

Dream cuisine

The best electric and gas freestanding cookers for different budgets and kitchens

Modern gas and electric freestanding cookers can be just as stylish as range cookers. Some are a lot cheaper and cook just as well – if you can survive without a wok-burner and a rotisserie.

We've picked the best for different needs from big ovens to those that suit a tight budget from the 47 models we've tested and feature online.

At £332, Indesit's KD6C35W is the cheapest electric Best Buy with a double oven, while Hotpoint's GW38G is £279 for a single electric oven with a separate grill. At £264 and £240, the Indesit K6G210 and KD3G2 gas models are also great value.

To save money when buying a new cooker, see our report at www.which.co.uk/discountappliances.

If you have more to spend, Smeg, AEG-Electrolux and Electrolux models are great looking and offer features such as flexible cooking zones which can expand for different-shaped pans, and catalytic liners that break down and burn off spills. They can be programmed to start and stop cooking when you want.

If you buy a new cooker for a flat or multi-occupancy dwelling, make sure it has flame supervision devices (FSDs) fitted on each burner. These shut off gas should the burner fail to light or get blown out. Gas Safe (previously Corgi) registered engineers have been advised not to install new cooking appliances in such buildings unless they have FSDs fitted. Find a Gas Safe registered installer at www.which-local.co.uk.



75%

The stylish, feature-packed Smeg SUK62CMX5 is our top Best Buy in this test.

Stylish Best Buys

There are plenty of great-looking, feature-packed gas and electric cookers to choose from. The Smeg and Electrolux are among the best. The combination of style and substance comes at a cost, however. Expect to pay at least £475.

ELECTRIC

75% Smeg SUK62CMX5 £789

Good looks and clever design are to the fore with our top-scoring Best Buy. The Smeg has a double oven and is packed with features to make cooking that bit easier.

There's a flexible cooking zone on the ceramic 60cm-wide hob, which caters for odd-shaped pots and pans, and there is a large ring for very big pans. The hob heats well at both low and high temperatures.

You can set the main oven to cook automatically and it will turn off at the end of the program. The control panel has a digital clock and timer. The main oven has a fan and both ovens are illuminated. They distribute heat evenly, baking cakes perfectly. The grill is in the top oven and spreads heat evenly across the pan. When we checked it was cheapest online.

WORTH KNOWING The stainless steel look of this cooker is great but it's tough to keep clean.

Available John Lewis, online and independents
Width 60cm **Number of ovens** Two **Oven volumes** 30 and 56 litres **Colour** Stainless steel

GAS

68% Electrolux EKG6046KN £478

This great-looking double oven gas cooker has an electronic display that makes controlling it easy.

The main oven is fully programmable, has non-tip shelves, lights and removable glass windows.

The top oven doubles as a grill. The grill and hobs both did very well in our tests and the main oven was reasonably good.

There's a glass cover on the hob which doubles as a flat work surface when not in use and a splash-back when the oven is on.

The pan supports are well designed to prevent pots and pans from tipping.

On the downside, the shape and size of the dials makes them a little tricky to use.

It was cheapest online when we checked.

WE LIKE The absorbent catalytic oven liners make keeping the inside of the oven clean much easier and quicker.

Available Comet, John Lewis and online **Width** 60cm
Number of ovens Two **Oven volumes** 32 and 66 litres
Colours Black



ANOTHER STYLISH CHOICE

71% AEG Electrolux Competence D98000VFM £854

Touch-sensitive controls and excellent cooking make this electric cooker a great choice. It has a double oven, two grills, and a ceramic hob which can take larger pans. Oven, grills, and the hob perform well. You can program both ovens automatically. It's cheapest online.

WE LIKE Wide cooking options.

Available John Lewis and online **Width** 60cm
Number of ovens Two **Oven volumes** 36 and 56 litres
Colours White and stainless steel



Silicone bakeware

Silicone bakeware is a non-stick, flexible alternative to metal baking trays. Our scientific adviser, Jenny Williams, a keen baker, tried it out



Jenny tried silicone bakeware in a normal and microwave oven. 'I made a sponge cake in the microwave and the results impressed me. Silicone is great for microwave baking, which you can't do with metal tins. Put silicone trays on a baking sheet before filling and moving them. Turning out cakes was easier with silicone as I could manipulate the trays. Silicone is easy to store too. It's non-stick so there's no need to line it and it's easy to clean. I liked using it and will add it to my kitchen cupboard.'

SILICONE CHECKLIST

FLEXIBILITY Silicone trays are flexible so handle with care. For extra stability, place them on a baking sheet before filling the individual moulds.

WHERE TO USE You can use them in the microwave, freezer and oven and wash them in the dishwasher.

NON-STICK It's non-stick so you don't need to grease, line or flour trays.

COOL Silicone trays cool more quickly than metal trays.

CLEAN UP It's easy to wash up silicone.

Best for a family

For a busy family cook with plenty of mouths to feed, family cookers such as these are good value. They also have great features such as catalytic liners, or you may be able to program them to cook automatically. Two ovens will often be better than one. Beko's DVC665 electric and Cannon's C60 GCW gas cooker have two ovens, while you can program Belling's electric double oven to turn itself off after cooking.

ELECTRIC

71% Beko DVC665 £362

This large double-oven electric cooker is fully programmable, so you can set it to cook your dinner for you and the cooker will turn itself off at the end of the program. And the main oven has an impressive 64-litre capacity which means you'll have no problems trying to fit the turkey inside.

It's also easy to clean and reasonably priced for a double-oven electric cooker, making it a good choice for a busy family cook.

There's a fan in the main oven and a grill in the top oven. The main grill performs reasonably well, the hob is good and the oven is excellent.

The four-ring ceramic hob is easy to clean, there's a light in the main oven and a clock on the control panel.

It was cheapest online when we checked.

WE FOUND The 665S is silver, the 665W white, 665X stainless steel.

Available Online Width 60cm Number of ovens Two
Oven volumes 28 and 64 litres Colours White and silver

GAS

61% Cannon C60 GCW £387

The Cannon is the pick of the gas cookers for a family, though it's not quite a Best Buy. There's a double oven and an excellent set of gas burners distribute heat evenly. The top oven doubles as a grill, which spreads heat evenly across the pan. But when all four hobs are in use, the grill temperature rises noticeably, which may affect the quality of food cooked in it. Heat in the main oven isn't distributed evenly and it can be hard to accurately set temperature.

Catalytic surfaces lining the oven walls absorb spills and make it easy to keep clean. The main oven has a timer you can program to turn the oven on and off automatically. It was cheapest online when we checked.

WE LIKE There's a minute minder for those who want to be more hands-on when cooking.

Available Online Width 60cm Number of ovens Two
Oven volumes 27 and 73 litres Colours White

Beko
DVC665



Cannon
C60 GCW

OTHER BEST FOR FAMILY

70% Belling E668 £499

There are plenty of cooking options with this electric model. A programmable timer allows automatic cooking and a minute minder tells you when food is ready. There's a double oven, two grills three ceramic hob rings and a halogen hob. It's cheapest online.

WE LIKE Hobs are easy to clean.

Available John Lewis and online Width 60cm
Number of ovens Two Oven volumes 32 and 47
Colours Stainless steel



Which.co.uk Cookers



For help in choosing the cooker for you, visit www.which.co.uk/chooseacooker. To see the full range of freestanding cookers we've tested, see www.which.co.uk/cookers.

Best for a flat

GAS

64% Indesit KD3G2SAIR £294

This is the only gas cooker we've tested that has flame supervision devices fitted to the gas burners. Gas Safe installers will insist gas cookers fitted in flats or homes of multiple occupation have them.

The single oven has two shelves and cooks well enough, though the non-tip shelves aren't very effective. The grill works well and is easy to clean. Gas

hobs tend to heat more evenly than electric and this is no exception, though the hob could feel crowded if you had four pans on at the same time. It was cheapest at Argos.

WE FOUND It's a good choice if you have a small space, though it's not quite a Best Buy.

Available Argos Width 50cm Number of ovens One
Oven volume 58 litres Colours Black



Indesit
KD3G2SAIR

Best for a budget

You can buy excellent gas and electric cookers for less than £350. Two of the Best Buys we show here are exceptional value. Cheaper models such as these won't have some features found on more expensive models, but Hotpoint's GW38G has self-cleaning catalytic liners and Indesit's KD6C35W electric model has a double oven.

ELECTRIC

71% Indesit KD6C35W £332

The Indesit is great value if you're looking for an electric cooker with a double oven. We baked some great cakes in the main oven with the help of the fan. The oven, grill and hob all work well. The grill is in the top oven compartment. The minute-minder helps you time cooking to perfection and the controls accurately regulate oven temperature. It's cheapest online.

WE LIKE The hob is easy to clean.

Available Widely available in shops and online Width 60cm Number of ovens Two Oven volumes 37 and 67 litres Colours White, moonstone and stainless steel

GAS

66% Indesit KD3G2 £240

This Indesit cooks well at a great price. The grill and hobs work well and the single oven is reasonable for a gas cooker. A thermo-safety plate can be attached below the control panel just above the grill – this stops the knobs getting too hot when the grill is on. Style-wise this is a pretty standard-looking gas cooker, but it represents exceptional value for money. It was cheapest at John Lewis.

WE LIKE This is our cheapest Best Buy.

Available John Lewis and online Width 50cm Number of ovens One Oven volume 58 litres Colours White



OTHER BEST FOR BUDGET

67% Hotpoint GW38G £279

The grill and hob on this gas model are very good. The oven's catalytic linings absorb splashes and burn them off during cooking, making it easy to clean. The grill door gets hot but a thermo-safety plate protects controls from the grill's heat.

Available Online Width 50cm Number of ovens One Oven volume 63 litres Colours Graphite



66% Indesit K6G210 £264

This easy-to-use gas model cooks well and is value for money. The oven and grill are all-in-one so it's more limited than some Best Buys. There are four gas burners and a timer. It comes in stainless steel or white and is widely available.

Available Argos, Comet, Currys, online Width 60cm Number of ovens One Oven volumes 56 litres Colours Stainless steel, white

Oven cleaners

Cleaning the oven will never be fun but a specialist cleaner can make it easier

AEROSOL Foam spray oven cleaners are easy to use – point, spray, wait and wipe. One example is Mr Muscle Oven Cleaner, £2.49.

OVEN CLEANING SYSTEM There's a bottle of cleaning fluid for the walls of the oven and a bag for the shelves, so the mess from the shelves is kept in the bag. The only example we've seen is Oven Pride Oven and BBQ Cleaning System, £3.49.

SOAP-FILLED PADS Elbow grease and a soap-filled pad are a cheap way to get your

oven clean. A well-known example is Brillo Pads, 98p for ten.

SELF-CLEANING Some cookers come with very hot self-cleaning programs which turn burnt-on food waste to dust. Others have catalytic liners which burn off scraps during cooking. Specialist oven cleaners damage self-cleaning ovens so read the instructions.

SAFETY FIRST Oven cleaners are made of strong stuff – so wear rubber gloves and store them out of the reach of children.



MODEL	SPECIFICATION					WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE					SCORE (%)
	PRICE (£)	DIMENSIONS (CM) (HXWXD)	OVEN TYPE ^a	GRILL TYPE	CATALYTIC LINERS	OVEN	GRILL	HOB	EASE OF USE	EASE OF CLEANING	
ELECTRIC											
1 SMEG SUK62CMX5	789	98x60x60	D	Top oven		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★	75
2 AEG ELECTROLUX D98000VFM^b	854	91x60x64	D	Both ovens	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	71
3 BEKO DVC665	362	90x60x61	D	Top oven		★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	71
4 INDESIT KD6C35W	332	90x60x61	D	Top oven		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	71
5 BELLING E668	499	89x60x62	D	Both ovens		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	70
6 HOTPOINT EW48K	411	91x50x63	D	Top oven	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	68
7 INDESIT KD3C1/G	293	91x50x62	S	Sep grill		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	68
8 BEKO D532	195	90x50x62	S	Sep grill		★★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	66
9 ELECTROLUX EKC5544W	527	92x55x64	D	Top oven	✓	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	66
10 CANNON C60ETC	638	90x60x61	D	Top oven	✓	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	65
11 SWAN SX1015	209	88x50x60	S	Oven		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	63
12 BELLING 356	245	90x50x60	D	Top oven		★★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	60
13 SMEG SUK61CPX5	822	96x60x59	S	Oven		★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	60
14 BOSCH HLN343250B	571	90x60x60	S	Oven	✓	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	58
GAS											
15 ELECTROLUX EKG6046KN	478	92x60x64	D	Top oven	✓	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	68
16 HOTPOINT GW38G	279	92x50x65	S	Sep grill	✓ ^c	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	67
17 INDESIT K6G210	264	91x60x62	S	Oven		★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	66
18 INDESIT KD3G2	240	93x50x62	S	Sep grill		★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	66
19 INDESIT D3G2SAIR	294	93x50x62	S	Sep grill		★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	64
20 CANNON C50GLS	374	92x50x64	S	Sep grill	✓	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	63
21 CANNON C50GCX	638	92x50x64	D	Top oven	✓	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	61
22 CANNON C60GCW	387	91x60x62	D	Top oven	✓	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	63
23 FLAVEL AP5NEW	346	145x50x60 ^d	S	Eye level		★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	53
24 STOVES 500SIDL	442	91x55x61	S	Sep grill		★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	53
25 BAUMATIC BCG6100SS	483	90x60x60	S	Oven		★★★★	★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	52
26 NEW WORLD G55T Silver	313	91x55x61	S	Sep grill		★★★★	★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	52

a Whether there is a single or double oven b Part of the Competence range c liners in main oven only d We measure to the top of this eye-level grill

USING THE TABLE

The more stars the better.

Test performance

Hob ★★★★★ Heats efficiently and quickly, and simmers well without burning. **Grill** ★★★★★ Heat is spread excellently so food is properly browned.

Oven ★★★★★ Reaches the right temperature quickly and

maintains it well. ★★ Takes a long time to heat and deviates from set temperature. **Ease of cleaning** ★★★★★ Easy to clean with sponge and soapy water.

Score

Ignores price and is based on:

Hob 30%
Oven 30%
Ease of use and cleaning 30%
Grill 10%

Contacts

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

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www.baumatic.co.uk

Beko 0845 600 4911
www.beko.co.uk

Belling 0871 222 2503
www.belling.co.uk

Bosch 01908 328 500
www.bosch.co.uk

Cannon 0870 150 6070
www.cannoncooking.co.uk

Electrolux 0870 595 0950
www.electrolux.co.uk

Hotpoint 0870 150 6070
www.hotpoint.co.uk

Indesit 0870 442 7665
www.indesit.co.uk

Flavel 0845 600 4916
www.leisurecp.co.uk

New World
0871 222 2504
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Smeg 0870 990 9907
www.smeguk.com

Stoves 0871 222 2502
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Swan 0844 822 8000
www.littlewoods.co.uk