

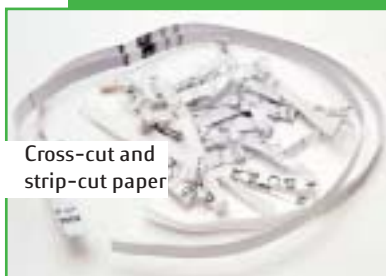
# Shredders

## NEED TO KNOW

With identity fraud on the rise, it's worth taking steps to reduce the risk of it happening to you. It's wise to shred sensitive papers. That includes bills, receipts, card slips, bank statements, and even junk mail, especially if it's already filled in with your personal details. See our report on p16 for more.

Using any shredder is better than doing nothing, but some are more effective than others.

Some manufacturers state the shredder's security rating. This is an industry standard rating of one to five based on the size of shredded paper produced. Five is the most secure rating. Pick a model with a rating of at least three.



Cross-cut and strip-cut paper

### CROSS CUT

The most secure option is a cross-cut shredder. This shreds your documents in two directions, making reassembly difficult.

### STRIP CUT

Strip-cut or ribbon-cut machines shred your documents into ribbons, as the name suggests. The widest strips are over 7mm and a very determined thief could stick these back together, so they're less secure.

### BEST BUYS

Based on security alone, all the cross-cut shredders are better than the strip-cut models. For that reason, all our Best Buys are cross cut. Strip-cut models aren't cheaper overall, so there's no need to compromise. Additionally, the Best Buys stand out from the non-Best Buys as being well designed and having good durability. A ● in the table indicates that the shredder overheated quickly, although they all recovered after cooling down.

### CROSS CUT

We could find little to fault the **Ryman (1)** shredder, £50. It's simple to use, with handy extra features. It automatically reverses when the bin is full and sounds an alarm. The bin slides out from the casing for convenient emptying – with most models, you have to remove the shredder head to do this. It's one of the largest and most suited to a home office. It shreds up to ten pages at once and will cope with credit cards but not staples or paperclips.

The **HSM (2)** is basic and durable, able to handle staples and to shred five sheets at one time. It costs £40 online from the Shredder Warehouse.

The **Woolworths (3)** destroys credit cards, copes with staples and can shred five sheets per batch. Our only gripe is that the bin window, designed to show how much room there is, is obscured by a flap that hangs down to disperse the shredded material. But at £15, it's such good value that we can overlook this one flaw.

The Fellowes (4) and the GBC (5) aren't as durable as the Best Buys, but are worth considering if you have only small amounts to shred.



1 **Ryman**  
CROSS CUT

## Shredders

### CROSS CUT

- 1 **Ryman MS-1001**
- 2 **HSM X5**
- 3 **Woolworths PS-024/B**
- 4 **Fellowes Powershred P-45C**
- 5 **GBC Shredmaster 555x**
- 6 **Argos PS-045/B**
- 7 **Draper PS7/CC<sup>a</sup>**
- 8 **Draper PS6/CC**
- 9 **Martin Yale Paper Monster 692902**

10 **Acco Rexel V25**

### STRIP CUT

- 11 **Fellowes Powershred PS-60<sup>b</sup>**
- 12 **HSM 90.2**
- 13 **Acco Rexel V120**
- 14 **Acco Rexel HS.80**
- 15 **GBC Security Shredder 360S**
- 16 **Martin Yale Paper Monster 692912**
- 17 **HSM 70.2**
- 18 **Woolworths PS-106/B**
- 19 **Fellowes Powershred P-5M**
- 20 **Argos PS-106/B**
- 21 **Draper PS1<sup>a</sup>**

<sup>a</sup> Manual models; you shred by turning a handle

We like the design of the Fellowes. The tilting shredder head makes it easy to clear paper jams. It will shred credit cards and copes with staples. It can shred six sheets at one time, but the manufacturer recommends doing no more than 20 batches each day. It costs £30 from PC World.

The GBC is basic but competent. It shreds up to four sheets at once and manages staples. It's suitable for light use only, needing a half-hour rest after two minutes of shredding. It is around £35 from independents.

### STRIP CUT

The Fellowes (11) and HSM (12) are the best strip-cut models, but aren't secure enough to be Best Buys, although they do have speed on their side.

The Fellowes has an angled cutter, so you can feed in the paper at an angle while it is sitting under your desk. It manages small paperclips and staples and will shred credit cards, but not as thoroughly as the Best Buys with this feature. It's £70 from Staples.

## CAPACITY

The number of sheets that can be shredded at a time ranges from one to 13 for our shredders. This Ryman is among the highest-capacity machines with a recommended limit of ten sheets.

All models except the Argos (6) will cut unfolded A4 paper.



## VERSATILITY

With all the Best Buys, you have to remove paperclips from documents before shredding.

Several models shred credit cards. The best at this are the Ryman (1), this Woolworths and the Fellowes (4).



## USING THE TABLE

We tested popular models made for home or home office use.

## Specification

**Price** For Best Buys we give the cheapest, widely available high-street price as we went to press. Prices for other models are a guide. Prices in *italics* are online prices. **Security rating** An industry standard rating of one to five, with five the highest, based on our check of the size of shredded paper produced. **Paperclips/staples** P indicates paperclips and S staples. **Bin window** Useful for checking how much room is left.

## Capacity

**Page load** The number of A4 sheets that can be fed in at once.

## Performance

**Shredding** How difficult it would be to reassemble the document.

**Speed** Time taken to shred 25 sheets of A4 paper. ★ indicates

less than 40 seconds and ● indicates more than five minutes.

**Versatility** How well the shredder copes with staples, paperclips, CDs and credit cards. **Ease of use** How easy it is to follow the instructions, load paper, clear jams and empty the bin. **Durability** For electric shredders, the ability to shred 1,000 sheets in 50-sheet batches, with a 15-minute rest between each batch. ★ indicates no problems and ● indicates the shredder overheated easily.

## SCORE

**Ignores price and is based on:**  
Shredding and speed 40%  
Page load and versatility 30%  
Ease of use 20%  
Durability 10%

## KEY

★ ☆ ○ ● ●  
Best —————> Worst  
■ Best Buy

Specification					Capacity		Performance					Score
Price (£)	Size hxxwxd (cm)	Security rating	Paperclips/staples	Bin window	Page load	Bin (litres)	Shredding	Speed	Versatility	Ease of use	Durability	(%)
50	49x35x25	3		✓	10	14	★	★	★	★	☆	89
40	39x34x21	3	S		5	16	★	☆	★	☆	★	85
15	39x31x15	3	S	✓	5	12	★	☆	★	☆	★	85
30	37x36x27	3	S		6	17	★	☆	★	☆	○	78
35	38x32x20	3	S		4	13	★	☆	★	☆	○	77
20	25x22x15	3		✓	4	4	☆	●	☆	○	○	65
23	17x33x15	3		✓	2	4	☆	●	☆	○	○	60
72	39x33x24	3			7	19	★	★	★	☆	●	56
90	39x34x20	3			6	15	★	☆	☆	☆	●	47
40	39x32x22	3			5	13	★	☆	○	☆	●	43
70	46x38x29	2	P, S	✓	12	26	☆	★	★	☆	★	73
100	45x38x29	2	P, S		12	21	☆	★	★	○	☆	73
75	48x31x42	2			13	33	☆	★	☆	○	★	67
17	39x30x17	2			5	12	○	☆	☆	☆	★	66
29	35x30x16	1			4	11	●	○	★	☆	★	64
80	38x34x20	1			8	15	○	★	☆	☆	☆	63
70	39x30x18	2	S, see <sup>c</sup>		7	14	○	○	☆	☆	☆	60
9	32x29x16	1			5	9	●	☆	☆	☆	★	60
44	36x33x18	1	S	✓	5	11	●	☆	★	☆	☆	60
10	32x29x16	1			5	9	●	☆	☆	☆	★	59
13	15x31x12	2		✓	1	3	○	●	○	○	○	50

b Also available as cross-cut model PS-65C c Claims to handle paperclips but jams