

# Best Buy tumble dryers

Tumble dryers are often considered wasteful, but our tests show that new machines can be efficient and cheap to run

**25p**  
the cost of drying one  
load with the Siemens  
WT46W560GB

**15**  
how many minutes it  
takes the Bosch  
WTB76556 to dry  
1kg of washing

**95%**

the amount of  
water extracted by  
the Whirlpool  
AWZ 8578

**T**umble dryers have come a long way since they first appeared in Which? 50 years ago. Modern machines have super-quick drying times, larger drum sizes, and A and B ratings for energy efficiency. And technology is improving all the time.

The first A-rated dryer we tested in 2003 took more than seven hours to dry a full load, whereas the A-rated Siemens WT46W560GB

condenser dryer we've just tested takes two hours and 18 minutes to dry a full load (7kg). This exceptionally energy-efficient Best Buy uses about half the energy of a modern B-rated machine – turn to p38 to see how it compares with a tumble dryer we tested in the 1950s.

Tumble dryers can be expensive – the Siemens costs £849. But our unique tests help us find out which cheap machines produce great results. Whirlpool's AWZ 3303 electric

**With a  
gas-vented  
dryer, drying  
a full load  
costs 21p**

vented dryer is exceptional value for a Best Buy, at £150. Find the review of this dryer and full details of all the electric and gas vented models we test at [www.which.co.uk/tumbledryers](http://www.which.co.uk/tumbledryers).

Dryers that use gas to heat the drum can also cut energy costs. With White Knight's Best Buy Eco 43a and 83a, drying a full load costs 21p – that's about 30p less than electric dryers of the same size. Over a year this would add up to a £57 saving.





## Best for a large family

These machines are big enough to take everything from your washing machine – handy if you have piles of laundry to dry



VENTED

### Bosch WTB76556 Logixx £810

Which? test score **72%**

Brand reliability **Average**

**PROS** A very quick and even dryer, with an impressive 10kg capacity. The large door makes loading easy.

**CONS** It's deeper and taller than most dryers, so it may not fit under your work surface.

Full review at [www.which.co.uk/BoschWTB76556](http://www.which.co.uk/BoschWTB76556)

**BoschWTB76556**

We found it cheapest at Comet Also available Online



VENTED

### Bosch WTV74308GB £350

Which? test score **70%**

Brand reliability **Average**

**PROS** It dries quickly and evenly, takes 8kg of washing and has a 24-hour delay timer.

**CONS** It's big, but you can fit more into its big brother, left.

Full review at [www.which.co.uk/BoschWTV74308GB](http://www.which.co.uk/BoschWTV74308GB)

**BoschWTV74308GB**

We found it cheapest at Currys Also available at Argos, Asda Direct, online



CONDENSER

### Whirlpool AWZ 8578 £330

Which? test score **64%**

Brand reliability **Average**

**PROS** Costs just £330. The condenser is excellent – it captures almost all the water from the load, so you're unlikely to end up with a steamy kitchen. It has an 8kg capacity.

**CONS** Other Best Buys are quicker at drying.

Full review at [www.which.co.uk/WhirlpoolAWZ8578](http://www.which.co.uk/WhirlpoolAWZ8578)

**WhirlpoolAWZ8578**

We found it cheapest at Currys Also available Online

## Best for running costs

Tumble dryers generally use a lot of energy, but with some Best Buy models you could halve the cost of drying



CONDENSER

### Siemens WT46W560GB £849

Which? test score **73%**

Brand reliability **Above average**

**PROS** The most energy-efficient model we tested – it reuses heat extracted from the drum to dry the load. It has a 7kg capacity.

**CONS** At £849, it's an expensive dryer.

Full review at [www.which.co.uk/SiemensWT46W560GB](http://www.which.co.uk/SiemensWT46W560GB)

**SiemensWT46W560GB**

We found it cheapest at John Lewis Also available Comet, online



VENTED

### Siemens WT36V398GB £439

Which? test score **72%**

Brand reliability **Above average**

**PROS** This C-rated Siemens dries quickly and evenly and has an 8kg capacity.

**CONS** Vented dryers are quick, but none gets an A rating for energy use. A- or B-rated condenser dryers use less energy.

Full review at [www.which.co.uk/SiemensWT36V398GB](http://www.which.co.uk/SiemensWT36V398GB)

**SiemensWT36V398GB**

We found it cheapest Online Also available Online only



GAS VENTED

### White Knight Eco 43a/Eco 83a £330/£318

Which? test score **71% and 70%**

Brand reliability **Above average**

**PROS** Gas prices are relatively low, so these two gas vented dryers offer a cheaper way to dry your clothes.

**CONS** Gas dryers need to be professionally installed by Gas Safe-registered engineers.

Full review at [www.which.co.uk/Whiteknight43a](http://www.which.co.uk/Whiteknight43a) and [www.which.co.uk/Whiteknight83a](http://www.which.co.uk/Whiteknight83a)

We found them cheapest at Currys Also available Online

## Best for a simple life

The best modern dryers have a range of indicators, sensors and timers that take the guesswork out of drying your washing



**CONDENSER**

### AEG-Electrolux T88840 Pro Steam £558

Which? test score **68%**

Brand reliability **Average**

**PROS** It dries quickly and evenly. Useful features include a delay timer and a sensor to measure how dry your washing is.

**CONS** Like the John Lewis machine (right), it leaves clothes quite creased.

Full review at [www.which.co.uk/AEGElectroluxT88840](http://www.which.co.uk/AEGElectroluxT88840)

**AEGElectroluxT88840**

We found it cheapest Online Also available Online only



**CONDENSER**

### John Lewis JLTDC09 £399

Which? test score **66%**

Brand reliability **Average**

**PROS** This dryer tells you when to change the lint filter and reservoir. It has a rack for items that are too delicate to be tumbled.

**CONS** Laundry comes out quite creased.

Full review at [www.which.co.uk/JohnLewisJLTDC09](http://www.which.co.uk/JohnLewisJLTDC09)

We found it cheapest at John Lewis

Available John Lewis only



**VENTED**

### Miele T7634 £579

Which? test score **68%**

Brand reliability **Average**

**PROS** Convenient features include a delay timer, a display showing how much drying time is left, and an end-of-program buzzer.

**CONS** It takes a maximum load of only 6kg.

Full review at [www.which.co.uk/MieleT7634](http://www.which.co.uk/MieleT7634)

We found it cheapest at Comet and John Lewis

Also available Online

## Vintage dry vs new Best Buy

Tumble dryers are notorious for guzzling energy, but the best modern machines use significantly less energy than the first automatic dryers.

Which? published its first tumble dryers report in August 1959. We tested the Parnall Auto-Dry (pictured right), which cost £46 8s 9d – that's £800 in today's money, enough to buy the A-rated Best Buy Siemens WT46W560GB (far right).

In 1959 the Parnall took one-and-a-half hours to dry a 2.75kg load, and used 1.4kWh for each kg of washing.

The Siemens dries clothes in half the time and uses less than a quarter of the energy. It costs about £50 a year to run (based on using the machine every



other day). If you used the Parnall today, the annual running cost would be more than £200.

But to be fair to the vintage Parnall dryer, modern washing machines are more efficient at spinning excess water from laundry, so modern dryers don't have quite as much work to do.

#### TUMBLE DRYER ENERGY USE

**0.3**

2009 BEST BUY

**1.4**

1959 BEST BUY

0 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 1.5  
Energy (kWh) per kg of load

## Dryer types

### ■ ELECTRIC CONDENSER

In these dryers, moist air is removed from the drum and cooled. The water is collected in a reservoir.

**Pros** Can be installed anywhere.

**Cons** More expensive than vented models.

### ■ ELECTRIC VENTED

Dryers take warm, damp air from the drum and get rid of it through a hose.

**Pros** Can be cheap.

**Cons** Must sit near a window or door so air can be channelled away.

**■ GAS VENTED** Gas heats the drum, while damp air is vented out.

**Pros** Cheap running costs and good drying performance.

**Cons** Gas dryers need to be professionally installed.

**■ COMPACT** Much smaller than full-sized dryers. Can be vented or condenser.

**Pros** Handy if space is tight.

**Cons** Slower and less efficient than full-sized dryers.

## USING THE TABLE

The more stars the better.

**Specification** Price See p27.

**Sensor** Whether the dryer has a sensor that measures the dryness of the load.

Y = Yes, N = No.

**Test performance**

**Cottons/Synthetics** Time taken to dry a full load of cottons or synthetics.

**Evenness** ★★★★★ means all items are dried evenly. ★★★ means some are damp while others are dry. **Condenser** How little water escapes from the

dryer. **Ease of use** Includes ease of loading, cleaning filters and removing

reservoir. **Running costs**

Based on 12.48p per kWh.

★★★★★ means about 25p or less per load. **Brand reliability** Based on annual survey of Which? members.

AA = Above average. A = Average. BA = Below average. n/a = Brands are too new or owned by too few members to get a rating. For John Lewis, we use the data for the brand that makes its machines.

## Score

Ignores price; based on:

## CONDENSER DRYERS

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Drying time        |       |
| and running costs  | 45%   |
| Ease of use        | 17.5% |
| Trapping water     | 15%   |
| Evenness of drying | 10%   |
| Creases            | 7.5%  |
| Noise              | 5%    |

## VENTED DRYERS

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Drying time        |     |
| and running costs  | 53% |
| Ease of use        | 21% |
| Evenness of drying | 11% |
| Creases            | 9%  |
| Noise              | 6%  |

## Contacts

**AEG-Electrolux**  
0870 595 0950  
www.aeg-electrolux.co.uk

**Beko**  
01923 818121  
www.beko.co.uk

**Bosch**  
01908 328500  
www.bosch-home.co.uk

**Hoover** 0870 950 2943  
www.hoover.co.uk

**Hotpoint**  
0870 442 7665  
www.hotpoint.co.uk

**Indesit** 0870 150 6070  
www.indesit.co.uk

**John Lewis**  
0845 604 9049  
www.johnlewis.co.uk

**Miele**  
01235 554455  
www.miele.co.uk

**Siemens**  
01276 696000  
www.siemens-home.co.uk

**Whirlpool** 0870 600 8989  
www.whirlpool.co.uk

**White Knight**  
01422 203585  
www.crosslee.co.uk

**Zanussi** 0870 572 7727  
www.zanussi.co.uk

| MODEL                        | SPECIFICATION |                          |                |        |               | WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE |            |          |           |             |               |                   | SCORE % |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------|---------------|-------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|---------|
|                              | PRICE (£)     | SIZE (cm)<br>(h x w x d) | FULL LOAD (kg) | SENSOR | ENERGY RATING | COTTONS                 | SYNTHETICS | EVENNESS | CONDENSER | EASE OF USE | RUNNING COSTS | BRAND RELIABILITY |         |
| CONDENSER                    |               |                          |                |        |               |                         |            |          |           |             |               |                   |         |
| <b>SIEMENS</b> WT46W560GB    | 849           | 86x60x62                 | 7              | Y      | A             | ★★★★★                   | ★★★★★      | ★★★★★    | ★★★★★     | ★★★★★       | ★★★★★         | AA                | 73      |
| <b>AEG-ELECTROLUX</b> T88840 | 558           | 85x60x64                 | 7              | Y      | B             | ★★★★★                   | ★★★★★      | ★★★★★    | ★★★★★     | ★★★★★       | ★★★★★         | A                 | 68      |
| <b>JOHN LEWIS</b> JLTDC09    | 399           | 85x60x65                 | 7              | Y      | B             | ★★★★★                   | ★★★★★      | ★★★★★    | ★★★★★     | ★★★★★       | ★★★★★         | A                 | 66      |
| <b>WHIRLPOOL</b> AWZ 8578    | 330           | 86x60x62                 | 8              | Y      | B             | ★★★★                    | ★★★★       | ★★★★★    | ★★★★★     | ★★★★★       | ★★★★★         | A                 | 64      |
| <b>HOTPOINT</b> TCD975       | 335           | 85x60x62                 | 7.5            | Y      | B             | ★★★★★                   | ★★★        | ★★★★★    | ★★★★★     | ★★★★★       | ★★★★★         | BA                | 62      |
| <b>HOTPOINT</b> AQCF852BI    | 350           | 84x60x63                 | 8              | Y      | B             | ★★★★★                   | ★★★★       | ★★★★★    | ★★★★★     | ★★★★        | ★★★★★         | BA                | 57      |
| <b>ZANUSSI</b> ZDC47100W     | 250           | 85x60x64                 | 7              | Y      | C             | ★★★★                    | ★★★★       | ★★★★★    | ★★★★★     | ★★★★★       | ★★★★          | A                 | 57      |
| <b>INDESIT</b> IDC75         | 191           | 85x60x64                 | 7              | N      | C             | ★★★★★                   | ★★★        | ★★★★★    | ★★★       | ★★★★★       | ★★★★          | A                 | 49      |
| <b>WHITE KNIGHT</b> 93AW     | 227           | 85x60x61                 | 7              | Y      | C             | ★★★★★                   | ★★★        | ★★★★★    | ★★★       | ★★★★        | ★★★★          | AA                | 47      |
| <b>BEKO</b> DRCS76           | 250           | 84x60x57                 | 7              | Y      | C             | ★★★★                    | ★★★        | ★★★★★    | ★★★       | ★★★★★       | ★★★★          | n/a               | 46      |
| <b>HOOVER</b> VHC 381        | 300           | 84x60x61                 | 8              | Y      | B             | ★★★★                    | ★★★★       | ★★★★★    | ★★★       | ★★★★        | ★★★★★         | n/a               | 43      |
| VENTED                       |               |                          |                |        |               |                         |            |          |           |             |               |                   |         |
| <b>BOSCH</b> WTB76556 Logixx | 810           | 94x69x81                 | 10             | Y      | C             | ★★★★★                   | ★★★★★      | ★★★★★    | n/a       | ★★★★★       | ★★★★★         | A                 | 72      |
| <b>SIEMENS</b> WT36V398GB    | 439           | 84x60x63                 | 8              | Y      | C             | ★★★★★                   | ★★★★★      | ★★★★★    | n/a       | ★★★★★       | ★★★★★         | AA                | 72      |
| <b>BOSCH</b> WTV74308GB      | 350           | 84x60x64                 | 8              | Y      | C             | ★★★★★                   | ★★★★★      | ★★★★★    | n/a       | ★★★★★       | ★★★★★         | A                 | 70      |
| <b>MIELE</b> T7634           | 579           | 84x60x63                 | 6              | Y      | C             | ★★★★★                   | ★★★★★      | ★★★★     | n/a       | ★★★★★       | ★★★★★         | A                 | 68      |
| <b>HOTPOINT</b> TVF760       | 186           | 85x60x58                 | 6              | Y      | C             | ★★★★★                   | ★★★★★      | ★★★★★    | n/a       | ★★★★        | ★★★★★         | BA                | 66      |
| <b>INDESIT</b> ISA60V        | 181           | 85x60x58                 | 6              | Y      | C             | ★★★★★                   | ★★★★★      | ★★★★     | n/a       | ★★★★        | ★★★★★         | A                 | 61      |
| <b>BEKO</b> DRVS73W          | 184           | 84x60x56                 | 7              | Y      | C             | ★★★★                    | ★★★★★      | ★★★★     | n/a       | ★★★★★       | ★★★★★         | n/a               | 57      |
| <b>WHITE KNIGHT</b> 85AW     | 190           | 85x60x56                 | 5              | Y      | B             | ★                       | ★★★        | ★★★★★    | n/a       | ★★★         | ★★★★          | AA                | 47      |
| GAS VENTED                   |               |                          |                |        |               |                         |            |          |           |             |               |                   |         |
| <b>WHITE KNIGHT</b> Eco 43A  | 330           | 85x60x60                 | 7              | N      | n/a           | ★★★★★                   | ★★★★★      | ★★★★★    | n/a       | ★★★★★       | ★★★★★         | AA                | 71      |
| <b>WHITE KNIGHT</b> Eco 83A  | 318           | 85x60x60                 | 7              | Y      | n/a           | ★★★★★                   | ★★★★★      | ★★★★★    | n/a       | ★★★★        | ★★★★★         | AA                | 70      |