

Best dishwashers to make life easier

Best Buy dishwashers that combine versatile features with great cleaning

All of our Best Buy dishwashers perform well and are reliable. But if you're looking for the very best results combined with additional, helpful features, our tests have found that you'll need to pay a little more.

First-rate models come with versatile extras that are going to make your life easier. Several, including the Best Buy slimline Miele G1102SC (pictured), feature a cutlery drawer that will free up space in the bottom rack for awkward-shaped pots. A drawer may sound trickier than a cutlery basket, but as you put the cutlery in, spoons naturally fall on to their sides, and water doesn't collect in them – so there'll be no watermarks.

The extra drawer could make space tight above the upper basket, making it hard to safely stow long-stemmed glasses, but good dishwashers get round this with an adjustable basket.

Bosch calls this feature a 'Rackmatic' and it can be altered to three heights. In the Bosch SMS53L02GB, the upper basket also features plastic fold-down flaps for safely holding large carving knives.

You'll also see other useful extras in premium models, where prongs can be folded flat – giving you more space for pots and pans when you're washing fewer plates.

All models have an energy-save program. This takes longer than the main program, but is far more frugal with water and energy. Using this program regularly could save you £60 over six years.

We've shown which features are worth having in our diagram on p33. The table on page 34 contains the results for 22 models, or go online for all 130.





FULL-SIZE FREESTANDING

Miele G1225SC £759

Which? test score 73%

Brand reliability Above average

PROS This Miele cleans well and there are plenty of programs to choose from, including 40°C and 50°C washes for lightly soiled items, a program designed for glasses and an intensive program for very dirty pots and pans. It's also one of the quietest

machines we've tested. You can alter the height of the upper rack if you find that your long-stemmed glasses don't fit. This model can hold up to 14 place settings, which equates to 147 pieces of cutlery and serving crockery – so it's big enough to handle something like Christmas dinner in one go.

CONS Program durations are on the long side – the automatic wash program takes two and a half hours. It also uses 18 litres of water, which is high. The filter is tricky to clean. **Full review** www.which.co.uk/MieleG1225SC

We found it cheapest at John Lewis **Place settings** 14 **Programs** Normal (50°C), quick wash (40°C), intensive option, half-load



FULL-SIZE FREESTANDING

AEG-Electrolux F60760 £569

Which? test score 72%

Brand reliability Average

PROS The main auto program gives outstanding results, leaving very few watermarks on the clean, dry dishes. This program judges the temperature of the wash based on how soiled the load is. This machine has an adjustable

basket and is easy to use. The salt reservoir is easy to fill, with a highly visible indicator to tell you when it's full, while the filter is easy to get at and clean.

CONS Water use is quite high on the auto program, at 19.4 litres. Reduce water use by selecting the eco 50°C wash, which saves around eight litres

per wash. It does take 25 minutes longer (about average for a machine of this size) but washes at lower temperatures, saving you 35% of the energy.

Full review www.which.co.uk/AEG-ElectroluxF60760

We found it cheapest at John Lewis **Place settings** 12 **Programs** Auto 45-70°C wash, glass 45°C, 30 min 60°C, eco 50°C, intensive care 70°C, prewash, night cycle



FULL-SIZE FREESTANDING

Bosch SMS53L02GB Logixx £470

Which? test score 71%

Brand reliability Above average

PROS The main program on this Bosch is very frugal with water, using just 13.5 litres. It dries excellently and leaves very few watermarks. The instructions are clear and simple to understand, the filter is easy to reach and clean and, in

common with most modern dishwashers, this one is easy to load and unload. A clip system lets you change the height of the upper rack to fit in long-stemmed glasses without having to remove and replace the whole basket, and features include a handy 24-hour delay timer.

CONS The main program (the auto daily) doesn't give results as good as the Best Buy Miele and AEG (above), but is more energy and water efficient.

Full review www.which.co.uk/BoschSMS53L02GB

We found it cheapest Online Also available at Independents **Place settings** 13 **Programs** Pre-rinse, quick wash, economy, auto daily, auto intensive



FULL-SIZE FREESTANDING

Bosch SMS65E02GB Exxxel £520

Which? test score 71%

Brand reliability Above average

PROS This model cleans well, doesn't leave watermarks and dries effectively. For good water efficiency, the auto program sensor decides whether the pre-wash water can be re-used in the main cycle. The space inside the dishwasher is versatile – the upper rack can be raised

or lowered even when full, and both racks have compartments that fold away to accommodate bulky items such as pans and bowls.

CONS The eco 50°C program is a little on the slow side, taking two hours 39 minutes to complete, but the results are certainly worth waiting for. The main wash program is

30 minutes faster, but can use more water and energy to achieve this. The filter is stubborn and tricky to get out from the machine, but it's easy to clean and replace.

Full review www.which.co.uk/BoschSMS65E02GB

We found it cheapest at Argos Also available at Comet **Place settings** 13 **Programs** Pre-rinse, quick wash, delicate, eco, auto daily, intensive



AEG-Electrolux F65011VI £518

Which? test score 71%

Brand reliability Average

PROS The auto program on this built-in AEG-Electrolux cleans well and takes just over two hours, which is a decent time for a machine of this size. Dishes emerge cupboard-ready – dry and without watermarks. The eco program will help you save 7.4 litres of water and 24%

of the energy used per wash. This model is easy to use. You can lower the height of the upper basket to fit in larger items such as tall glasses, or raise it if you have tall pots and pans in the lower rack. There's a 19-hour delay timer and a 'time-remaining' indicator.

CONS This model's auto program uses 1.46 kWh of

electricity and 18.6 litres of water, which is a lot by today's standards. You'll need to keep a cloth handy to give the inside an occasional wipe, as it doesn't keep itself as clean as it does your dishes.

Full review www.which.co.uk/AEG-ElectroluxF65011VI

We found it cheapest at Comet **Place settings** 12 **Programs** Auto, 30 min, eco 50°C pre-rinse, rinse and hold, intensive 70°C



Bosch SMV53M00GB Exxcel £650

Which? test score 71%

Brand reliability Above average

PROS This model is energy- and water-efficient, using just 13.8 litres of water on the main program, which makes for low overall running costs. It will leave your dishes clean, dry and free of watermarks. It also cleans itself well, to prevent

food residue building up.

There's plenty of room to fit tall glasses on the top shelf with bulky pots underneath. If you need extra room, a clip system lets you change the height of the upper rack without having to extract the whole basket.

CONS This model is definitely on the expensive side for a

full-size freestanding dishwasher. There are cheaper models available – log on to www.which.co.uk/dishwashers to find cheaper ones.

Full review www.which.co.uk/BoschSMV53M00GB

We found it cheapest at Comet **Also available at** Currys **Place settings** 13 **Programs** Pre-rinse, quick wash 45°C, economy 50°C, auto 45°C-65°C, intensive 70°C half load



Miele G1102SC £609

Which? test score 71%

Brand reliability Above average

PROS The normal program gives very good cleaning, rinsing and drying results, and is reasonably efficient in terms of water and electricity use. The eco program is slow at three hours, but gives an excellent performance. This model is easy to use, with an adjustable

basket and well-designed handle and door. An adjustable top panel that can accommodate differing pipework dimensions behind the machine is a useful feature. This is one of the quietest of the slimline dishwashers we tested.

CONS There's no delay timer, so you can't set the machine to run overnight, and the control

panel looks slightly dated. It's hard to remove the upper spray arm for cleaning, and the design of the upper basket doesn't always make loading easy.

Full review www.which.co.uk/MieleG1102SC

We found it cheapest Online **Also available at** John Lewis **Place settings** 9 **Programs** Sensor wash (55°C–65°C), quick wash (40°C), light soiling (50°C), energy save, pots and pans (75°C), prewash



Neff S5943X2GB £530

Which? test score 72%

Brand reliability Above average

PROS The normal 65°C program combines impressive cleaning with good water and energy efficiency. Washing is good, drying is excellent and it leaves very few watermarks. It uses 16.1 litres of water on this program. Selecting the eco option reduces water

consumption by 4.5 litres and energy used by 38%, but the cycle will be extended by 12 minutes. The controls are clearly marked and the instructions are straightforward – but the lack of a grip on the door handle means it's not too easy to open and close.

CONS This model doesn't come with a handy half-load program

or a delay timer, so you can't set it to wash overnight. The salt reservoir is a little tricky to open and fill, but it is easy to see when it's full. Though the filter is easy to remove, cleaning it can be tiresome.

Full review www.which.co.uk/NeffS5943X2GB

We found it cheapest at Comet **Place settings** 9 **Programs** Pre-rinse, quick wash 35°C, eco 50°C, normal 65°C

WHAT YOU SHOULD LOOK FOR

These are the features to look for that will make a real difference to your daily life. Few models have them all

CUTLERY DRAWER

Pricier dishwashers have done away with cutlery baskets and replaced them with a dedicated cutlery drawer at the top of the machine. This gives you far more room for awkward pots and pans in the main compartment.

FILTER

Check that you can comfortably extract and replace the filter as you'll need to clean it weekly.

**SALT RESERVOIR/RINSE AID**

Reach in and undo these in the shop – you'll be topping these up monthly, so make sure they're not awkward to open.

**PLASTIC FLAP-TYPE RACKS**

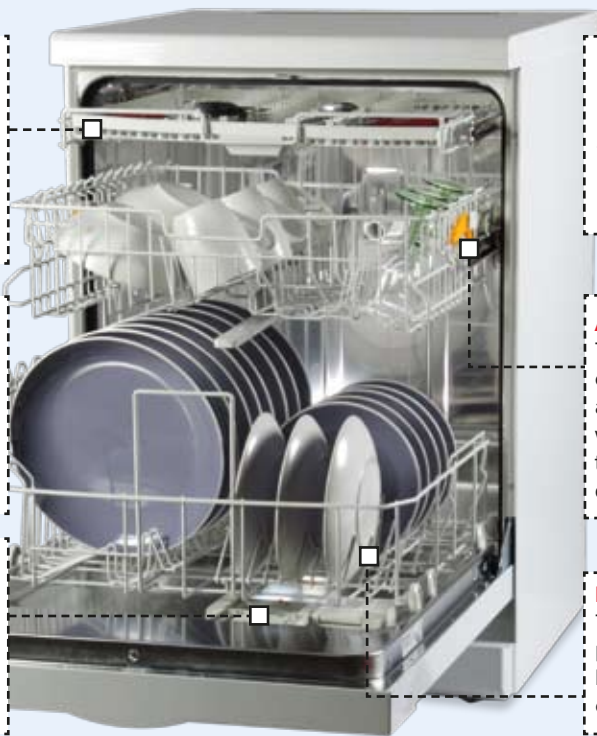
Look out for these if you'd like to wash sharp items such as carving knives in your dishwasher. You can fold the flaps down to hold them safely (not shown on this model).

ADJUSTABLE UPPER BASKETS

There are two types: models with the clip system (pictured) let you easily adjust the height of the upper basket, while on models without this you need to remove and replace the whole drawer in a higher or lower position.

FOLD-DOWN PRONGS

These prongs normally hold plates in place or keep cups separate. They can be folded out of the way so that you can wash bulky items.



FAQs

Our dishwasher expert Carole Shepherdson solves your queries



Q I have cutlery with large handles. What premium features should I look for?

A Watch out for cutlery baskets that have a plastic mesh that you post your cutlery through. If your silverware has big handles, it might not fit. Avoid this by choosing a dishwasher with a cutlery drawer.

Q Why do I keep finding half dissolved detergent tabs in the bottom of my machine?

A Large items at the front of the machine may be preventing water from reaching the detergent. Instead, place them at the side and the back.

Q My kids always leave something on their plates. Is there a way to avoid having to rinse everything under the tap?

A Pre-rinsing by hand is a waste of time and water. Instead, simply wipe food residues into the bin with a wet cloth.

Q I've inherited some lovely china and am about to invest in a dishwasher. Is there any buying advice you can give?

A First, check whether your china is dishwasher-safe. If it is, use only your machine's cooler settings such as the glass or eco program. Then use a ruler to check if you have larger-than-standard plates. Plates larger than 25cm diameter may be tapped by the sprinkler arms during the wash and might get chipped. Avoid this by buying a dishwasher with adjustable baskets that you can move up to protect the plates.

How we test

Dishwasher cleaning isn't the whole story

We fill each dishwasher with the number of place settings recommended by the manufacturer, for example stainless steel cutlery, white porcelain and clear glasses. 87 of these items are soiled with common but tough-to-remove food, such as egg, spinach, oat flakes, tomato juice, tea, milk, meat and margarine. We add 34 clean items to check that stains and dirt aren't being transferred from the dirty items.

How easy they are to use is also important. We check that the features that are there to make life easier, do make life easier.

Our testers examine how much force is needed to grip and open the door and rate how easy it is to open and close detergent, rinse aid and salt dispensers. We look at how difficult the filter is to remove, clean and replace. We also read the instructions to check that they're easy to understand.

Finally, we'll run the machine on the main program, as this is the one most of you use. We then assess every item to see how well it has been cleaned, rinsed and dried. We also test energy consumption on the main and eco programs.

Best Buy detergent



Finish Powerball Max-in-1 84%

Get the best from your dishwasher by using Best Buy dishwasher detergent Finish Powerball Max-in-1. It's the best combination tablet we've tested and gives brilliant results. It contains rinse aid as well as detergent in a single convenient block.

Which? online Dishwashers

Visit www.which.co.uk/dishwashers to read full test reviews of more than a hundred dishwashers, including 31 Best Buy models and one Don't Buy – the Proline DWF1250P.



Tell us what you think of your dishwasher. Other members have posted their reviews and we're keen to hear more. Whether your experience with your machine has been good or bad, we want to hear from you. Visit www.which.co.uk/customerreviews to find out how to get started.



Contacts

AEG-Electrolux
0844 561 1611;
www.aeg-electrolux.co.uk

Beko 0845 600 4904
www.beko.co.uk

Bosch 0844 892 9049
www.bosch-home.co.uk

Fisher & Paykel
0845 066 2200
www.fisherpaykel.co.uk

Hotpoint 0844 811 1213
www.hotpoint.co.uk

Indesit 0844 824 2526
www.indesit.co.uk

Miele 0870 755 4466
www.miele.co.uk

Neff 0870 240 0080
www.neff.co.uk

Siemens 0844 892 8927
www.siemens-home.co.uk

Whirlpool 0870 600 8989
www.whirlpool.co.uk

Zanussi 0844 561 2612
www.zanussi.co.uk

MODEL	SPECIFICATION					
	PRICE (£)	SIZE (cm) (hxxwx)d	PLACE SETTINGS	ADJUSTABLE UPPER BASKET	DELAY TIMER	WASHING
FULL-SIZE FREESTANDING						
MIELE G1225SC	759	85x60x61	14	C	Yes	★★★★★
AEG-ELECTROLUX F60760	569	85x60x63	12	C	Yes	★★★★★
BOSCH SMS53L02GB Logixx	470	85x60x61	13	C	Yes	★★★★★
BOSCH SMS65E02GB Exxcel	520	85x60x61	13	C	Yes	★★★★★
INDESIT IDF125	206	85x60x62	12	R	No	★★★★★
SIEMENS SN26M290GB	600	84x60x60	14	C	Yes	★★★★★
HOTPOINT FDF784 Aquarius	340	86x60x61	14	C	Yes	★★★★★
BEKO DE6340	234	85x60x62	12	R	No	★★★★★
INDESIT IDE750	329	85x60x61	12	R	Yes	★★★★★
FULL-SIZE BUILT-IN						
AEG-ELECTROLUX F65011VI	518	82x60x55	12	C	Yes	★★★★★
BOSCH SMV53M00GB Exxcel	650	82x60x55	13	C	Yes	★★★★★
NEFF S51M53X0GB	499	81x60x55	13	No	Yes	★★★★★
BOSCH SMV50E00GB Exxcel	525	82x60x55	13	C	Yes	★★★★★
WHIRLPOOL ADG7460	440	82x59x56	12	n/a	No	★★★★★
BEKO DW450	349	83x45x55	10	R	No	★★★★★
FISHER & PAYKEL DD605FDH	1,000	82x60x62	12	n/a	No	★★★★★
SLIMLINE FREESTANDING						
MIELE G1102SC	609	85x45x61	9	C	No	★★★★★
ZANUSSI ZDS231	269	85x45x63	9	R	Yes	★★★★★
BEKO DE2541FX	246	86x45x62	10	R	No	★★★★★
SLIMLINE BUILT-IN						
NEFF S5943X2GB	530	81x45x55	9	C	No	★★★★★
AEG-ELECTROLUX F85480VI	529	82x45x55	9	C	Yes	★★★★★
ZANUSSI ZDTS101	448	82x45x55	9	R	No	★★★★★

a The model only has an 'eco' wash program and doesn't have a 'normal' program, so we tested the eco

USING THE TABLE

The more stars the better

Specification

Price For Best Buys we give the lowest available high-street or online price. Prices for other models are a guide to what to expect to pay. See www.which.co.uk for

the latest prices.

Size Depth includes handle.

Adjustable baskets

C = Clip system, the easiest to use. R = Remove basket. Remove and replace basket at a different height before loading.

Test performance

Main program We

choose the main program, the one expected to be used for daily washing (up to 65°C on most machines).

Energy and water save program

We chose energy-save, eco or economy programs that wash at about 50-55°C.

Washing Models with a ★★★★★ rating left

MAIN PROGRAM					ENERGY-SAVE PROGRAM		EASE OF USE		BRAND RELIABILITY	SCORE (%)
WATER MARKS	DRYING	ENERGY USE	WATER USE	DURATION	ENERGY USE	WATER USE	EASE OF USE	NOISE		
★★★★★	★★★★★	★	★★★★	2h30m	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Above average	73
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★	2h12m	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Average	72
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	1h49m	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Above average	71
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	2h9m	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Above average	71
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	2h3m	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Below average	68
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★	1h29m	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Above average	68
★★★★★	★★★★★	★	★★★★	2h21m	★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★	Below average	63
★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	2h18m	n/a ^a	n/a ^a	★★★★★	★	n/a	60
★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	1h36m	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★	Below average	54
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★	2h7m	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Average	71
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	2h5m	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Above average	71
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	2h3m	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Above average	69
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	2h15m	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★	Above average	68
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	3h37m	n/a ^a	n/a ^a	★★★★★	★★★	Average	68
★★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	1h1m	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	n/a	63
★★★★★	★★★★★	★	★★	2h3m	★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★	n/a	60
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	2h14m	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Above average	71
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	1h40m	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	Below average	66
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	1h5m	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★	n/a	63
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	2h20m	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Above average	72
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	2h1m	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	Average	68
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★	1h43m	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	Below average	64

program as the main program.

dishes spotless, while those with ★★ satisfactorily removed all food residue. **Watermarks** ★★★★★ means that glasses were smear-free; ★★ means there were watermarks on the cutlery and glassware. **Drying** How well the dishwasher dries on its main program. A rating

of ★★★★★ means the dishes dried fully; ★★ means there were water drops left. **Energy use** Kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity used in a normally soiled load. ★★★★★ means less than 0.9kWh; ★ means more than 1.65kWh used. **Water use** How many litres of water the

dishwasher used to clean a normally soiled load. Models rated ★★★★★ used less than a tiny 12 litres; those rated ★ used more than an extravagant 24 litres. **Ease of use** Includes loading and unloading the racks and how well the dishwasher self-cleans. **Noise** Based on measured and subjective

ratings during cycles. ★★★★★ is the quietest; ★ is noisy. **Brand reliability** Based on our 2008 survey of Which? members; n/a means we don't yet have enough reliability data for these brands. **Score** Ignores price and

is based on:
 Washing (on main program) **30%**
 Watermarks (on main program) **10%**
 Drying (on main program) **10%**
 Energy use (main and eco programs) **12%**
 Water use (main and eco programs) **8%**
 Ease of use **20%**
 Noise **10%**