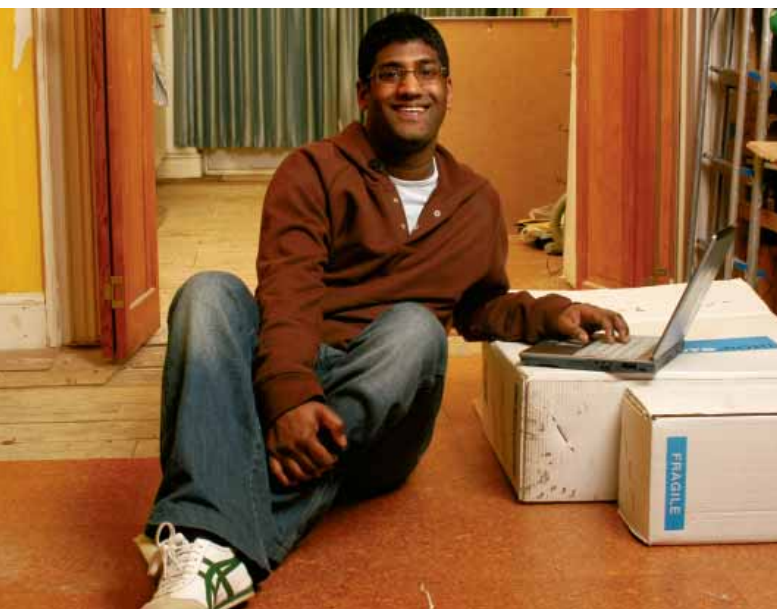




# Money makeover



Rohan: 'I want products that will last, as I can't afford replacements'

## Setting up home

We help Rohan, a first-time buyer, save £438 by kitting out his home with Best Buys



**A**fter spending a fortune on a new home, a first-time buyer then needs to find money for appliances to fill it. If you're starting from scratch, the shopping list isn't cheap – the average cost for the white and brown goods Rohan wanted, below, is £1,884.

However, you don't have to get a second mortgage to kit out your first home, or make do with cheap, nasty products that won't last two minutes. By following our advice, you could save hundreds of pounds and rest easy in the knowledge that you've bought reliable products that will last.

### KITCHEN ESSENTIALS

**£268 saved**

Rohan wants to replace his second-hand washing machine and fridge-freezer and would like a dishwasher.

The Tricity Bendix AW1260 washing machine lacks fancy features but offers good all-round cleaning with above-average reliability, so it should last. It's £256 from [www.discountdirect.co.uk](http://www.discountdirect.co.uk) – £193 less than the average machine.

A fridge-freezer usually costs around £310, whereas the Best Buy Samsung RL33S BNS costs £280 at [www.dixons.co.uk](http://www.dixons.co.uk) and it's also cheap to run.

The slimline Bosch SRS45E22GB dishwasher is a great fit for Rohan's tiny kitchen. It just missed being a Best Buy by scoring 'average' for drying, but it cleans brilliantly and Bosch products are reliable. It's £255 at [www.dixons.co.uk](http://www.dixons.co.uk), £45 less than the average model.

#### Recommended products

**Tricity Bendix AW1260, Which?, January 2007, p44; Samsung RL33S BNS, Which?, March 2006, p65; Bosch SRS45E22GB, end-of-line model<sup>a</sup> on [www.which.co.uk](http://www.which.co.uk).**



**The products we recommended to Rohan are ideal for anyone on a tight budget**



### ENTERTAINMENT ESSENTIALS

**£170 saved**

Rohan thinks it's time to swap his ten-year-old portable television for a flatscreen model. We'd recommend the Panasonic TX-26LXD60 26-inch LCD. It's a Best Buy, has a good picture and is easy to use. It's also HD-ready and has built-in Freeview, which Rohan wanted as he gets access to extra digital channels without having to pay a subscription. We found this television online at [www.123electricals4me.co.uk](http://www.123electricals4me.co.uk) for £545 – £105 less than a shopper would ordinarily spend on an LCD TV.

After Rohan's video recorder recently gave up the ghost, he decided that he'd like to replace it with a DVD recorder. For excellent picture quality, we recommend the cheap Sony RDR-GX120 Best Buy. We found it for £110 online at [www.laskys.com](http://www.laskys.com), a £65 saving on the average DVD recorder.

#### Recommended products

**Panasonic TX-26LXD60, Which?, December 2006, p44; Sony RDR-GX120, Which?, December 2006, p60.**

### GET A BETTER DEAL

**Shopping around could save you hundreds of pounds**

Once you've used *Which?* to choose the best products for your budget, shop around to find the best price. The cost of an item can vary hugely, depending on where you buy. For example, Rohan's LCD television differed by as much as £255 from one retailer to the next.

When shopping on the high street, look out for sales and ask for a discount – particularly if you've seen the item cheaper elsewhere or if you're buying a display model.

Price-comparison websites, such as [www.pricerunner.co.uk](http://www.pricerunner.co.uk) and [www.froogle.co.uk](http://www.froogle.co.uk), can save you time as well as cash – simply type in the product you want and the site will tell you which company's selling it for the best price. However, when comparing prices, make sure the final cost includes delivery costs and VAT.

<sup>a</sup> This Bosch was discontinued shortly after testing but is still available to buy online – see [www.which.co.uk/dishwashers](http://www.which.co.uk/dishwashers) for full test results

Do you want to reduce the amount you spend on fuel and transport? Get in touch with Ayesha Lawrence at [helpwanted@which.co.uk](mailto:helpwanted@which.co.uk)