

Your savings

Buying a good, cheap washing machine, plus getting things for free

1 Cheaper washing machines

If you want a washing machine that has lots of features and specialist programs for different types of clothes, it could cost you quite a bit of money. However, it seems that many of us just want a good, simple machine. In fact, many of the biggest-selling machines cost little over £250. In this month's washing machines test, p62, we can do even better. The Beko WMA510 washes well, is cheap to run, easy to use and rinses better than machines nearly three times the price. It's just below the level of a Best Buy and, at £170, is £200 cheaper than any Best Buy this month. We don't have enough data to judge Beko's reliability.



2 Freephone directory enquiries

Finding a phone number you want can seem more confusing than it used to be and you usually have to pay for the privilege. However, you can get numbers free if you call 0800 100 100 from a landline. You have to listen to an advert lasting 20-30 seconds. The ad is played after it is confirmed that they know the number but before they give it to you. If you are blind or have a



disability that make it difficult for you to use a phone book, you can get free directory enquiries with no ads by calling 195. You complete a form and get it signed by a GP or professional who knows of your disability. It works from a landline or mobile. Call 195 to find out more about registering.



3 Free Wi-Fi access

If you're going on holiday this summer you may be interested in locating free wireless internet hotspots around the world where you can use your laptop. The website www.free-hotspot.com gives an impressive list of hotspots round the world, while www.ilovefreewifi.com concentrates on the US. There is a range of sites that list international airports with free access.

renew. When he contacted the company, it suggested cancelling the existing policy renewal and instead getting a new quote, which gave him a saving of around £90. Mr Buch said: 'It was their idea and my saving!'



4 Cheaper car insurance

When Which? member Yogesh Buch went to renew his car insurance, he searched the internet and found that his company offered a quote for new members that was cheaper than the one he'd been given to



5 Money for your mobile

There are companies that offer money back for your old mobile. Usually, you enter the phone name and model number and get an instant quote for what it's worth, depending on its condition. Envirofone (www.envirofone.com) and Mopay (www.mopay.co.uk) are two that do this. Somerfield is offering up to £35 free shopping for your old phone.

WAYS TO SAVE

Which? members' tips

■ Philip Jones

'In March's issue you mentioned the petrol-saving tip using an Asda card. Here's another. I took out a Citi/Shell credit card. After an introductory offer of 6 per cent on petrol and 2 per cent on

other purchases I have rebates of 3 per cent and 1 per cent. Unlike most cashback offers (paid annually), these are credited to my card the month after my purchases. This beats any cards I have used.'

■ Ron Richardson

recommends savings on the new Grand Central train service (four a day) north from Kings Cross. He especially likes the 50 per cent discount for over-60s – there's no railcard to buy in advance.

YOUR IDEAS

Let us know your money-saving tips or subjects you would like us to cover in this column. Email Paul Ryan at paul.ryan@which.co.uk

co.uk or, alternatively, write to him at Which? PO Box 44, Hertford X SG14 1SH with your suggestions.