public API for automation. Agencies get client workspaces or a white-label option.

Key features

- Automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC
- Inbox placement tests
- Replacement of burned inboxes
- Google Workspace inboxes
- Microsoft 365 inboxes

Best for

Agencies that run inboxes for several clients.

Pricing

$3.30 per inbox, $1 at volume, from $3.30/month. Monthly billing, as published — verify with the vendor.

> **The honest limit**
>
> Not offered, according to its own site: a built-in sequencer, a unified inbox, a way to try before paying in full and private SMTP inboxes. Not stated on its site: ongoing warm-up in the price, an official MCP server and pre-warmed inboxes.

=6. SkySenders



Why it ranks here

Sells private SMTP inboxes. Deliverability: automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC and dedicated IPs. It has a public API for automation. Agencies get client workspaces or a white-label option.

Key features

- Automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC
- A built-in sequencer
- Dedicated IPs
- A unified inbox
- One-click export to other sequencers

Best for

High-volume senders who need private SMTP inboxes.

Pricing

$2.95 per inbox, $2.69 at volume, minimum 20 inboxes, from $59/month. Monthly billing, as published — verify with the vendor.

The honest limit

Not stated on its site: ongoing warm-up in the price, inbox placement tests and replacement of burned inboxes.

8. Smtpfox



Why it ranks here

Sells private SMTP inboxes. A working setup of 30 inboxes with warm-up and a sequencer costs $146 a month, one of the lowest in the index. Warm-up keeps running for the life of the inbox at no extra cost. Deliverability: automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC and dedicated IPs. It has a public API for automation.

Key features

- Ongoing warm-up in the price
- Automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC
- Dedicated IPs
- A unified inbox
- One-click export to other sequencers

Best for

High-volume senders who need private SMTP inboxes.

Pricing

$1.63 per inbox, $1.49 at volume, minimum 30 inboxes, from $49/month. Monthly billing, as published — verify with the vendor.

The honest limit

Not offered, according to its own site: a built-in sequencer and a way to try before paying in full. Not stated on its site: inbox placement tests, replacement of burned inboxes and Google Workspace inboxes. The minimum order is 30 inboxes.

=9. Maildoso



Why it ranks here

Sells private SMTP inboxes. Deliverability: automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC, inbox placement tests and replacement of burned inboxes. It has a public API and an official MCP server for automation.

Key features

- Automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC
- Inbox placement tests
- Replacement of burned inboxes
- One-click export to other sequencers
- A public API

Best for

Teams that set up inboxes from code or an AI agent.

Pricing

$2.50 per inbox, $0.49 at volume, minimum 30 inboxes, from $75/month. Monthly billing, as published — verify with the vendor.

The honest limit

Not offered, according to its own site: ongoing warm-up in the price, a built-in sequencer and pre-warmed inboxes. Not stated on its site: Google Workspace inboxes, Microsoft 365 inboxes and dedicated IPs. The minimum order is 30 inboxes.

=9. ScaledMail



Why it ranks here

Sells Google Workspace, Microsoft 365 and private SMTP inboxes. A working setup of 30 inboxes with warm-up and a sequencer costs $125 a month, one of the lowest in the index. Inboxes arrive pre-warmed, so you can start sending sooner. Deliverability: automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC. It has a public API for automation.

Key features

- Automatic SPF/DKIM/DMARC
- Google Workspace inboxes
- Microsoft 365 inboxes
- One-click export to other sequencers
- A public API

Best for

Senders who want Google and Microsoft inboxes from one vendor.

Pricing

$0.94 per inbox, minimum 4 inboxes, from $3.75/month. Monthly billing, as published — verify with the vendor.

The honest limit

Not offered, according to its own site: ongoing warm-up in the price and a built-in sequencer. Not stated on its site: inbox placement tests, replacement of burned inboxes and dedicated IPs.

Choosing

Which inbox provider is right for you?

Google Workspace inboxes	MailOptimal (83/100); then MailDeck (76) and Icemail (73).
Microsoft 365 inboxes	MailOptimal (83/100); then MailDeck (76) and Icemail (73).
Private SMTP inboxes	MailOptimal (83/100); then MailDeck (76) and Icemail (73).
Warm-up included	MailDeck (76/100); then Smtpfox (61) and Aerosend (59).
For agencies	MailOptimal (83/100); then MailDeck (76) and Icemail (73).
For AI agents	Icemail (73/100); then Zapmail (63) and Maildoso (60).
Try before you pay	MailOptimal (83/100); then SkySenders (62) and Maildoso (60).
Lowest published price	Inframail ($0.37/inbox), Slicey ($0.49/inbox) and LUNATRO.MX ($0.50/inbox)

Each pick is the highest-scoring vendor that confirms the condition on its own site; ties are shown together, and picks never go to a vendor the author works with. The cards on pp.4–8 and the evidence pages online show what each one confirms and where.

Full ranking

All 52 ranked inbox providers

	Provider	Deliverability	Inbox choice	Sending and workflow	API and AI agents	Buying terms	Cost of a working setup	Score	Price*
1	MailOptimal	◐	●	●	◐	●	●	83	$2/inbox
2	Outreach2day	◐	◐	●	●	◐	●	77	$2.50/inbox
3	MailDeck	●	●	◐	◐	◐	●	76	$0.60/inbox
4	Icemail	◐	●	◐	●	◐	◐	73	$2.50/inbox
5	Zapmail	●	●	◐	●	◐	◐	63	$3.90/inbox
=6	Hypertide	◐	●	◐	◐	◐	◐	62	$3.30/inbox
=6	SkySenders	◐	◐	●	◐	●	◐	62	$2.95/inbox
8	Smtpfox	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	●	61	$1.63/inbox
=9	Maildoso	◐	◐	◐	●	●	◐	60	$2.50/inbox
=9	ScaledMail	◐	●	◐	◐	◐	●	60	$0.94/inbox
=9	Sender Pools	◐	●	●	●	◐	○	60	$40/mo
=9	Slicey	◐	●	◐	◐	◐	●	60	$0.49/inbox
=9	Winnr	◐	◐	◐	●	●	●	60	$1.38/inbox
=14	Aerosend	●	◐	◐	●	●	◐	59	$4/inbox
=14	InboxKit	◐	●	◐	●	◐	◐	59	$3/inbox
=14	Inframail	◐	◐	◐	◐	●	●	59	$0.37/inbox
=14	MailBomb	◐	◐	◐	○	●	●	59	$2/inbox
18	NudoInfra	●	◐	◐	○	◐	◐	58	$1.50/inbox
19	ColdSend	◐	◐	◐	●	◐	●	57	$0.99/inbox
=20	Mailpool	◐	●	◐	◐	◐	◐	56	$3/inbox
=20	OSDomains	◐	●	◐	○	◐	◐	56	$3.38/inbox
=22	Inbox Navigator	◐	●	◐	○	◐	◐	54	$3/inbox
=22	sending.ac	●	◐	◐	●	●	◐	54	$0.57/inbox
24	Email Astra	●	●	◐	○	◐	◐	53	$5/inbox
25	Premium Inboxes	◐	●	◐	◐	◐	◐	52	$3.50/inbox
26	Frostmailer	◐	●	◐	●	◐	◐	51	$3.38/inbox
27	Endy Inboxes	◐	●	◐	○	◐	◐	48	$3.50/inbox
=28	Cheap Inboxes	◐	●	◐	●	◐	◐	47	$3.50/inbox
=28	ColdInfra	◐	◐	◐	○	●	◐	47	$3/inbox
30	Inboxlogy	◐	●	◐	◐	◐	◐	46	$3.50/inbox
31	Mailforge	◐	◐	◐	●	◐	◐	45	$3/inbox
=32	Infraforge	◐	◐	◐	●	◐	◐	43	$4/inbox
=32	LiteMail	◐	●	◐	◐	◐	◐	43	$3.70/inbox
=32	Puzzle Inbox	◐	●	◐	○	◐	◐	43	$3/inbox
=32	WarmInboxes	◐	●	●	○	◐	◐	43	$3.50/inbox
=36	Mission Inbox	◐	◐	○	◐	◐	◐	40	$3.33/inbox

FAQ

Frequently asked questions

How is this ranking different from vendor "best of" lists?

Every fact behind a score is stated on the vendor's own site, with a link and a quote in the online evidence. No user reviews, no opinions, no paid placements. Vendors that list themselves first in their own comparisons are scored here like everyone else.

How does price affect the score?

For inbox providers, 25 of 100 points go to the monthly cost of a working setup: 30 inboxes plus warm-up and a sequencer, calculated the same way for every provider (method on p.12). The price of one inbox is shown for reference only.

Google Workspace, Microsoft 365 or private SMTP?

Google and Microsoft inboxes match where most business prospects read mail and cost more per inbox. Private SMTP inboxes are cheaper and scale further, and deliverability depends on how the provider manages IPs and warm-up. Many senders mix types.

Does a high score mean better inbox placement?

No. The index measures what a vendor confirms it offers — warm-up, replacement, tests, terms — not how its inboxes perform on a given day. Test a small batch before you scale.

What does "not stated on its site" mean in the honest limit?

The condition may exist, but the vendor does not describe it publicly. It earns no points until it is published — and a buyer should ask before paying.

How often is the ranking updated?

Facts are re-checked monthly online; this PDF is re-scored each quarter (next: February 2027). The website always has the newest scores.

Methodology

How this report was put together

This report ranks 52 inbox providers for teams that send cold email at volume and buy inboxes from a specialist provider. It is built from the same data as coldemailindex.com: each vendor's own pages — home, pricing, features, FAQ, help center, API docs and terms — checked in November 2026.

Disclosure. The author works with Outreach2day, one of the inbox providers ranked here. Outreach2day is ranked 2nd of 52 inbox providers with 77/100, scored under the same rules and from the same kind of public pages as every other vendor; conditions it does not offer earn it no points, as for anyone else.

Scoring

Each vendor is checked on 20 conditions. A condition is **confirmed** (stated on the site; we keep the link and a quote), **not offered** (the site says so, or it costs extra where the condition requires it to be included) or **not found**. Points go only to confirmed conditions:

- **Deliverability** (27 points) — What protects sender reputation without extra tools or subscriptions: ongoing warm-up included in the price (6); pre-warmed inboxes (2); automatic SPF, DKIM and DMARC setup (5); inbox placement or spam tests (5); replacement of burned inboxes or domains (5); dedicated IP option (4).
- **Inbox choice** (16 points) — Which types of inboxes and domains you can get in one place: Google Workspace inboxes (5); Microsoft 365 / Outlook inboxes (5); private SMTP/IMAP inboxes (3); domain purchase inside the product (3).
- **Sending and workflow** (15 points) — Whether you can run and manage campaigns without another tool: built-in campaign sequencer (5); unified inbox for replies (4); export to other sending tools (4); multi-client workspaces or white-label (2).
- **API and AI agents** (7 points) — How easy it is to automate the setup from code or an AI assistant: public API (4); official MCP server (3).
- **Buying terms** (10 points) — How much you risk before you know it works: prices published on the site (4); free plan, free trial or money-back guarantee (4); monthly billing available (2).
- **Cost of a working setup** (25 points) — What 30 inboxes plus warm-up and a sequencer cost per month — the cheaper, the more points: cost of a working setup (30 inboxes) (25).

Rules

- A position needs at least 55% of conditions checked; otherwise the vendor is listed as not ranked yet.
- Equal scores share a position; the order inside a tie is alphabetical and means nothing.
- No third-party reviews, ratings or paid placements. Links to vendors online are nofollow.
- Every fact was read on the vendor's page by a person or an AI agent and then audited: “connect your own Gmail” is not read as “does not sell inboxes”, “pre-warmed” is not read as ongoing warm-up, and a stated placement percentage is not read as a test tool.

Score bands & sources

What the scores mean

80–100	Most of what a buyer needs is confirmed on the vendor's own site.
65–79	A strong offer with clear gaps you should check before buying.
50–64	Fits part of the job; several important conditions are not confirmed.
below 50	Many conditions are not stated on the site — ask the vendor before you buy.

Pricing sources

Prices as published on each vendor's public pricing page, monthly billing, US dollars; euro prices converted at 1 € = $1.125. Checked October 31, 2026. Vendors change prices often — verify before you buy.

MailOptimal	https://mailoptimal.com/pricing/
Outreach2day	https://outreach2day.com/pricing
MailDeck	https://maildeck.co/pricing
Icemail	https://icemail.ai/pricing
Zapmail	https://zapmail.ai/pricing
Hypertide	https://www.hypertide.io/pricing
SkySenders	https://skysenders.ai/private-smtp
Smtpfox	https://smtpfox.ai/#pricing
Maildoso	https://maildoso.ai/pricing
ScaledMail	https://www.scaledmail.com/pricing

Every fact behind every score, with its quote and link, is on each vendor's review page at coldemailindex.com/review/.

For vendors

For the vendors in this report

Corrections. If a condition exists but is missing, or a fact is out of date, send the link to the page on your own site that states it. Corrections change the score in the next build and are listed in the version history below. Corrections can never be bought.

Right of reply. Each ranked vendor may send one response of up to 50 words, printed verbatim under its card or its row in the next edition — including disagreement with the assessment.

Badge. Every ranked vendor may show its score with the badge from its review page, linking to that page as the source. The badge states the score and position exactly as published.

Next edition. Vendors not in this report can ask to be included: name, category, pricing page and documentation links. Inclusion follows the method; there are no paid placements.

Contact. data@coldemailindex.com

Version history

v1.0	November 4, 2026 — first edition: 52 inbox providers ranked and scored.