



# The best kettle for you

Whatever you're looking for in a kettle – stylish good looks, energy efficiency or an affordable price – we've got Best Buys to suit your taste and budget

**W**e may all think we know the secret to making a great cup of tea, but how many of us feel as confident when it comes to choosing a new kettle?

To help you pick the right one, the Which? test lab has been a frenzy of steam over the past few months as we've scrutinised dozens of the latest models. We've tested more kettles than ever before, which means there are Which? Best Buys to suit every taste and budget at [www.which.co.uk/kettles](http://www.which.co.uk/kettles). Here, we've gathered together a selection of Best Buys to suit three groups of consumers.

If price is key for you, we've picked the best of the new wave of budget kettles, and have a Best Buy for just £15.

At the next level up, there are increasing numbers of kettles with attractive designs from as little as £20. While metallic finishes still dominate, there are now plenty of colours that will match or complement your kitchen. Prestige's kettles, for example, haven't quite made the Best Buy grade, but there's no doubting the visual appeal of its seven-colour Deco range (£40) or its colour-trimmed Urban models (£20).

We have also picked eco-friendly Best Buys. The original Ecol kettle has been joined by Kenwood's Energysense JK450 and the Philips Energy Efficient HD4671. Celebrity chef Ainsley Harriott has recently launched his version: the Eco Express kettle, which can heat to

chosen temperatures between 50°C and boiling point. But, disappointingly, its minimum fill is one litre, it isn't quicker or more energy efficient than other kettles and it has a poor filter, scoring only 56% in our test.

## Which? online Kettles

Go to [www.which.co.uk/kettles](http://www.which.co.uk/kettles) for reviews of 110 models, including the Tefal Quick Cup and the flashy but bestselling Siemens Porsche Design TW91P2. While its designer brushed-aluminium looks fail to hide a slow, heavy kettle, it can boil a

single cup's worth and it boasts innovative safety features. Read our full review to see how it performed in our tests. We've also got first look reviews of the Breville Hot Cup and Tefal's Quick Cup, which both heat just one cup's worth at a time.

## Best Buy budget kettles

You can find basic kettles for as little as £5, but are they any good?

You may have spotted own-brand kettles that cost little more than a decent jar of coffee. Their dull exteriors won't excite you into making an impulse purchase – but the price tag might.

In our tests, ultra-cheap kettles neither wowed nor horrified us. They're slow to boil, averaging over three minutes – around a minute longer than the fastest Best Buys. Some waste energy by not

switching off quickly, though this affects pricier models, too. Each has its own pros and cons: read the full reviews online at [www.which.co.uk/kettles](http://www.which.co.uk/kettles).

Asda's £10 Smart Price XB6358 won the battle of the supermarket models, followed by John Lewis's £10.75 GC501 and the £5 Argos Value WK8261A. Tesco's Value JK07 was worst of the budget bunch in our tests.

The step up to getting a Best Buy kettle is a tiny one. Two kettles from the Argos Cookworks ranges are fantastic Best Buys at just £15 and £17 each.

Buy the £15 Argos Cookworks Signature White Illuminated 422/9492 instead of the bestselling Magimix 11563, and you could save £55 – which could buy enough tea for two for up to 10 months!



## 78% Argos Cookworks Signature White Illuminated 422/9492 £15



This great-value kettle from Argos is energy-efficient and boils a litre of water in a reasonable two minutes 28 seconds.

It's light and well-balanced, with a comfortable handle and clear volume markings. It's easy

to fill through both the spout and lid. Available from Argos only.

**WORTH KNOWING A similar model is available in silver (422/8118).**

Available Argos  
Minimum fill 550ml  
Time to boil 1 litre  
Two minutes 28 seconds  
Cord length 72cm  
Matching range Toaster



## Best Buy designer kettles

### Co-ordinate your kitchen with a colourful Best Buy

Why settle for ubiquitous metallic finishes when there's a rainbow of fun, bold and pastel colours to choose from? Glass kettles are popular too, but a transparent exterior quickly betrays unsightly limescale build-up, so they will need regular descaling.

We have two super-stylish Best Buys that come in a range of colours to brighten up your kitchen. They have matching toasters available, too, including the Best Buy Magimix Le Toaster 2 – visit [www.which.co.uk/toasters](http://www.which.co.uk/toasters) to read our reviews.

Pretty finishes come at a higher price though: both the Best Buys here cost more than £50. Use [www.whichcompare.co.uk](http://www.whichcompare.co.uk) to find the best prices.

### 73% De'Longhi Icona KB03001 £59

This colourful Best Buy is very energy-efficient, boils quickly, and has one of the most effective limescale filters we've seen.

However, the auto switch-off is slow, and the spout is small, so you'll have to fill it via the lid, which is a very tight fit.

The Icona is available in black (KB03001OB), red (R), white (PW),

blue (B) or silver (£49), so you should be able to find one to match your kitchen's decor.

It's cheapest at John Lewis.



**WORTH KNOWING**  
The limescale filter is excellent and traps plenty of scale, but it's fiddly to replace after cleaning.

**Available** John Lewis, House of Fraser **Minimum fill** 300ml **Time to boil 1 litre** Two minutes 24 seconds **Cord length** 74cm **Matching range** Toaster

### 83% Magimix All New Kettle £69

This stylish, solidly-built Magimix can boil as little as 240ml, enough for about one cup, which will take just 50 seconds – ideal if you're dying for a cuppa.

There are nice, well engineered touches, such as a lid that glides open when you push the release button.

The limescale filter proved effective and durable in our tests,

and it's easy to remove and replace.

Colour options are cream (11561), red (11563), polished (11565) and brushed (11566). It's cheapest at John Lewis.



**WORTH KNOWING**  
This kettle comes with a three-year guarantee.

**Available** John Lewis **Minimum fill** 250ml **Time to boil 1 litre** Two minutes 22 seconds **Cord length** 72cm **Matching range** Toaster

## Eco-friendly Best Buys

### Save on your electricity bills with an energy-efficient kettle

A kettle uses the same amount of energy to boil a litre of water as it takes to run a fridge for around seven hours.

Many kettles continue to boil for up to 10 seconds before switching off, which wastes energy. And with some, you have to boil a minimum amount that's much more than you need for one cup of tea.

According to the Energy Saving Trust ([www.energy-savingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energy-savingtrust.org.uk)), if everyone boiled only the water they needed to make a cup of tea instead of filling the kettle every time, we could save enough electricity to power 300,000 households for a year.

From the growing wave of 'eco-friendly' kettles, we've found two models that impressed us.

### 79% Breville Blue Ice JK147 £39

Though its hi-tech clear plastic body and blue illumination might not appeal to everyone, no one could argue with this kettle's performance.

It can boil as little as 200ml (about one cup's worth) in only 48 seconds, and it's among the most energy-efficient kettles we tested. However, the

filter is hard to remove and replace, and only trapped large limescale particles. It's cheapest at John Lewis.

**WORTH KNOWING**  
There's a matching toaster available (TT68) if you want the full



**Blue Ice experience in your kitchen.**

**Available** John Lewis **Minimum fill** 200ml **Time to boil 1 litre** Two minutes 26 seconds **Cord length** 76cm **Matching range** Toaster

### 71% Kenwood Energysense JK450 £29

This jug kettle lives up to its Energysense name with some great design features.

It boils rapidly and switches off quickly, too, so it doesn't waste electricity by overboiling.

It can boil as little as a single cup of water in just 39 seconds – so you won't heat more than you need.

The transparent body has an array of lines

and markings, some of which are cleverly angled so you can read them when

the kettle is tilted. The one slight letdown is a poorly fitting limescale filter. It's cheapest at John Lewis.

**WORTH KNOWING**

**There's no matching toaster in this range.**

**Available** John Lewis **Minimum fill** 200ml **Time to boil 1 litre** Two minutes 18 seconds **Cord length** 75cm **Matching range** No

