

[testing, testing]



42

PRODUCT NEWS

A wind-up digital radio? No, we're not kidding you



44

HOME SECURITY

We tested 61 padlocks and 37 safes to destruction



50

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Ten Best Buys starting at £180, from 31 models tested



56

FRIDGE-FREEZERS

We took 246 million temperature readings during our tests



60

DISHWASHERS

Freestanding or built in – there's a Best Buy here for you



64

RUCKSACKS

Our Best Buys sailed through lab tests as well as out in the wilds

TYRES

p68

If you've ever skidded on a wet road, you'll know just how frightening it can be. That's why, in our extensive tyre tests, we painstakingly measure the exact point at which each tyre begins to lose grip in the wet, so that you know which are the worst for losing it in the rain. To do this, we accelerate the car on a road surface covered with 7mm of water and note the speed at which the tyres start to slide.

We also test braking on wet and dry surfaces by accelerating to 50mph and braking, measuring the distance required for the car to slow down to 12mph. The difference between the best and worst tyre can be as great as 5.4 metres – about the length of a Rolls Royce. It could be the difference between hitting the car in front and a near miss.

As well as this, we compare how well each tyre grips on a series of demanding corners. And to measure wear accurately we cover a distance equivalent to driving 33 times round the world, and take regular measurements across the tread at fixed intervals so that we can tell you which tyres last the longest.

Finally, we assess how noisy tyres are by accelerating to 50mph, switching off the engine and coasting down, listening from inside the car as well as measuring noise from the trackside.

