

What are the differences?

1. "Open With..." doesn't appear for all file types and in every situation. "Send To" does. Also, "Open With" remembers it's setting per file type. For example, I have 12 items that can open a plain text file. It remembers these. But if I encounter a new file type, say XYZ., then "Open With" may have nothing available to open the file, and "Open With" may not even be available on the context menu. Even holding down the shift key while right clicking might not force it to appear. Yet, "Send To" still works fine.
2. If the "Open With" is there then I have to set it up the first time for each individual file type for each application I want to use to open it. With "Send To" this is only done once – period – and works for all file types. Sending a file type to an application that it doesn't understand raises the same type of exception you would get by dropping it on the shortcut or opening it with the open dialog.
3. The "Send To" is more like a drop target rather than an open target type operation. Because of this you can "Send To" mail, or directories which "Open With" doesn't handle well.
4. "Open With" doesn't work with folders. "Send To" can. This won't always make sense, but it is doable. For example, right clicking a folder and sending it to a script that processes all the files in the directory could be done.
5. One case that doesn't work well with "Open With" is when you have multiple files selected. For example, programs designed to handle multiple files dropped on them can process all of them. So, Notepad can't do this, but Notepad++ can. Select 5 text files and "Send To" Notepad++ and it opens them all in separate tabs. Can't do that with "Open With."
6. You can have PowerShell or Batch scripts or shortcuts to them in the "Send To" folder. Selected files are passed as parameters, and you can do some interesting things. "Send To" is available when multiple files are selected – doing this with "Open With" – not so much.

You can download an easy-to-use and free program from [here](#) to configure the SendTo menu. There is a regular version and portable version. There is a YouTube video [here](#) that demonstrates the program.