



Inside

Treat a quote from a financial adviser as you would one from a builder... If an adviser is evasive about fees, beware **PAGE 19**



08 Sara Bewes: victim of car sales cold call



12 Craig and Emma: prefer indie cinemas



76 Nick Holding: takes close-up shots

News & regulars

04 Consumer news

- How clean are school canteens?
- We go haggling on the high street
- Our campaign for changes in hospital care

08 Car sales

Be wary of car sales cold callers

09 Saving you money

How to save on heating bills, and finding a high-interest and safe savings account

10 First look

A surprising result for an M&S television – and the latest on our wind turbine test

24 Money monitor

First Direct abolishes interest on current accounts, plus Best Buy savings and Isas

28 Technology focus

Latest on the digital switchover, how LCD TVs work and the future of satnav

33 Money makeover

How to have a greener, ethical Christmas

Features

12 Cinemas

As ticket sales rocket, we reveal what you want from a night at the movies and whether it is worth the entry price

16 Omega 3

We find food labels that are confusing when they claim to contain omega 3

19 Paying for financial advice

If you need help with investments, how much should you be paying for it and are you better off with fees or commission?

22 Risk-free saving

In light of the Northern Rock crisis, we examine how you can maximise the return on your money and limit the risk

26 Travel insurance

Best Buy policies for all ages – plus what happens when you lose your luggage?

30 Online prices

Are Christmas presents cheaper online or on the high street? We investigate

Help & advice

76 Ask the experts

Includes cameras for close-up photography, the effect on email addresses if you switch your internet provider, credit card rights, plus fireworks

78 Your letters

Rail ticket refunds, the sharpness of knives, saying no to doorstep sellers, and more

79 Campaigns

News of special award schemes for campaigners and what impact the award has had on two past winners

80 Brief cases

Bank charges and a laptop that wasn't as specified: our lawyers advise

82 The way we were

Which? has attracted a lot of press coverage – and quite a few jokes – over the years

84 Question time

We ask BT's Ian Livingstone about broadband and 'blackmail'

Our promise

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Which? aims to help you choose the best goods and services – and avoid the worst. We're entirely independent – we take no ads, no freebies and everything we test is paid for at full price. Any

profit goes back into informing, influencing and campaigning on behalf of you, our members.



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There isn't always a direct link between price and quality. Some cheaper digital radios easily outperformed more expensive ones **PAGE 54**



44 We test whether this complex scene poses a problem for our camcorders

On test

IN-DEPTH TESTS

36 Flat-panel TVs

The latest Best Buys, how to interpret labels and an update on high definition

44 Camcorders

We reveal the best of the brand new high-definition camcorders

48 MP3 and MP4 players

We follow the rise of MP4s as music-player technology advances

54 Digital radios

Best Buys, plus is it worth going digital?

58 Dishwashers

Hot Miele's – including our first slimline Best Buy

62 Microwave ovens

The best models for everything from heating instant dinners to cooking a roast

66 Low-energy light bulbs

Saving the planet and saving money

70 Tumble dryers

Best Buys from £189



Comment

In praise of the humble low-energy light bulb

How much incentive does it take to change a light bulb? How about a £30 saving over the next five years, plus the knowledge that you're doing a little bit for the planet? A good low-energy light bulb costs as little as £2, but if all of us used just one in place of an old-style bulb, we'd save enough energy to shut down a power station.

Traditional bulbs are cheaper, but they're a false economy because they use more power and don't last as long. And if that isn't enough incentive, the government is about to start phasing out traditional bulbs – so there won't be a choice for much longer.

Quite a lot of green technology costs so much more than its less-green cousins that, although owners get the instant satisfaction of helping the environment, they have to wait many years to see any financial benefits.

But we've done the maths and we think low-energy bulbs are a fairly quick win – for your pocket and for the planet. And they don't all look like a designer whisk.

For a little light reading about our Best Buy bulbs, as well as how much you could save by switching, see p66.

Psst...Want a good builder? Ask another Which? member

We've long said that the best way to find a good local builder or plumber is to ask your neighbours to recommend one they have used. Now our new website, Which? Local, means you can ask other Which? members in your area.

Which? Local already features 7,500 recommendations covering more than 200 trades. So whether it's a garage or a gift shop you're after, we should be able to help you find a good one. There's more about it on p5.

Which? has been a club of discerning consumers since we began 50 years ago. A builder with a string of satisfied Which? members as customers is one you know you can trust. This is consumer power at its best, and it's free – and only for Which? members.

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THIS ISSUE IN NUMBERS

2,230

The number of quotes we collected and analysed from our 85 travel insurers to bring you the Best Buys. For top tips on how to cover your treks, head off to p26.

12,306

The number of minutes we ran the normal and energy-save programs for in our tests on 16 dishwashers. Want to ditch the dirt? Then see which are the Best Buys – p58.

384,000

The number of hours we left our 16 low-energy light bulbs on for to test their life span. (We offset the 18,720kWh of electricity used through a carbon neutral scheme.) See p66.