

Slimline tonic

Miele's lean green dishwasher cleans, rinses and dries its way to become our first slimline Best Buy

Regardless of the size of your kitchen, dishwashers can save you time, effort and water. No wonder they're more popular than ever. We have three new Best Buy full-sized dishwashers that will help cut through the work of cleaning up after Christmas lunch.

For smaller households, or when space is tight, it might not be possible to fit in a 60cm standard-width machine. Thankfully, dishwashers have evolved, and a range of 'slimline' (45cm-wide)

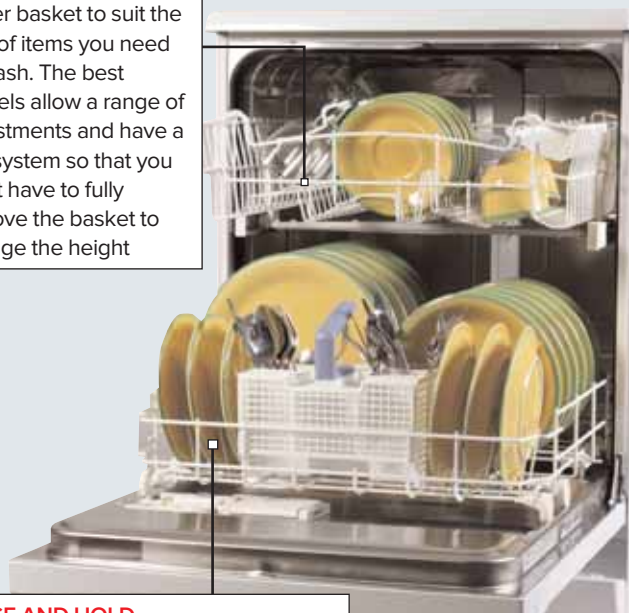
models is available. However, you can't just shrink the machine and expect the same cleaning performance. Slimline dishwashers, because they are narrower, have smaller spray arms, which may find it hard to reach all areas of the upper and lower racks. Nevertheless, this time we've found a slimline machine that performed well enough to be awarded a Best Buy. What's no surprise is that it's a Miele – meaning the company now claims three out of four of our latest Best Buys.

Miele claims three out of four of our latest Best Buys

What you should look for

ADJUSTABLE BASKETS

Some machines let you change the height of the upper basket to suit the size of items you need to wash. The best models allow a range of adjustments and have a clip system so that you don't have to fully remove the basket to change the height

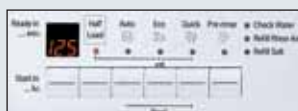


RINSE AND HOLD

Some machines offer this function for very dirty dishes. It can be useful if you don't yet have a full load and don't want food residue to harden or start to smell

ANTI-FLOOD DEVICES

A float switch detects water in the base of the machine and stops it filling. An aqua-stop is an electrically operated flood protection system on the inlet hose, which automatically cuts off the water supply when a problem is detected



FRONT PANEL DESIGN

Controls are usually buttons or a selector dial. A digital display showing the time remaining until your dishes are ready is useful. Some machines have angled front panels for ease of use; others have controls on top of the door that are hidden when it is closed

How we test



Imagine clearing up after a dinner party for 936 people

A lot on our plates

We soil sets of dinner plates and soup bowls, cups and saucers, glasses, beakers, bowls and cutlery with meat, egg, spinach, oatflakes, tomato juice, tea and milk, and leave to dry for two hours. We then load each full-sized machine with 127 items, and each slimline machine with 97 – more than 9,900 pieces in total.

We run each machine three times on its normal and energy-save programs, and then assess each individual item to see how well it has been cleaned, rinsed and dried. To mimic the way a typical machine gets used, we run each machine only once a day, so that the temperature inside can return to normal.



PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN TRENNHOLM



1 FULL-SIZED FREESTANDING

72% Whirlpool
ADP5406 £250

EXCEPTIONAL
VALUE

This Whirlpool was outstanding at cleaning and drying on both programs we tested. There are a few ergonomic niggles, such as the uncomfortable handle, the non-adjustable upper rack and the slippery program dial, but overall it's a great-value machine. It's cheapest at Currys. **WORTH KNOWING** There's no normal program, so we tested its intensive (70°C) wash.

Available Currys **Programs** Glasses 40°C, quickwash 40°C, eco 50°C, intensive 70°C, half load 50°C, anti-bacterial **Delayed start** Yes (3,6,9 hours) **Float switch** No **Aqua-stop** No



3 FULL-SIZED FREESTANDING

71% Miele
G1222SC £580

WHICH?
BEST
BUY

The latest evolution of a previous Best Buy, the G1222SC generally lives up to Miele's high standards. It's the quietest machine we tested, and easy to load. There are also thoughtful additional features, such as a separate, flat, top tray for cutlery and an adjustable top panel to accommodate more plumbing behind the machine. It's cheapest at John Lewis. **WORTH KNOWING** Miele occasionally offers a free extension of the warranty from two years to five – see the website for details.

Available Comet, Currys, John Lewis **Programs** Pre-wash, quick wash 40°C, energy save, light soiling (50°C), pots and pans 75°C, sensor wash, sensor wash gentle **Delayed start** Yes (30min to 24hr) **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes



2 FULL-SIZED FREESTANDING

71% Miele
G1232SC £800

WHICH?
BEST
BUY

This Miele's stunning performance on the normal program leaves glasses sparkling and dishes pristine, although its drying efficiency could be a tiny bit better. The energy-save setting adds 40 minutes to the length of the program, but repays you in savings on energy and water. It's easy to load, and quiet once you shut the door. It's cheapest at Comet.

WE LIKE The angled control panel and display make it easier to view.

Available Comet **Programs** Pre-wash, quick wash 40°C, energy save, light soiling 50°C, pots and pans 75°C, sensor wash, sensor wash gentle **Delayed start** Yes (30min to 24hr) **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes



11 SLIMLINE FREESTANDING

71% Miele
G1102SC £554

WHICH?
BEST
BUY

This slimline model from Miele takes nine place settings and doesn't compromise on performance. The normal program, which lasted 134 minutes, was very good at cleaning, rinsing and drying, and was reasonably efficient in terms of water and electricity usage. The energy-save program delivered clean crockery and glasses but took 180 minutes. It's available online.

WE LIKE This was the quietest slimline machine we tested.

Available Online **Programs** Sensor wash (55°C-65°C), quick wash (40°C), light soiling (50°C), energy save, pots and pans (75°C), pre-wash **Delayed start** No **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes

Getting the best out of your machine

Follow our tips to ensure cleaner crockery and save time, money and energy

Clean machine

If you've had your dishwasher for a while and it's leaving egg on your plates or streaks on your glasses, it might be time to give the humble washer-up a clean of its own.

Regularly unscrew the filter in the base of the machine, remove all food particles and grease with boiling water, make sure the sump underneath is clear, and then replace the filter. Also pay the spray arms some attention – refer to the user manual for instructions on how to remove them (often unscrewing clockwise), and then clean any grease and grime from the nozzles. Finally, wipe around the door seals.

Pick the program

It's all too easy to close the door of the dishwasher and just press the same button as you've always done. But you could get better results by varying the program depending on how dirty your dishes are. For example, pots and pans with baked-on food might benefit from a hotter (at least 70°C) wash.

Don't halt the salt

Even if you're using combination tablets (for example, 5-in-1), you'll still need to use dishwasher salt, particularly in

areas of hard water, to avoid costly repairs. The salt in the tablet is designed only for cleaning rather than to work in the softener unit.

Don't pack 'em in

Unless each item is sprayed with water it won't get clean. Ensure that you follow the manufacturer's instructions. Resist the temptation to cram in every last dirty item – instead, leave space between crockery and cutlery.

Save energy

The energy-save program usually takes longer but uses less water at a lower temperature, so uses less energy than the standard program. For example, on average a normal program can use 20 litres of water and 1.5kWh of electricity, but an energy-save program reduces this to 15 litres and 1.0kWh.

Disposal

If, having tried our Best Buy dishwasher detergents (see www.which.co.uk/dishwasherdetergents), you're still unimpressed, it might be time to replace your old dishwasher. Some

retailers will get rid of your old machine for a nominal fee, or you could offer it on Freecycle (www.freecycle.org) or take it to your local recycling facility (www.recycle-more.co.uk).





Facts & scores

You're not restricted to white – or a one-year warranty

Rainbow bright

The **Smeg DF6 FABAZ (9)** is available in silver, lime green, pink, red, cream, orange or black for the same price as the pastel blue version. The **Zanussi-Electrolux (6)** comes in black, white and silver, all similarly priced at online retailers.

Built to last

The standard dishwasher warranty is for one year, but the **AEG-Electrolux F54750 (12)** comes with a class-leading five-year warranty, the **John Lewis (5)** machine with three years, and the **Miele (2,3 and 11)** and **Maytag (7)** with two years each.

MODEL	SPECIFICATION			NORMAL PROGRAM		
	PRICE (£)	SIZE (cm) (hxxwxd)	ADJUSTABLE UPPER BASKET	WASHING	WATERMARKS	DRYING
FULL-SIZED FREESTANDING						
1 WHIRLPOOL ADP5406^a	250	85x60x60		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
2 MIELE G1232SC	800	85x60x61	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
3 MIELE G1222SC	580	85x60x61	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
4 AEG-ELECTROLUX F60870	376	85x60x62	✓	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
5 JOHN LEWIS JLDWW1201	279	85x60x62	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
6 ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZDF601K	319	85x60x60	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
7 MAYTAG MSE 760 FARS	600	86x60x60 ^b		★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
8 KENWOOD KDW 12 ST 3A^c	250	85x60x61 ^b	✓	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★
9 SMEG DF6 FABAZ	790	89x59x67	✓	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
10 HOOVER HOD 7715-80	277	85x60x62	✓	★★★★	★★★	★★★★
SLIMLINE FREESTANDING						
11 MIELE G1102SC	554	85x45x61	✓	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
12 AEG-ELECTROLUX F54750	320	85x45x62	✓	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
13 ELECTROLUX ESF 46010	309	85x45x62	✓	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
14 COOKWORKS WQP8-9239 (480/9984)	170	85x45x60	✓	★★	★★★	★★★★★

^a The Whirlpool does not have a normal program, so we tested the intensive 70° as the closest option ^b Maytag and Kenwood both have adjustable depth, so the minimum is quoted in table ^c Kenwood does not have a comparable energy-save program

Which should you choose?



Best for a very small kitchen

BOSCH SKT5102 £300 This compact Bosch from a previous test holds four place settings and can be used on a worktop or squeezed into a spare corner. It's easy to use, and running costs are very low, but it's noisy. See www.which.co.uk/dishwashers for a full description. **SCORE 75%**



Best if you're in a hurry

ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZDF601K £319 Although this Zanussi (6) doesn't have the fastest normal program of the machines we tested, it had the best combination of outstanding cleaning and a program lasting just under two hours. On the eco program, however, other models take a similar amount of time but clean better.

Best for users who are visually impaired or have reduced dexterity

AEG-ELECTROLUX F60870 £376 ONLINE
AEG-ELECTROLUX F54750 £320 ONLINE
Both these models (4 and 12) have very clear control panels, and their doors and baskets do not require much effort to use. They clean dishes well, though the slimline F54750 is disappointingly noisy.

Best built-in

AEG-ELECTROLUX FAVORIT F86070VI £720

This was the best full-sized built-in model we tested in March 2007. It cleaned dishes superbly, but its energy and water efficiency on the normal program were disappointing. If you buy it online it can be up to £200 cheaper. See www.which.co.uk/dishwashers for full details. **SCORE 70%**

WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE													SCORE %
			ENERGY-SAVE PROGRAM								BRAND RELIABILITY		
PROGRAM TIME (minutes)	WATER CONSUMPTION	ENERGY USE	WASHING	WATERMARKS	DRYING	PROGRAM TIME (minutes)	WATER CONSUMPTION	ENERGY USE					
									EASE OF USE	NOISE			
159	★★	★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	184	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	average	72	
136	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	175	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	average	71	
137	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	176	★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	average	71	
126	★★	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	165	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	average	69	
122	★	★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	165	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★	average	65	
119	★	★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	165	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★	average	64	
152	★★	★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	166	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★		62	
156	★★	★★★	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	★★★★	★★		59	
113	★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	189	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	poor	58	
104	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	155	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★		57	
134	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	180	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	average	71	
110	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	174	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	average	64	
110	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	174	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★		64	
146	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	112	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★		55	

USING THE TABLE

The more stars the better.

Specification

Price For Best Buys we give the cheapest widely available high-street price as we went to press. Other prices are a guide. Prices for models that are available only online are in *italics*.
Size Depth includes handle.

Test performance

Normal program We chose a normal, universal or daily program. If this was not available, we chose a wash program of about 65°C. On the Whirlpool, we chose the intensive 70°C program. **Energy-save program** If there wasn't a program called eco, energy save or similar, we chose one of about 50°C. **Washing** Machines ranked ★★★★★ left dishes spotless; those graded ★★ or below failed to remove all food residues or spread it to other dishes. **Watermarks** ★★★★★ means glasses are left smear free; ★★★ means that glasses have watermarks. **Drying** ★★★★★ means dishes are completely dry; ★★★ means

some water drops are left. **Water consumption** How many litres of water are used to clean a normally soiled load: ★★★★★ means less than 12 litres; ★★ means more than 22 litres. **Energy use** How many kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity are used to clean a normally soiled load: ★★★★★ means less than 0.9kWh; ★★ means more than 1.65kWh. **Ease of use** Includes clarity of the instruction manual, and how easy it is to open and close the door, load and unload the racks, reach the filter and add salt, detergent and rinse aid. **Noise** This includes measured and subjective ratings of how loud the model is during its cycles. Quieter models get more stars. **Brand reliability** Based on our annual survey of Which? members of a brand's reliability, where data are available.

Score

Ignores price and is based on:
 Performance (normal and energy-save programs) **50%**
 Ease of use **25%**
 Energy and water use **15%**
 Noise **10%**

Contacts

AEG-Electrolux 0870 535 0350
www.aeg-electrolux.co.uk
Bosch 0870 240 0060
www.bosch.co.uk
Cookworks (exclusive to Argos)
 0870 600 3030; www.argos.co.uk
Electrolux 0870 595 0950
www.electrolux.co.uk
Hoover 0870 950 2943
www.hoover.co.uk
John Lewis 0845 604 9049
www.johnlewis.com

Kenwood (exclusive to Currys)
 0844 561 6263; www.currys.co.uk
Maytag 01737 231000
www.maytag.co.uk
Miele 01235 554455
www.miele.co.uk
Smeg 0870 990 9907
www.smeguk.com
Whirlpool 0870 600 8989
www.whirlpool.co.uk
Zanussi-Electrolux 0870 572 7727
www.zanussi-electrolux.co.uk

MORE DISHWASHERS ONLINE

Go online at www.which.co.uk/dishwashers for more than 60 models previously tested. This information is regularly updated with new models, availability and prices. See www.which.co.uk/loginhelp if you would like help logging in.

OUR RESEARCH

When selecting dishwashers to test, we consult manufacturers, market intelligence reports and industry experts, then check availability on the high street and online. Tested models include top-sellers from the most popular brands, products with innovative features, models from some lesser-known brands and widely available Best Buys from previous tests.