

Cold storage

Freezers are getting bigger, better and more energy efficient

The latest generation of freezers is the best we've seen in recent years. We found that all the models in our test worked well on the recommended setting and kept temperatures consistently stable when the room temperature fluctuated.

The popularity of frozen ready meals in recent years has led to more demand for tall and chest freezers. We've picked one tall and two chest Best Buy freezers that are quiet and easy to use and have excellent insulation. Manufacturers are even trying to increase the space inside worktop-height and built-in models.

Another key concern for most people is that a new freezer is energy efficient. In this test we've got our hands on one of the first ultra energy-efficient A++ rated worktop-height freezers from Miele. Using the Miele or any of the A+ rated models we've tested should save you money on running costs and will help protect the environment.

Finally, a word on safety. The Whirlpool and Hotpoint chest freezers (28 and 29 in the table, p58) have problems with their locks that could trap a small child inside. We docked points for this when rating them.

The Miele F1365S has the highest A++ energy rating

1 WORKTOP

85% Hotpoint FZA 34 £300

This frost-free model is great at freezing food rapidly and is easy to clean. It's available at Currys.

WE LIKE The superfreeze function automatically shuts off so you don't waste energy.



Cheapest store Currys Transparent drawers No Running cost £16 a year

2 WORKTOP

83% Zanussi ZEUT 6245 £169

This Zanussi would suit a large family. In a power cut food is kept frozen for more than 35 hours. It's available from John Lewis.

WE FOUND This is the only worktop-height Best Buy under £200.



Cheapest store John Lewis Transparent drawers Yes Running cost £14 a year

MODEL		SPECIFICATION									WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE				
		PRICE (£)	SIZE (cm) (HxWxD)	VOLUME (LITRES)	ENERGY LABEL	FROST-FREE	ROOM TEMP (°C)	HIGH TEMP ALERT	COLOURS	MATCHING FRIDGE	FLEXIBLE STORAGE	FREEZING POWER	INSULATION	NOISE	EASE OF USE
WORKTOP HEIGHT															
1	HOTPOINT FZA 34	300	86x60x62	74	A	✓	10 to 38		AL, W		★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
2	ZANUSSI ZEUT 6245	169	86x55x61	95	A		10 to 38		W		★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
3	HAIER HF-100 AA	170	86x50x57	57	A+		16 to 32		W		★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
4	SIEMENS GS12DA70GB	349	85x60x62	81	A+		10 to 32	✓	SS, W	✓	★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
5	BOSCH GSD11V20GB	230	85x55x62	75	A		10 to 32		W		★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
6	MIELE F1365S	350	85x60x63	78	A++		10 to 43	✓	W	✓	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
7	SERVIS M7704 6S	193	85x59x61	79	A		16 to 32		AL, S, W		★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
8	SIEMENS GS12S493GB	360	83x60x62	82	A		10 to 32	✓	SS		see ^a	★★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★★
9	LIEBHERR G1221	260	85x56x62	72	A		10 to 38		W	✓	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
10	WHIRLPOOL AFB6600	190	85x60x60	82	A		16 to 32		W	✓	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
11	INDESIT TZA 1	170	84x55x64	70	A		10 to 38		S		★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
12	ICEPOINT Ice 112AW ^b	109	84x49x56	67	A		16 to 32		W	✓	★★	★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
13	FRIGIDAIRE FVE3803B	130	85x55x57	60	B		16 to 32		W	✓	★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★

^a Since this model was tested we have changed the way we assess storage ^b This model is due to be replaced by the 85DW. Changes are only cosmetic

4 WORKTOP

79% Siemens GS12DA70GB
£349

The stainless-steel finish and transparent drawers give this freezer a quality look. It's a pain to defrost but it's very reliable. It's available from Comet and John Lewis.



WHICH?
BEST
BUY

WE LIKE Extra features include a built-in thermometer.

Cheapest store John Lewis Transparent drawers Yes Running cost £12 a year

Bosch is a cheaper alternative to Siemens, as its freezers are made by the same company

5 WORKTOP

78% Bosch GSD11V20GB £230

You have to open the door to adjust the temperature, but the external on/off switch means you won't have to move and unplug the freezer to defrost it. It's available at Comet, Currys and John Lewis.



WHICH?
BEST
BUY

WORTH KNOWING Bosch is a cheaper alternative to Siemens, as its freezers are made by the same company.

Cheapest store John Lewis Transparent drawers Yes Running cost £15 a year

6 WORKTOP

78% Miele F1365S £350

Innovative drawer markers let you keep track of how long groceries have been frozen. Thick insulation makes the Miele heavy but saves on energy and running costs. It's available from Comet.



WHICH?
BEST
BUY

WORTH KNOWING The Miele has the highest A++ energy efficiency rating.

Cheapest store Comet Transparent drawers Yes Running cost £8 a year

8 WORKTOP

75% Siemens GS12S493GB £360

This Siemens can freeze 18kg of fresh groceries in a day – more than other worktop-height Best Buys. Despite that, it's quiet and fairly cheap to run, but the interior design makes it hard to organise groceries. It's available at Comet.



WHICH?
BEST
BUY

WE LIKE It's the only manually defrosted

model on test that's good at collecting thawed water.

Cheapest store Comet Transparent drawers No Running cost £10 a year

				SCORE %
DEFROST	RUNNING COST (£/YR)	RELIABILITY		
★★★★★	16	average		85
★★	14	average		83
★★	12			79
★	12	good		79
★★	15	average		78
★★	8	average		78
★	14			75
★★★★	10	good		75
★	13	average		74
★★	15	average		71
★	15			68
★	17	average		67
★★	34	average		62

What you should look for

ACCESS

Open and shut the door a few times to test the vacuum seal. Avoid models where the suction increases, making the door difficult to open. Transparent drawers make it easier to see what is stored where

TIME INDICATORS

Some drawers, such as those on the Miele (6), have time indicators that help you keep tabs on how long food has been stored



CONTROLS

An on-off button lets you defrost the freezer without having to move and unplug it



FROST FREE

Frost-free models such as the Hotpoint (1) do away with the chore of defrosting. They also often have large drawers so you can freeze big, odd-shaped items such as a turkey

See p58 for the notes on using the table

How we test

We take more than 100 million temperature readings, one every eight seconds, to find our Best Buy freezers

Recommended settings

We set up all the freezers according to the manufacturer's recommendations and record how quickly the temperature drops to -18°C . Using temperature probes inserted into 1kg packs of gel placed in different parts of the freezer, we check how well the temperature is maintained. Because we know the moisture content of each pack, our results are consistent.

Temperature stability

As well as testing the freezers at room temperature (around 20°C) we also see how well each model copes with fluctuations in temperature in purpose-built climate-controlled chambers. The rooms are lowered to 10°C to simulate temperatures in an unheated utility room and then raised to 32°C to re-create the effect of a hot kitchen.

Contacts

Beko 01923 818121
www.beko.co.uk

Bosch
08702 400070
www.bosch
appliances.co.uk
Electrolux 08705
950 950 www.
electrolux.co.uk

Frigidaire 0845
052 9005 www.
frigidaire.co.uk

Haier
01527 578333
www.sovereign
appliances.com

Hoover 08705
400600 www.
hoover.co.uk

Hotpoint 08701
506070 www.
hotpoint.co.uk
Icepoint 01244
842842 www.
iceland.co.uk

Indesit
01733 282800
www.indesit
company.com

John Lewis
08456 049 049
www.johnlewis.com

Liebherr
0870 898 5050
www.liebherr.com

Miele
01235 554455
www.miele.co.uk

Norfröst
01847 822 200
www.norfröst.co.uk

Proline
08705 425425
www.comet.co.uk

Servis
0121 568 8333
www.servisuk.co.uk

Siemens
08702 400070
www.siemens
appliances.co.uk

Whirlpool
0870 600 8989
www.whirlpool.co.uk

Zanussi
08705 727727
www.zanussi-
electrolux.co.uk

14 TALL

78% Whirlpool AFG 8030 £270

The Whirlpool is the best tall model for freezing food rapidly. It's also the cheapest to run. It's sold in Comet.

WHICH?
BEST BUY

WORTH KNOWING A two-star compartment lets you store pre-frozen foods for up to a month.

Cheapest store Comet Transparent drawers Yes Running cost £16 a year



20 BUILT-IN

81% Zanussi ZUD 9100 FA £485

This built-in Zanussi is economical to run and regulates temperatures well to keep groceries in top condition. Built-in models are pricier because of the technology needed to reduce noise – this model

hardly vibrates and is quiet

when fitted. The Zanussi is sold by Comet.

WHICH?
BEST BUY

WORTH KNOWING The small tray can be used to freeze soft fruits rapidly.

Cheapest store Comet Transparent drawers No Running cost £13 a year



25 CHEST

70% Bosch GTA 26901 £300

This large chest freezer is good at freezing fresh food quickly.

The cabinet is separated into two, with a basket for smaller items. The Bosch is widely available online.

WHICH?
BEST BUY

WE LIKE Springs in the hinges make the lid easier to lift.

Available Online Transparent drawers n/a Running cost £12 a year



26 CHEST

66% Miele GT 263 ES £330

This Miele can't freeze huge amounts in one go, but its

insulation is good: in a power cut, groceries take more than three days to defrost. Inside, wire baskets help to organise storage. It's available from Comet.

WHICH?
BEST BUY

WE FOUND This is the quietest chest freezer on test.

Cheapest store Comet Transparent drawers n/a Running cost £21 a year



MEMBER BENEFIT

Free website access

21 more freezers

Which? members have free access to www.which.co.uk/freezers, which gives more details of these freezers as well as previously tested models that are still available.

PHOTOGRAPHY NICK WRIGHT

MODEL	PRICE (£)	SIZE (cm) (HXWDXD)
TALL		
14 WHIRLPOOL AFG 8030	270	139x60x61
15 PROLINE UF200B	180	139x60x61
16 ZANUSSI Zeuc 2120	283	141x60x60
17 BEKO TZDA524FW	220	147x54x64
18 HOOVER Nextra Frost Free	350	163x60x66
BUILT-IN		
19 JOHN LEWIS JLBUCF01	400	82x60x57
20 ZANUSSI ZUD 9100 FA	485	82x60x57
21 INDESIT GSF 120I	250	81x58x57
22 HOTPOINT AZ 141I	400	88x54x56
23 WHIRLPOOL AFB 823/3	392	82x60x55
24 ELECTROLUX EUN 1273	385	89x55x55
CHEST		
25 BOSCH GTA 26901	300	86x113x67
26 MIELE GT 263 ES	330	91x88x71
27 NORFROST C4CFW	90	88x81x65
28 WHIRLPOOL AFG 625 AP	180	82x60x57
29 HOTPOINT RC 53	279	88x132x63

c No colours listed – you choose colour when buying

USING THE TABLE

We tested best-selling models from leading manufacturers and own brands, such as Proline. The more stars the better.

Specification

Price For Best Buys we give the cheapest widely available high-street price. For other models we give a guideline price. For models not widely

Worth considering

The following four freezers received high scores in our tests but we have not made them Best Buys because we don't yet have enough information about their reliability.

HAIER HF-100 AA, £170

This worktop-height freezer (3) almost gets top marks in our temperature tests and is easy to use. Available at independent stockists.

SCORE 79%

SERVIS M7704 6S, £193

This worktop-height Servis (7) scores well, thanks to its efficient insulation and accurate thermostat. Available online.

SCORE 75%

JOHN LEWIS

JLBIUCF01, £400

This spacious own-brand built-in freezer (19) has low running costs, an A energy rating and transparent drawers.

SCORE 81%

INDESIT GSF 120I, £250

The Indesit (21) isn't the most spacious built-in model, but it's easy to use and gives solid results in our tests. Available from Argos.

SCORE 76%

SPECIFICATION							WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE								SCORE %
VOLUME (LITRES)	ENERGY LABEL	FROST-FREE	ROOM TEMP (°C)	HIGH TEMP ALERT	COLOURS	MATCHING FRIDGE	FLEXIBLE STORAGE	FREEZING POWER	INSULATION	NOISE	EASE OF USE	DEFROST	RUNNING COST (£/YR)	RELIABILITY	
138	A		10 to 38		W		★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★	16	average	78
138	B		10 to 38		W	✓	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★	18	poor	75
148	B		10 to 43		W	✓	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★	24	average	68
121	A	✓	10 to 32		W		★★★★	★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	19	average	69
169	A	✓	16 to 38		W, S	✓	★★	★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	35		59
85	A		10 to 38	✓	W	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	13		81
85	A		10 to 38	✓	W	✓	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	13	average	81
66	B		16 to 38		see ^c		★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	22		76
89	B		10 to 38		W		★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★	16	average	72
69	B		16 to 32	✓	W, SS	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	25	average	72
77	B		10 to 38		see ^c	✓	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★	★	13	average	69
242	A+		10 to 43	✓	W		★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	12	average	70
240	A+		10 to 43		W		★★	★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	21	average	66
102	C		16 to 32		W		★★	★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	27		57
162	A+		16 to 38		W		★★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★	13	average	53
275	A		16 to 38		W		★★★★	★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	19	average	51

available we give online prices in *italics*. **Size** Dimensions of the model, including hinges, with door/lid closed. You need to add several cm on each side and at the rear to allow for air circulation recommended by the manufacturer. **Volume** Our measurement of usable space, as opposed to manufacturers' claims. **Energy label** Manufacturer's claimed rating. **Room temperature** The range of room temperatures (in Celsius) at which the freezer works. **High temp alert** An alarm sounds

when the temperature inside the freezer gets too high. **Colours** AL= aluminium; S=silver; SS=stainless steel; W=white.

Test performance

Flexible storage How easy it is to rearrange shelves. **Freezing power** Models rated ★★★★★ freeze fresh food more quickly.

Insulation How quickly freezer temperature rises if power goes off. **Noise** Level when it starts and stops freezing cycles: ★★ is

intrusively noisy. **Defrost** Models rated ★★★★★ are frost free. A model rated ★★★ is good at collecting thawed water.

Score

This ignores price and is based on:

Temperature stability and freezing power	40%
Ease of use and defrosting	20%
Insulation	15%
Running cost	15%
Noise	10%