



To put the washing machines through their paces, we make the different models wash more than 390 loads

Rinsing

To measure how well each machine removes detergent during the rinse cycle, we take freshly rinsed washing from the machine and put it in a super-fast dryer that spins at 2800rpm – roughly twice as fast as a typical washing machine. We then collect water from the clothes and measure how alkaline it is compared with the alkalinity of the tap water that was used in the wash. Detergent is alkaline, so the higher the levels in the water, the poorer the machine is at rinsing. In our tests, the Miele 1512 (number 3 in the table, p46), Bosch WBB 24759 Logixx (2) and Siemens WXL147A (5) are the best at rinsing on cotton washes.

Disabled users

Using a unique checklist developed with Ricability, an independent charity for disabled people, we look for any potential difficulties that wheelchair users or those with reduced mobility, vision or dexterity might face. In total, we check more than 160 characteristics on each model – this covers loading and unloading the machine, selecting the programs, clarity of the control panel lights, cleaning the filter and adding detergent.

Full cycle

It's more than 40 years since *Which?* tested the first automatic washing machines. To mark this anniversary, we've introduced some exciting new testing methods which have enabled us to recommend the washing machines best suited for those with skin allergies, wheelchair users, and people with reduced mobility, vision and dexterity.

For this report, we've tested 26 of the latest washing machines – 22 freestanding and four built-in models – ranging from £240 to £900. Although we can't test every model in the shops, we do know there are some that are very similar to our 12 Best Buys but have, for

example, a faster spin speed. So we've also provided you with the information you need to purchase a machine we are confident will be just as good as one of our Best Buys (see p49).

And because we buy all of the products we test, we go through exactly the same experience you do when you buy a new washing machine. This means we know it can be tricky to find the one you want on the high street – even the largest shops have only a limited number of models in stock. That's why we've also packed this report with buying advice to ensure you can always track down the washing machine that best suits you.

Find out more about the exciting new testing methods we've introduced to help you choose the best washing machine

We've packed this report with buying advice

What you should look for

CHILD LOCKS

Machines often come with locks that prevent children from interfering with them. Some operate by locking the control panel; for others you'll need to turn a special screw located on the inside of the door

DETERGENT DRAWER

The Indesit WM12/X built-in model (26) has a novel drawer that swings through 180 degrees. It's an interesting twist on the traditional pullout design and has wide compartments

TILTED DRUMS

The 9kg drum on the Bosch WBB 24759 Logixx (2), and on other larger-capacity models in the shops, is tilted to help with loading and unloading clothes. We found this worked well

SPIN SPEED

A higher spin speed, such as 1600rpm or 1800rpm, will reduce the time clothes spend on the line or in the dryer. You usually have to pay extra for this feature, and a higher speed can result in more noise

QUICK WASH

One in five *Which?* members save time by using the quick-wash program for every load. On many machines this is suitable for cleaning only small loads between 1kg and 3kg – roughly the difference between washing two pairs and six pairs of jeans

DOOR HEIGHT

The door on the Candy GO147 (14) is 10cm higher than on most other models. It's easier to load and unload as you don't have to bend over so far



**1 FREESTANDING****71% Miele W3240****£700**

The mid-range Miele W3240 includes a distinctive honeycomb drum. It's a good all-rounder, giving excellent wash results for cotton and short programs and good results for easy-care loads. Spinning is better than on most Best Buys and it also comes with a free ten-year warranty. The Miele is available from Comet and Currys.

WORTH KNOWING This model is due to be replaced in March.

Cheapest store Comet **Capacity** 6kg **Spin speed** 1400rpm **Energy label** AAB **Cotton** 1hr 55min **Quick** 1hr 32min **Colours** White **Delay start** No

WHICH?
BEST BUY

**2 FREESTANDING****66% Bosch WBB 24759 Logixx £900**

This Bosch's large drum makes it ideal for big families. It's wider and taller than the average machine, so it will require extra space. The drum's tilted upwards so you don't need to bend too far and the wide door opening makes it easy to load.

The Bosch is available from Currys and John Lewis.

WE FOUND Running costs are low but you will need to wash full loads to make the most of this.

Cheapest store John Lewis **Capacity** 9kg **Spin speed** 1200rpm **Energy label** AAB **Cotton** 1hr 53min **Quick** 1hr 7min **Colours** White **Delay start** Yes

WHICH?
BEST BUY

**4 FREESTANDING****65% Miele Premier 520 £500**

This Miele is one of only three machines to get top marks on both cotton and quick washes. The small 5kg drum might not suit heavy users but it comes with lots of useful programs – including reduced ironing, wool and handwash. The 520 is cheap to run, the filter's easy to reach and empty and Miele provides a free, three-year warranty. It is available from Comet and Currys.

WE FOUND This is the quietest machine during rinsing and spinning.

Cheapest store Comet, Currys **Capacity** 5kg **Spin speed** 1200rpm **Energy label** AAB **Cotton** 1hr 56min **Quick** 1hr 26min **Colours** White **Delay start** No

WHICH?
BEST BUY

**5 FREESTANDING****64% Siemens WXL147A £530**

The 1400rpm WXL147A outperformed its 1200rpm stablemate in our tests – washing well and excelling at spin drying. Rinsing is better than on most other Best Buys and the quick wash takes just 54 minutes, and Siemens' reliability is good. The 1600rpm WXL167A is also in this range (see p49). Both are available online.

WORTH KNOWING The WXL147A includes an auto-load sensor instead of a reduced load option.

Available Online **Capacity** 6kg **Spin speed** 1400rpm **Energy label** AAB **Cotton** 2 hr 9min **Quick** 54min **Colours** White **Delay start** Yes

WHICH?
BEST BUY

Only three machines get top marks on both quick and cotton washes

**3 FREESTANDING****66% Miele W1512****£595**

The Miele W1512 cleans excellently and is a good choice for sensitive skin, as rinsing is better than most. The other model in this range is the 1400 spin speed W1514 (see p49). The W1512 is available at Comet and Currys and it comes with a free three-year warranty. There's no delay start option.

WE LIKE The high position of the filter means you can fit a tray underneath to catch water during emptying.

Cheapest store Currys **Capacity** 5kg **Spin speed** 1200rpm **Energy label** AAB **Cotton** 1hr 56min **Quick** 1hr 12min **Colours** White **Delay start** No

WHICH?
BEST BUY

**6 FREESTANDING****63% Zanussi-Electrolux ZWF1451W £400**

With a large, 7kg capacity, lots of useful features – including the ability to remember favourite programs – and a good cotton wash, the ZWF1451W is ideal for a big, busy family. In the same range there is a 1600rpm model and a talking model that calls out information (see p49). Available from John Lewis.

WORTH KNOWING The monitor shows the end time of a wash rather than the time left in a cycle.

Cheapest store John Lewis **Capacity** 7kg **Spin speed** 1400rpm **Energy label** AAB **Cotton** 2hr 16min **Quick** 1hr **Colours** White **Delay start** Yes

WHICH?
BEST BUY



Facts & scores

The latest washing machines come with funky new features

Goosebumps

This Bosch Best Buy has the biggest drum on test. In June we will have the test results for the new Bosch Logixx 8. This is another large-capacity model which includes a new 'goosebump softsurge' system that claims to wash clothes quickly and effectively.

All change

Over the spring, Zanussi-Electrolux will replace its entire range of washing machines. We'll be testing the new models later in the year.

Sports kits

A small number of washing machines in the shops, including this Indesit WIE147, have a special program for washing different pieces of sports kit, such as trainers.

MODEL	SPECIFICATION						
	PRICE (£)	CAPACITY (kg)	SIZE (cm) WXHD	SPIN (rpm)	ENERGY LABEL	RUNNING COST	COTTON
FREESTANDING							
1 MIELE W3240 ^b	700	6	60x85x60	1400	AAB	★★★★★	★★★★★
2 BOSCH WBB 24759 Logixx	900	9	69x95x78	1200	AAB	★★★★★	★★★★★
3 MIELE W1512	595	5	60x85x64	1200	AAB	★★★★★	★★★★★
4 MIELE Premier 520	500	5	60x85x60	1200	AAB	★★★★★	★★★★★
5 SIEMENS WXL147A	530	6	60x86x59	1400	AAB	★★★★★	★★★★★
6 ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZWF1451W	400	7	60x85x66	1400	AAB	★★★★	★★★★★
7 AEG-ELECTROLUX L74810	350	6	60x85x61	1400	AAB	★★★★★	★★★★
8 HOTPOINT WT721	330	7	60x85x60	1200	AAB	★★★★★	★★★★
9 SIEMENS WXL127A	580	6	60x85x59	1200	AAB	★★★★★	★★★★★
10 TRICITY BENDIX 1260	240	6	60x85x60	1200	AAB	★★★★★	★★★★★
11 ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZWF1237W	300	7	60x85x66	1200	AAB	★★★★★	★★★★★
12 LG WM1437WFD	900	8	60x85x66	1400	AAA	★★★★★	★★★★
13 ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZWF1437W/S	330	7	60x85x66	1400	AAB	★★★★★	★★★★★
14 CANDY G0147	270	7	60x84x63	1400	AAA	★★★★★	★★★★★
15 HOTPOINT WF541	310	6	60x85x60	1400	AAB	★★★★★	★★★★
16 INDESIT WIE147	255	5	60x84x56	1300	AAB	★★★★★	★★★★★
17 BEKO WMA665	250	6	60x85x59	1600	AAA	★★★★★	★★★★★
18 WHIRLPOOL AWO/D4705	255	5	60x84x58	1400	AAB	★★★★	★★★★★
19 JOHN LEWIS JLWM1403	350	6	60x85x64	1400	AAB	★★★★★	★★★★
20 HOOVER HNL7126	305	6	60x85x59	1200	AAB	★★★★	★★★★★
21 HOTPOINT Aqualitis AQXXL129	385	7.5	60x85x59	1200	AAB	★★★★★	★★
22 INDESIT WIA121	240	5	60x84x54	1200	AAB	★★★★★	★★
BUILT-IN							
23 AEG-ELECTROLUX L12510Vi	475	5	60x82x58	1200	AAB	★★★★	★★★★★
24 ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZJ1218	525	5	60x83x56	1200	AAB	★★★★	★★★★★
25 HOTPOINT BWM129	370	5	60x82x58	1200	AAB	★★★★★	★★★★
26 INDESIT WM12/ X	400	5	60x81x56	1200	BAB	★★★★★	★★★★

a The handwash and extra rinse programs have been tested only on models we've looked at within the last few months b In March the W3240 will be replaced by the

USING THE TABLE

We tested new models from leading brands. Bosch updated its range too late for this test, we'll report on its new models in June 2007. The more stars, the better.

Specification

Price For Best Buys

we give the cheapest, widely available high-street prices as we went to press. Prices for others are a guide. Online prices are in *italics*. **Size** Includes hoses and other protrusions.

Test performance

More emphasis is

placed on cleaning than in previous tests. Models are penalised if they are particularly bad at cleaning on the cotton and easy-care washes. **Running cost** Energy costs for a full load. Machines rated ★★★★★ cost about half as much to run as ★★-rated models. **Cotton**

Standard 40°C wash.

Easy care Standard wash for synthetic and polyester clothes.

Quick Short-wash option for cotton clothes. **Handwash** For clothes labelled 'handwash only'. **Rinse** How well a machine rinses on cotton wash. **Extra rinse** Rinsing

after using the extra rinse feature on the 40°C cotton program. **Spin dry** How dry the washed load was after final spin.

Brand reliability

Based on a survey on the brand's reliability for washing machines. A blank in the table

means there was insufficient data for us to judge reliability.

Score

Ignores price and is based on:
 Cleaning **55%**
 Running cost **20%**
 Convenience **10%**
 Spin dry **10%**
 Noise **5%**

WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE												SCORE %
EASY CARE	QUICK	HANDWASH ^a	COTTON (hr:m)	EASY CARE (hr:m)	QUICK (hr:m)	RINSE	EXTRA RINSE ^a	SPIN DRY	EASE OF USE	NOISE	BRAND RELIABILITY	
★★★★★	★★★★★	n/a	1:55	1:20	1:32	★★	n/a	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	good	71
★★★★★	★★★	n/a	1:53	1:19	1:07	★★	n/a	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	good	66
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	1:56	1:16	1:12	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	good	66
★★★★★	★★★★★	n/a	1:56	1:16	1:26	★★	n/a	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	good	65
★★★★	★★★★★	n/a	2:09	1:20	0:54	★★★★	n/a	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	good	64
★★★★★	★★★★★	n/a	2:16	1:17	1:00	★	n/a	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	average	63
★★★★★	★★★★★	n/a	1:53	1:22	1:06	★★	n/a	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	average	62
★★★★	★★★★★	★★	1:20	1:05	1:17	★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	poor	62
★★★★	★★★★★	n/a	2:09	1:19	0:51	★★	n/a	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	good	62
★★★★★	★★★★★	n/a	1:58	1:43	1:17	★★	n/a	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	good	62
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	1:57	1:20	1:03	★	★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★	average	62
★★★★	★★★★★	★★	1:47	1:19	0:44	★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	average	61
★★★★★	★★★★★	★	1:52	1:18	0:55	★	★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★	average	61
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	2:33	0:34	1:28	★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★	average	60
★★★★	★★★★★	★★	1:23	1:05	1:18	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	poor	60
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	1:42	1:11	1:10	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★	poor	59
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	2:28	1:40	1:29	★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★		58
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	2:03	1:28	0:59	★	★	★★★★	★★★★★	★	poor	57
★★★★	★★★★	n/a	1:03	0:32	0:43	★	n/a	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	average	56
★★	★★★★	★★★★★	1:45	0:52	1:01	★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★	poor	47
★★	★★★★	★★★★	1:30	1:05	1:13	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	poor	38
★★★	★★★★	★★★★	1:08	0:59	0:57	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	poor	36
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	1:56	1:15	1:02	★	★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	average	58
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	1:58	1:18	1:04	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★	average	57
★★★★	★★★★★	★	1:15	1:04	1:03	★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	poor	56
★★★★	n/a	★★★★	1:29	1:06	n/a	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★	poor	56

W3740, which is identical except for a control panel with an LCD display

Built-in machines

Why built in isn't best

Around 10 per cent of washing machines sold are designed to be built in to a kitchen cabinet. There are fewer to choose from than freestanding models and they tend to be more expensive because they need special parts to prevent noise and vibration. None of the built-in models we tested is a Best Buy, but the AEG-Electrolux L12510Vi (23) washes well and is easy to use.

MEMBER BENEFIT

Great savings on washing machines

Save up to 12.5 per cent with Hughes Direct on the Best Buy Siemens WXL147A and 10 per cent on the Best Buy Zanussi-Electrolux ZAF1451W. The offer is valid until 28 February 2007 and includes delivery costs. See p79 for more details.



MEMBER BENEFIT

FREE website access

For more information on how the models performed in the disability tests, and for details of 52 previously tested washing machines plus installation and disposal advice, visit www.which.co.uk/washingmachines.



7 FREESTANDING

62% AEG-Electrolux L74810 £350

The AEG-Electrolux L74810 is particularly easy to use and, unlike similar-priced models, includes a few extra features. Its quick wash produced great results but it doesn't wash cottons as well. Spinning is better than on most other machines and it's cheap to run due to low water and energy use. This range includes the 1600rpm L76810 (see p49). It is available from John Lewis.

WORTH KNOWING This machine automatically adds an extra rinse cycle if you use too much detergent.

Cheapest store John Lewis **Capacity** 6kg **Spin speed** 1400rpm **Energy label** AAB **Cotton** 1hr 53min **Quick** 1hr 6min **Colours** White **Delay start** Yes



9 FREESTANDING

62% Siemens WXL127A £580

This striking Siemens model is the sister of the WXL147A (5) and boasts one of the shortest quick washes of our Best Buys, at just 51 minutes. Wash results are good for all loads, making it a strong all-rounder. Like many machines, rinsing on the cotton wash is a bit of a letdown. Siemens provides a free five-year warranty and the machine's available from Currys.

WORTH KNOWING The Siemens WXL127A is available only in a graphite finish.

Cheapest store Currys **Capacity** 6kg **Spin speed** 1200rpm **Energy label** AAB **Cotton** 2hr 9min **Quick** 51min **Colours** Graphite **Delay start** Yes



10 FREESTANDING

62% Tricity Bendix 1260 £240

The Tricity Bendix 1260 is a basic washing machine that lacks extra features, such as a handwash program. However, not everyone wants or needs lots of extra programs and the Tricity cleans well and is easy to use. Rinsing isn't the best, but Tricity Bendix did well in our latest reliability survey – so this model is unlikely to break down. The 1260 is widely available online.

WE FOUND This is one of the few machines you can find available for under £250.

Available Online **Capacity** 6kg **Spin speed** 1200rpm **Energy label** AAB **Cotton** 1hr 58min **Quick** 1hr 17min **Colours** White **Delay start** No



The Tricity Bendix 1260 is one of the few models under £250

Jargon buster

■ **DELAY START** Some machines allow you to set the time you want a wash to start. This means, for example, you can set a load to wash overnight to take advantage of cheaper electricity. The exact amount of time a program can be delayed varies between one and 24 hours. See the Best Buys for details on which models have delay start.



Keep it in the family

How to choose a similar model to our Best Buys

We can't test every machine in the shops but we know there are some models that vary in minor ways to those we've tested. The table, right, contains machines that are virtually identical to our Best Buys and, based on their specification and the results for models within the same family, we'd expect to see a similar level of performance.

For example, the family of the Zanussi-Electrolux ZWF1237 and Zanussi-Electrolux ZWF1437 Best Buys (pictured, above right) also contains the Zanussi-Electrolux ZWF1637. There is little to tell them apart besides a respective 1200rpm, 1400rpm and 1600rpm spin speed.

Other manufacturers, including Bosch, name the families within the range according to specification.



Two Zanussi-Electrolux Best Buys are identical except for their respective spin speeds

A Bosch Classixx model has the lowest specification, for example, and the Exxcel models have more features, whereas a Logixx machine has a higher specification and premium machines, such as the Bosch WBB 24759 Logixx, cost more.

Checklist

Here's what you need to consider before you buy a similar model:

- Usually similar models have a different spin speed, such as 1600rpm or 1800rpm. To protect delicate clothes during spinning or to reduce noise levels, lower the spin speed.
- Wash times vary according to a model's spin speed. Telephone the manufacturer's helpline or check its website to find out how program times differ between the machines.
- Often models within the same family have a slightly different layout for the control panel. Check you are happy with any differences before you buy.
- More expensive models tend to come with extra features. The Zanussi-Electrolux ZWW1651S even talks – it calls out program details and information on the wash progress while it cleans your clothes.



11 FREESTANDING

62% Zanussi-Electrolux ZWF1237W £300

WHICH?
BEST BUY

This model just outperformed its more expensive 1400rpm ZWF1437W/S stablemate (13), washing consistently well in all of our tests, and the electronic display lets you know when a program will finish. Rinsing isn't on a par with other Best Buys' but water and energy use are low. It is available at Argos, Currys and John Lewis.

WORTH KNOWING This model's spin cycle is slightly quieter than the Best Buy Zanussi-Electrolux ZW1437W/S.

Cheapest store John Lewis **Capacity** 7kg **Spin speed** 1200rpm **Energy label** AAB **Cotton** 1hr 57min **Quick** 1hr 3min **Colours** White **Delay start** Yes

A higher spin speed will save time and energy



12 FREESTANDING

61% LG WM1437WFD £900

The innovative, large-capacity LG comes with a dual-spray steam washing system that uses a combination of water and steam to clean clothes. Our tests revealed that the quick wash is good at cleaning small loads, but the steam-only baby clothes cycle failed to lift typical heavy-duty stains like pureed carrot. You can buy it from Comet or Currys.

WHICH?
BEST BUY

WE FOUND The refresh program makes clothes easier to iron, but it won't remove stubborn creases.

Cheapest store Comet, Currys **Capacity** 8kg **Spin speed** 1400rpm **Energy label** AAA **Cotton** 1hr 47min **Quick** 44min **Colours** White, black, blue, pink, red, silver **Delay start** Yes



13 FREESTANDING

61% Zanussi-Electrolux ZWF1437W/S £330

WHICH?
BEST BUY

There is little to choose between this model and the Best Buy 1200rpm spin speed Zanussi-Electrolux ZWF1237W (11). Both have a 7kg capacity and clean well on cotton, easy-care and quick programs. However, this model's higher 1400rpm spin speed will save time and energy. It's available from Argos, Comet and Currys.

WORTH KNOWING The third machine in this series has a 1600rpm spin speed (see table below).

Cheapest store Argos **Capacity** 7kg **Spin speed** 1400rpm **Energy label** AAB **Cotton** 1hr 52min **Quick** 55min **Colours** White **Delay start** Yes

Don't Buys

The Hotpoint Aqualtis AQXXL129 (21) and Indesit WIA121 (22) claim the dubious honour of being the first two washing machines we'd recommend that all *Which?* members avoid. In our latest

test, these models struggled to get the basics right. Both were poor at removing tough stains, such as red wine, grease, chocolate and blood, on the cotton wash. The Hotpoint's easy-care program is also far

from the best. Don't be tempted by the two machines' desirably short wash times because, overall, they have too many weaknesses to be worth buying.

WHICH?
DON'T BUY

Washday blues: avoid the Hotpoint Aqualtis AQXXL129

SIMILAR MODELS	PRICE	TESTED MODELS	DIFFERENCES
MIELE W1514	599	MIELE W1512 (3 in the table, p46)	1400rpm spin speed, five-year free warranty
SIEMENS WXL167A	480	SIEMENS WXL127A (9), SIEMENS WXL147A (5)	1600rpm spin speed
ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZWF1651W	335	ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZWF1451W (6)	1600rpm spin speed
ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZWV1651S	580	ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZWF1451W (6)	1600rpm spin speed, extra speech feature, silver
AEG-ELECTROLUX L76810	460	AEG-ELECTROLUX L74810 (7)	1600rpm spin speed, AAA energy label
ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZWF1637	450	ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZWF1237 (11), ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZWF1437W/S (13)	1600rpm spin speed
LG WM1437BFD	900	LG WM1437WFD (12)	Black
LG WM1437LFD	900	LG WM1437WFD (12)	Blue
LG WM1437PFD	900	LG WM1437WFD (12)	Pink
LG WM1437SFD	900	LG WM1437WFD (12)	Silver
LG WM1437RFD	900	LG WM1437WFD (12)	Red

How to buy

Follow our hints and tips to ensure you get the machine you want

■ **ORDERING** If the machine you want isn't available in store, many retailers, such as John Lewis and Currys, will order it for you. Ask for it to be transferred from another branch or check whether you can buy online.

■ **GO INDEPENDENT** Independents are smaller stores that aren't linked to any

of the major electrical retailers. Independents normally pride themselves on being able to track down any model.

■ **CONTACT A HELPLINE** Many manufacturers, including Bosch, keep lists of dealers to help customers find the machines they are looking for. You can get this

information through the customer care telephone line or on the company's website.

■ **SAVE ENERGY**

Look for the Energy Saving Recommended logo. Often retailers will offer discounts on models carrying the label.



Contacts

AEG-Electrolux
0870 535 0350
www.aeg-electrolux.co.uk

Beko 01923 818 121
www.beko.co.uk

Bosch
0870 240 0060
www.boschappliances.co.uk

Electrolux
0870 595 0950
www.electrolux.co.uk

Candy
01685 721 222
www.candy-domestic.co.uk/

Hoover
0870 950 2943
www.hoover.co.uk

Hotpoint
0870 150 6070
www.hotpoint.co.uk

Indesit
01733 568989
www.indesit.co.uk

John Lewis
0845 604 9049
www.johnlewis.com

LG 0870 607 5544
www.lge.co.uk

Miele 0145 330 2660
www.miele.co.uk

Ricability
020 7427 2460
www.ricability.org.uk

Siemens 0870 240 0070
www.siemens.co.uk

Tricity Bendix
0870 595 0950
www.tricity-bendix.co.uk

Whirlpool
0870 600 8989
www.whirlpool.co.uk

Zanussi-Electrolux
0870 572 7727
www.zanussi-electrolux.co.uk

Which should you choose?

Best on a budget

TRICITY BENDIX 1260 £240 ONLINE The 1260 (10) is good value at just £240. It's a basic model from a reliable brand so shouldn't let you down.

Best for impaired vision

LG WM1437WFD £900 With well-spaced buttons that beep when pressed and a large LCD screen, the LG (12) is good for those with impaired vision.

Best for wheelchair users

WHIRLPOOL AWO/D4705 £255 The door on the Whirlpool (18) opens wide and stays in position while the machine is being loaded. All the controls are easy to see and reach from a chair.

Best for impaired dexterity

HOTPOINT WT721 £330 The Hotpoint (8) comes with well-spaced buttons, an easy-use handle and no filter to clean. However, according to our research, Hotpoint is an unreliable brand.

Best for reduced mobility

ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZWF1237W £300 The detergent drawer and controls of the Zanussi (11) are easy to use, but the filter is hard to empty because it is low down. The best built-in model in this area is the AEG-Electrolux L12510Vi (23).

Best for the environment

LG WM1437WFD £900 The LG (12) has excellent energy use and water consumption – just 7.2 litres per kg on a standard wash compared with an average of 9.5 litres for the other models on test.



Call in the big drums

Find out how drum capacity relates to the amount of laundry a machine can hold

Using a larger-capacity machine (6kg or more) can save money as well as time, since the amount of water and energy used per kilogram of washing is often lower for these models – provided you fill it up each time. But just how much extra laundry does a bigger drum allow you to do?

A typical 6kg drum can take about six small towels, two pillowcases, six T-shirts, two sheets, two pairs of jeans and 14 socks. A 7.5kg drum allows you to fit in two extra pairs of jeans and four T-shirts. You'll need around eight small towels, five pairs of jeans, 30 socks, four pillow cases, three sheets and 15 T-shirts to fill an enormous 10kg drum.



A 6kg load is usually large enough for most households

7.5kg provides an opportunity to squeeze in an extra pair or two of jeans

10kg is more than double what a Which? member would do in one go^a

^a 1,770 Which? members completed an online survey in October 2006