



# Roast winners

We test a baker's dozen single ovens and 10 double ovens and offer tips on the best ways to clean and steam cook

You can pay anything from around £150 to £2,500 for a built-in oven, depending on your needs, the size of your kitchen, and your budget.

The latest built-in ovens are a worthy centrepiece in any kitchen, but you could pay handsomely for such handsome design, especially for a steam oven, which can cost £2,500. The Neff B8762N0GB (3)

combination steam oven, a Best Buy, is much cheaper, but will still set you back £909.

Is it necessary to spend this much? The Electrolux Intuition EOB53000K (1) single and New World's NW90DOSS (14) double oven cook excellently and offer exceptional value for a fraction of the price (£285 and £380 respectively). And if you do want to steam cook, there are

much cheaper ways to do it (see 'Steam training', below).

The size of your kitchen will also influence your choice. Where space is limited, a built-in double up to 72cm high should fit neatly under a worktop. But you'll rarely get two equal-sized ovens: most models combine a full-sized oven with a much smaller one on top.

## How we test



### Global warming

We check how evenly each oven heats using the British Standard small cakes test. For each cake on the two full shelves, we ask: is it well-risen, uniformly cooked and an even golden-brown colour? The best ovens can result in 72 yes answers.



### Grill skills

We cover the top tray with crustless white bread to see how big an area and how evenly the grill toasts. Some only manage about 50%.

### Temperature probe

We check how long the oven takes to reach 150°C, 180°C and 200°C, and how accurate the temperature controls are.

We also rate the doors, shelves, controls and features, and how easy the ovens are to clean.

## Steam training With growing interest in healthy eating, cooking methods such as steaming are here to stay

Steaming helps retain vitamins and minerals in food, along with flavour, texture and colour. And you don't have to add fat or salt in cooking.

Manufacturers are keen to exploit interest in the subject by coming up with new appliances, such as combination steam ovens that would look at home in professional kitchens – and have prices to match. But you can steam cook from as little as £5. All steamers are good for rice, vegetables and fish, but steam ovens are large enough for whole fish, and can be used for juicing, or sterilising baby bottles.



### From £5 to £2,500

**Hob-top steamer (£5-£25) + pan**  
The simplest solution is also the cheapest: a plastic, metal or

bamboo steamer that sits on top of a pan of boiling water.

#### Electric steamer (£10-£100)

We're testing these in January. In our last test, *Which?*, August 2006, we found they were slower than a hob-top steamer.



#### Microwave steamer (£15+)

Plastic microwave steamers combine microwave and steam functions to cook faster.

#### Oven tray steam insert (£150-£250)

You can buy these for the Neff B1442N0GB (5) and Gorenje B9000BK (7). They have a water tray, perforated food tray, and a glazed cover.

They offer few advantages over simpler, cheaper options, are heavy and take up a lot of storage space.

#### Microwave with steam function (£200+)

It's the pricier microwaves that may have a steam function. The Best Buy Whirlpool JT359 (£195) has a steamer and a steam program that simmers water at the right temperature.

#### Electric steam oven (£800-£2,500)

These can be pressurised or non-pressurised. Pressurised models are sealed and can steam at up to 120°C, higher than usual steaming temperatures of 40-100°C. This reduces cooking time by up to half, but can be too harsh for some food. Most ovens have a water tank you refill when it runs dry. High-end models can be plumbed into the mains, but you'd need to do a lot of steaming to justify the expense.





## 1 SINGLE OVEN

## 84% Electrolux Intuition EOB53000K £285

The Intuition has few functions but it preheats quickly and cooks impressively. The oven has a system called Ultrafan where the fan is surrounded by the heating element. It's great at grilling, and has accurate temperature controls. Non-tip shelves make life easier. It's cheapest online.

**WE LIKE** The grill element is hinged, so you can clean the oven roof easily.

Available Currys, online Colour Black, brown, stainless steel, white Main oven shelf positions Five Average 180°C preheat time 6min, 26sec



## 2 SINGLE OVEN

## 83% Siemens HB750550B £629

This model has the most accurate temperature controls of the ovens we tested. There are eight cooking options including defrost and bottom heat, and it grills evenly across the whole tray. The two control knobs retract into the surface of the cooker. It's cheapest at John Lewis.

**WE FOUND** The oven's pyrolytic self-cleaning function takes about 2 hours, 5 minutes and uses 5.3kWh of energy, about 66p worth.

Available Comet, John Lewis Colour Black, stainless steel Main oven shelf positions Five Average 180°C preheat time 7min, 12sec



## 3 SINGLE OVEN

## 77% Neff B8762N0GB £909

This is the only oven we tested that has a dedicated steam function, but this means you don't get a grill and capacity falls to a paltry 30 litres. The advantage however, is that you get a steam oven and fan oven combined, which allows you to steam food, then brown or crisp it at the end of cooking.

**WORTH KNOWING** It costs about £400 more than the Neff B1442N0GB, so be sure that you really want the extra functions.

Available Independents, online Colour Stainless steel Main oven shelf positions Four Average 180°C preheat time 4min, 11sec



## 4 SINGLE OVEN

## 74% Miele H5240B £740

Our largest capacity Best Buy heats and grills food evenly, and has very accurate temperature controls. It's slow to heat up, though.

The oven's catalytic lining, 'perfect-clean' non-stick grill pan and baking sheet all help to make cleaning easier. It's cheapest online.

**WE LIKE** Quadruple glazing in the door ensures the heat stays inside.

Available John Lewis, independents and online. Colour Aluminium, black, stainless steel, white Main oven shelf positions Five Average 180°C preheat time 11min



## 5 SINGLE OVEN

## 73% Neff B1442N0GB £512

This Neff is a good all-rounder, with accurate and even temperature control, and a catalytic lining that makes cleaning much easier.

However, it's let down by the grill which only works well in the centre of the pan. Prices vary by about £30 depending on the colour. This model is cheapest at Comet.

**WORTH KNOWING** Its retractable controls match other Neff appliances.

Available Comet, Currys Colour Black, brown, stainless steel, white Main oven shelf positions Four Average 180°C preheat time 7min, 37sec



### Contacts

**AEG Electrolux** 0870 595 0950  
www.aeg-electrolux.co.uk

**Belling** 0871 222503

www.belling.co.uk

**Bosch** 0870 240 0060

www.boschappliances.co.uk

**Cookworks** 0870 600 8784

www.argos.co.uk

**DeLonghi** 0845 600 6845

www.delonghi.co.uk

**Electrolux** 0870 595 0950

www.electrolux.co.uk

**Fagor** 0870 750 3503

www.fagor.com/uk

**Gorenje** www.gorenje.co.uk

**Hotpoint** 0870 150 6070

www.hotpoint.co.uk

**Indesit** 01733 568989

www.indesit.co.uk

**Miele** 01235 554455

www.miele.co.uk

**Neff** 0870 241 3383

www.neff.co.uk

**New World**

0871 222 2635

www.newworldappliances.co.uk

**Siemens**

www.siemensappliances.co.uk

**Smeg**

0870 990 9907

www.smeguk.com

**Whirlpool** 0870 600 8989

www.whirlpool.co.uk

**Zanussi** 0870 595 0950

www.zanussi.co.uk

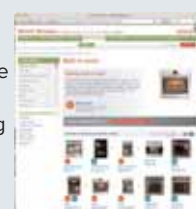


### Which? online Built-ins

#### Find the best price for the oven you want

Go online at [www.which.co.uk/built-in-ovens](http://www.which.co.uk/built-in-ovens) to read reviews of another 22 top-selling machines, advice on how to buy the built-in

oven that is right for you and to find out which are the most reliable makes, according to our survey among Which? members.





#### 14 DOUBLE OVEN

**77% New World NW90DOSS £380**

You get a lot for your money with this New World model, even though its look may not turn heads. It preheats quickly (150°C in 4 minutes, 8 seconds), has accurate temperature controls and grills evenly with the top door left open. The oven lining is only enamel, so you need to clean it by hand. It's available from Comet.

**WORTH KNOWING** In our latest reliability survey, New World ovens are above average for reliability.

Available Comet Colour Stainless steel Main oven shelf positions 15 Average 180°C preheat time 5min, 46sec



#### 16 DOUBLE OVEN

**70% Fagor FB1981X2 £549**

The Fagor double oven baked well and used little energy. In contrast, its two grills used a lot of electricity and gave uneven results. The non-tip shelves don't work well, either. There is a pyrolytic lining in the main oven and catalytic in the top oven which make cleaning easier. It's cheapest online.

**WE FOUND** There is the normal 120-minute self-clean program, and a 90-minute function (eco-pyrolysis) that uses 3.3kWh of energy, less than 41p.

Available Online Colour Stainless steel Main oven shelf positions Five Average 180°C preheat time 5min, 58sec



ONLINE

Looking for a microwave to go with your new oven?

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



#### 15 DOUBLE OVEN

**73% Bosch HBN13M551B £700**

This costs almost twice as much as our top-scoring Best Buy double oven. The extra features you get for this include a top oven that can be set to either top and bottom heat, or to grill. The main oven has fan and defrost modes. An oxylytic (similar to catalytic) lining in both ovens makes cleaning easier. It's cheapest at John Lewis.

**WORTH KNOWING** Register your appliance, and the guarantee increases from one to two years.

Available Comet, Currys, John Lewis Colour Stainless steel Main oven shelf positions Five Average 180°C preheat time 7min, 32sec



#### 17 DOUBLE OVEN

**70% Zanussi ZOU330X £485**

This is the odd one out of our Best Buy double ovens, as at only 71cm high it can be placed under a worktop. The controls are to the right of the top oven door, so the top oven at 25x34cm is taller but narrower than others (average 17x42cm) – useful if you want to roast a chicken in the top oven. It's cheapest online.

**WE LIKE** It squeezes two good-sized ovens into a space not much bigger than a single oven.

Available Online Colour Stainless steel, white Main oven shelf positions 14 Average 180°C preheat time 8min, 3sec



## Which should

### Best for adventurous cooks

**GORENJE B9000BK £512** The Gorenje (7) gives you a lot of cooking choices. There is a meat probe, telescopic shelves, and touch control. A nice extra touch is a switch that stops the fan blowing hot air into your face when you open the door. You can buy a steam insert for about £125. The Gorenje narrowly missed being a Best Buy and is



MODEL	PRICE (£)
<b>SINGLE OVENS</b>	
1 <b>ELECTROLUX</b> Intuition EOB53000K	285
2 <b>SIEMENS</b> HB750550B	629
3 <b>NEFF</b> B8762N0GB	909
4 <b>MIELE</b> H5240B	740
5 <b>NEFF</b> B1442N0GB	512
6 <b>DELONGHI</b> ESF461ST	230
7 <b>GORENJE</b> B9000BK	512
8 <b>ZANUSSI</b> ZOB230X	250
9 <b>COOKWORK</b> MM55535	150
10 <b>WHIRLPOOL</b> AKP201/IX	245
11 <b>INDESIT</b> FIE56K.BIXGB	250
12 <b>BELLING</b> XOU60FPSS	280
13 <b>HOTPOINT</b> SY36X	280
<b>DOUBLE OVENS</b>	
14 <b>NEW WORLD</b> NW90DOSS	380
15 <b>BOSCH</b> HBN13M551B	700
16 <b>FAGOR</b> FB1981X2	549
17 <b>ZANUSSI</b> ZOU330X	485
18 <b>AEG ELECTROLUX</b> D2100-5-B	479
19 <b>INDESIT</b> FID20WH	380
20 <b>WHIRLPOOL</b> AKP951WH	645
21 <b>SMEG</b> DUC08CSS	699
22 <b>NEFF</b> U1422N0GB	599
23 <b>HOTPOINT</b> DY46X	400



# you choose?

guaranteed for five years. The make arrived in the UK in 2002 but has produced appliances for 55 years.

## Best for ease of use

**ZANUSSI ZOB230X £250** We found the Zanussi (8) easy to use, especially for anyone with sight or dexterity problems. It has simple, clearly labelled controls, and the door opens easily.



## CLEANING YOUR OVEN

■ A self-cleaning oven usually has catalytic oven walls or pyrolytic liners, and needs to be set to its cleaning cycle or highest temperature.

■ Catalytic oven walls absorb grease and dirt, then burn it off at up to 275°C. Pyrolytic liners burn off dirt and grease at about 500°C, which incinerates food scraps into ash for you to sweep out once the

oven cools. Cleaning cycles normally automatically lock the oven door for safety.

■ Some ovens have an additional steam-cleaning system, such as Neff's Aquacleanse, where you add water and washing-up liquid to the oven floor, and wipe it clean after cooling.

■ Even if your oven has self-cleaning walls, the shelves and door need

to be cleaned the hard way. Try one of the Best Buys from our last test of oven cleaners such as Mr Muscle's foam oven cleaner (£1.88). Oven Pride Oven Cleaning System (£3.99) involves placing oven shelves into special bags with the cleaning solution.

Neither of these products should be used on pyrolytic or catalytic surfaces.

## USING THE TABLE

The more stars the better.

### Specification

**Price** For Best Buys we give cheapest widely available high-street prices. If we couldn't find them at major high-street shops we give the most common online price. Prices for other models are a guide.

### Features

#### Oven capacity

Internal volume Main/top ovens.

**Self-clean** Top/bottom oven.

C = Catalytic, P = Pyrolytic, E = Easy-clean.

#### Test performance

**Preheating** Average time to reach 150°C, 180°C and 200°C in fan and convection modes.

**Accuracy of controls** Difference between set and actual temperatures.

**Oven** Consistency of temperature and cooking results throughout the oven. **Grilling** How evenly it toasted.

**Ease of use** Controls, visibility, doors, shelf adjustment, putting in and removing food. **Ease of cleaning** By hand and with self-clean functions.

#### Score

Ignores price and is based on:

Oven	50%
Grill	20%
Ease of use	20%
Ease of cleaning	10%

SPECIFICATION				WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE						SCORE %
HEIGHT (cm)	OVEN CAPACITY (litres)	CHILDPROOF	SELF-CLEAN FUNCTION	PRE-HEATING TIME	ACCURACY OF CONTROLS	OVEN	GRILLING	EASE OF USE	EASE OF CLEANING	
59.4	50			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	84
59.5	58	✓	PE	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	83
45.2	30			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	n/a	★★★	★★★	77
59.6	65	✓	CE	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	74
59.5	54		CE	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	73
59.4	53			★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	66
59.5	52	✓		★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★	65
59.0	51			★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	65
59.6	59			★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	★★★	★★	59
59.3	53			★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★	57
59.5	57			★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★	★★★	★★	51
59.6	53			★★★★	★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	49
59.5	57			★★★★★	★	★★★	★★	★★★	★★	42
88.5	58/28			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	77
88.7	45/30	✓	C / CE	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	73
88.6	55/30		CE / CE	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★	70
71.4	48/37			★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	70
88.9	56/27		C / PE	★★★★★	★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	67
88.5	69/36		C / CE	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	★★★	★★★★	61
71.5	43/30			★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★	★★★	★★★★	61
71.8	49/27		C / CE	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★	60
88.7	45/29		C / CE	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★	59
88.7	69/35		C / CE	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★	57