

[all change]

We review new products

Get a grip

Wall plugs are essential when screwing anything to a wall or ceiling, but there's a confusing array available. The Uno (£2.80 for a pack of 48 6mm plugs) claims to be the only one you'll ever need as it works in a variety of materials. It expands along its entire length as the screw is inserted,



The Uno wall plug is extremely versatile

giving an instant and secure grip.

We tested the Uno in plasterboard, breeze block and brick. We compared it with wall plugs specifically designed for these materials and with multipurpose plugs from B&Q and Wickes. Once they were installed, we measured the force required to pull each plug and screw from the material. The Uno plugs outperformed the multipurpose plugs and matched or outperformed the plugs specifically designed for each material, too. **Verdict** A good, cheap product that lives up to its claims.

The first frost-free chest freezer

Anyone who's ever gone through the hassle of defrosting a chest freezer may be interested in the first-ever frost-free version to be launched.

We put the Electrolux 3070, £350 from Iceland, through our usual rigorous tests and it excelled at all of them, becoming the highest scoring freezer we've tested in a long time. The auto-defrost system worked so well that our experts couldn't spot any condensation or icing within the cabinet, even after several months of using the freezer. It works really well at the manufacturer's recommended temperature setting and it holds the temperature consistently to ensure that food is kept in top condition. It can also freeze 16.5kg of

fresh groceries in a day, more than our other chest freezer Best Buys.

We usually find that chest freezers are harder to organise than upright models, but this model has four grid baskets instead of the usual two to help you sort stuff inside. The lightweight lid, easy to lift due to its springy hinges, also has special holders for ice-cube trays attached to make sure they're easily accessible. Our only major criticism of this freezer is that it vibrates and hums a lot – but as you're likely to keep it in a utility room or basement that shouldn't be too much of a problem.

Verdict A great choice if you want lots of extra freezing space without the hassle of defrosting.

Best Buy chest freezers

MODEL

	Price (£)	Size h x w x d (cm)	Size (litres)	Frost free	Running cost (£/yr)	Temp stability	Load (kg/day)	Power cut
1 Electrolux 3070	350	153x167x76	297	✓	15	★	16.5	★
2 Norfrost Aura C6AEW	160	135x91x60	171		16	★	11.5	☆
3 Norfrost Aura C2BES	110	135x41x60	55		11	★	4	⦿

TV via your mobile

It's predicted that 125 million people around the world will be watching TV on their mobile by 2010, so we were keen to take a look at this new technology.

Orange TV, launched in May, offers nine channels, including news, cartoons, extreme sports and reality TV. Live footage is streamed on Orange's high-speed 3G network. For now,

it's available only with a Nokia 6680 phone.

We asked five mobile users to try it out. It took no time at all to download the application, and it's easy to get started.

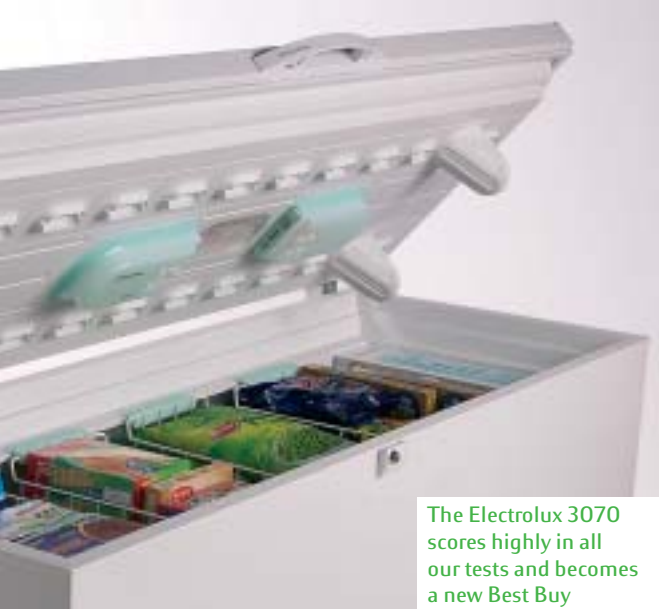
Unfortunately, however, reception was poor, as were the picture and sound quality. Annoyingly, the picture loads three to 15 seconds after the sound, and both picture and sound cut out

regularly. Changing channels took anywhere from five to 20 seconds, and the phone occasionally locked and had to be switched off and on to continue. Coverage was poor when watching TV on the move, such as on the train. None of our testers would pay the £10 monthly subscription to watch TV on their phone.

Other companies are also piloting TV on mobiles. Vodafone Live!

customers have been able to watch *Big Brother* on their phones. Virgin Mobile is running a trial with customers within the M25. And O2 has a trial in Oxford, using technology that allows you to watch TV and make calls at the same time. We'll update you in our future technology article later in the year.

Verdict A great idea but not ready for mass consumption just yet.



The Electrolux 3070 scores highly in all our tests and becomes a new Best Buy

TABLE NOTES

Specification

Price Lowest widely available high-street price.

Performance

Running cost How much the freezer costs to run for a year. **Load** How much it can freeze in a day. **Power cut** How quickly the freezer heats

up if the power goes off.

Convenience

Defrost Models with a ★ are frost-free. Those with a ○ are good at collecting thawed water.

KEY

★ ☆ ○ ● ●
Best —————> Worst
■ Best Buy

WHICH? EXTRA

Our website has details of 33 freezers from previous tests, including tall, worktop-height and chest models, plus explanations of features and energy labels. Pay a visit to www.which.co.uk/freezers

Convenience		Score
Ease of use	Defrost	(%)
★	★	80
○	○	59
○	●	58

Metal smell busters

We were intrigued to come across a range of stainless steel products that claim to kill smells. The manufacturers told us 'scientists aren't sure how it works - it just does!' We asked six families to try out the Toilet Smell Killer (£20), the Amazing Body Stick (£20) underarm deodorant and the Universal Smell Killer (£25), all available from www.naturalcollection.com.

The Toilet Smell Killer hangs on the inside of the toilet bowl. Some of the families found it hard to bend the wire to

make it fit properly - one had to use pliers. Only one family said it worked better than their normal freshening routine, although it took some time to work after the first flush.

The Amazing Body Stick claims to destroy body odour when it comes into contact with moisture. You rub it in and around your armpit for 20 to 30 seconds as and when you need it. If there's not enough moisture there, you add some to the stick with the supplied cloth. Only one person out of six liked it. The rest thought it was far inferior to their usual deodorising routine.

The Universal Smell Killer was the most

popular of the three products. Our triallists put it through its paces in smelly places around the home. Four families thought it worked as well as or better than their normal freshening routines, and three of them said they would buy one. One family said it worked particularly well in their teenage son's bedroom, another thought it was good in the dog basket.

Verdict The jury is still out on smell busters, but they are eco-friendly and you have to buy only once.



The Universal Smell Killer (above) was more popular than the Amazing Body Stick (left)



TV on your mobile has a long way to go before it catches on

the gadgeteer

#11 LavNav

Navy pilots say that an aircraft carrier seems the size of a postage stamp when you try to land a plane on one. We'll have to take their word for it, because the nearest most of us come to this experience is taking a pee in the middle of the night. And while accidents are far less serious for us than the fly-boys, they're more frequent. We need some landing lights for the toilet, and thanks to Arkon's LavNav we've got them. LavNav clips on to the toilet, detects when someone enters, and switches itself on: a green glow signifies the toilet seat is down and a red one that it's up. A pink and blue girl/boy colour scheme would have been more intuitive, but it beats hanging a pair of night-vision goggles from the towel rail. LavNav is £20 from www.gadgets.co.uk, cheaper than a new carpet for the bathroom.

