

Email Testing Findings Report

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Email clients tested

- Gmail (Web)
- Outlook (Desktop/Web)

Tools used

- Send HTML in Gmail (method/tool)
- Gmail (client)
- CanIEmail.com (research)
- Campaign Monitor (research)

1) Gmail (Web)

What worked

- Core layout rendered correctly: text, spacing, and overall structure displayed as intended.
- Images loaded: logo and hero image displayed correctly (assuming images are hosted and accessible).
- Two-column section: displayed correctly on desktop width.
- Three-column section: displayed correctly on desktop width.

- Responsive behavior (partially):
 - When the screen width was reduced, the columns stacked vertically using the .block rule.
 - Font sizes adjusted on smaller screens using the @media query (results may vary depending on Gmail view mode/device).

What did not fully work (or was inconsistent)

Buttons and links

- Links worked correctly when real URLs were used.
- The button worked because it was a styled <a> tag (recommended approach for email).
- Gmail displayed links correctly.

Hover effects

- :hover effects did not consistently work in Gmail.
- This is expected: many email clients limit CSS hover support.
- Hover also doesn't apply on most mobile devices (no mouse pointer).

Keyframes animation

- @keyframes animation (wiggle using transform: translateX) did not run in Gmail.
- The email is still displayed correctly, but without animation.

Checkbox / radio + :checked interactivity

- The RSVP interaction using checkbox/radio + :checked did not toggle content in Gmail.
- Panels/content could appear, but the interactive behavior was blocked or ignored.
- Gmail commonly blocks or limits these interactive CSS techniques.

2) Outlook (Desktop/Web)

What worked

Buttons and links

- Links worked when real URLs were used.
- The button styled as an <a> tag displayed correctly and clicking worked.

What did not work (or was limited)

Hover effects

- :hover did not work.
- Outlook has very limited CSS support in general.

Keyframes animation

- @keyframes animation did not run.
- The content displayed, but without movement.

Checkbox / radio + :checked interactivity

- The radio/checkbox interaction did not work.
- The :checked selector was ignored, so panels did not toggle.

Media queries / responsiveness

- @media queries did not fully work in Outlook.
- Columns did not always stack correctly.
- Text size changes were inconsistent.

3) Research Summary (CanIEmail + Campaign Monitor)

Based on research from CanIEmail.com and Campaign Monitor:

- @media queries: partial / mixed support depending on the client
- :hover: limited support
- @keyframes: not supported in many major clients (including Gmail)
- transform: mixed support
- :checked: limited support, often blocked in Gmail and Outlook

These research results matched what I observed in testing.

Conclusion

- Basic HTML email structure displays reliably in Gmail and Outlook.
- Styled <a> tags are the best method for buttons in emails.
- Advanced CSS features (hover, animation, checkbox/radio interactivity) are not reliable in Gmail and Outlook.
- For best compatibility: keep layouts simple, use tables, and prefer inline-friendly styling.



