

# Best Buy monitor

The cheapest places to shop for our Best Buys

## FRIDGES

The fridge is one of the longest-serving appliances in the kitchen. If you choose one that's too noisy or too small, you could be lumbered with it for more than a decade.

It's little things like these that are impossible to spot in the shops. Similarly, you can't tell how cool a fridge will keep your food. The temperature inside some can fluctuate significantly and, as a result, put your food through a cycle of freezing and defrosting. This can ruin the texture of some foods, such as salads.

All our Best Buy fridges, picked from more than 20 tested, offer convenient storage, quiet running, good temperature control and cooling and energy efficiency.

Don't rely on manufacturers' measurements. We've found that their claimed storage capacities and energy ratings can be misleading. And you cannot judge a fridge's capacity by its size, either – two fridges that look identical externally may differ by up to 25 litres in their usable storage space.

Last test: Nov 04

### TALL FRIDGES



#### BOSCH

KSR34423GB

£449 from Comet, John Lewis and Miller Brothers

This fridge did extremely well in our temperature tests. Useful features include split shelves, handy for storing extra bottles.

**SCORE 86%**



#### WHIRLPOOL

ARC1730

£250 from Currys, Miller Brothers and Powerhouse

This scored well in most tests, was easy to use, and offers particularly good value for money. But it's noisier than the Bosch.

**SCORE 83%**

### BUILT-IN FRIDGES



#### WHIRLPOOL

ARG582/3

£520 from Miller Brothers

This built-in larger fridge is easy to use and did well in our temperature tests. Its main weak spots are a little too much noise and vibration.

**SCORE 74%**



#### WHIRLPOOL

ARG588/3

£489 from Magnet

If you'd like a built-in fridge with an icebox, this is a good choice, though defrosting it is a bit of a chore. It's also relatively noisy.

**SCORE 70%**

### WORKTOP HEIGHT



#### BEKO

LSA 426W

£140 from Currys

This was a good all-rounder in our tests, gaining an excellent score for noise and vibration. The only slight weakness is the accuracy of its thermostat setting.

**SCORE 76%**



#### HOTPOINT

RLA30P

£200 from B&Q

This was the noisiest of the Best Buys in this category but it gets the most consistent high scores in our temperature tests. It's also available in beige and silver finishes.

**SCORE 73%**



#### LEC

Elan ER550AW

£170 from Miller Brothers

If you'd like a fridge with an icebox and don't need to freeze fresh food, the Lec has a two-star icebox, which can store pre-frozen food for up to a month.

**SCORE 68%**

### WHICH? EXTRA

Our Which? Extra website is exclusive to Which? members. It has 35 easy-to-use buying guides, packed with advice on key areas. Prices and stockists are updated monthly. On it you'll find:

- full test results for 23 fridges, including tall, worktop-height and built-in models, and a guide to features
- full test results for 34 freezers and 19 fridge-freezers, plus advice on getting rid of old appliances.

Which? Extra also has an archive containing four years' worth of information (that's 700 reports). It includes a fast, easy-to-use search facility.

[www.which.co.uk/whicheextra](http://www.which.co.uk/whicheextra)

### next month

- Compact cameras

