

JUNE 2005



KEY ISSUE

Pollution p10

Chemical burden
All the people we tested have some chemical pollutants in their bodies



Scoop
We find a Best Buy for just £35

Ice-cream



Home insura

OUR PROMISE

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. Since 1957, we have informed, influenced and campaigned for all consumers in the UK.

EXPOSED

05 INSIDE STORY

- We investigate whether it's worth paying a premium price for a stairlift
- Fire blankets are no better than damp tea towels at putting out fires, tests reveal

10 POLLUTION

In the air, in household products, and in our water supplies – chemicals and other pollutants can have a serious impact on our health and the environment

16 SCAM COMPETITIONS

The prizes that cost you more than they're worth: who's running the scams and how to avoid getting caught out

YOUR LIFE

18 PRODUCT RELIABILITY

You tell us which brands of domestic appliances won't let you down: Miele is marvellous, but Hoover is hopeless

23 ROSÉ WINE

Our pick of the pinks

24 HOME INSURANCE

Best Buys for buildings and contents cover, plus how to shop for insurance if your home is at risk of flooding

'There are currently more incentives to pollute than to comply with regulations'

Neil Smith, Environment Agency

WIN

We've got five Olympus Camedia C-5060 Zoom digital cameras to give away in our Best Buy competition

Just answer a simple question from this month's report and you could be one of our lucky winners. Turn to p56 for more details and full competition rules.



COVER PHOTOGRAPHY DUNCAN SMITH



makers **p38**



Watertight advice
Best policies, even if
your home's flooded

nce **p24**



**BEST
ON
TEST**

Riding high
Aprilia SR50
Factory – our top-
scoring 50cc bike

Scooters **p32**

TESTING, TESTING

30 ALL CHANGE

The Dyson Ball, Humax LCD TV with built-in PVR, Hiclean hand cleaner, Panasonic slimline microwave, plus 'The gadgeteer'

32 SCOOTERS

You don't have to be a mod to enjoy two-wheel motoring

38 ICE-CREAM MAKERS

Wake up your taste buds with one of our Best Buys

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Five different types of sander to help your DIY go smoothly

44 DVD RECORDERS

Two Best Buys from nine models on test

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Perfect picture-takers to preserve your holiday memories this summer

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The safest models for kids – and the seats to avoid

51 DVD PLAYERS

Just add popcorn for a good night in

52 VIDEO RECORDERS

Four new machines on test, plus previous models still available

53 PERSONAL VIDEO RECORDERS

An update on six personal video recorders

54 TUMBLE DRIERS

Latest driers on test and an update of previous Best Buys

REGULARS

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Mini cash Isas and personal loans

55 BEST BUY MONITOR

Find our Best Buy compact cameras at the lowest prices

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Save time when shopping around

58 TAKE ISSUE

Your letters, plus campaigning activities

60 BRIEF CASES

Two cases from our files

THIS ISSUE IN NUMBERS

Child car seats

Crashes performed 150

Sanders

Hours spent sanding 1,392

House insurance

Premiums analysed 4,220

Ice-cream makers

Litres of ice cream made 50