

Save all your dishes for me

A dishwasher is quicker than hand washing and usually cleans better. Here are our Best Buys

Do the washing up by hand for an average family and you're likely to spend 11 full days a year at the kitchen sink. It's quicker to load a dishwasher and, according to government-funded research, the machine will leave crockery and cutlery cleaner than washing up by hand.

Most modern dishwashers are also surprisingly eco-friendly. The best use just two bowls of water to clean 127 items at a time and our Best Buys left all these items spotless. If you were to wash

127 items by hand you'd probably have to change the water several times.

The most energy-efficient dishwashers on test use less than 10p worth of electricity per wash. Try to make sure your machine is full, though, and consider using the eco program rather than the normal one. This may take longer but could maximise water and energy savings. Once you have seen our Best Buys, you can find out the best detergent to use with them in our report on p66.



1 FULL-SIZED FREESTANDING

77% Miele G 1220 SC £550

This dishwasher was a Best Buy last November and in March, and still none of the new models on test has been able to top it. The Miele leaves dishes spotless and glasses sparkling on both the normal and eco programs. The G 1220 SC is one of the quietest machines on test, too. It's easy to use and to load.



Miele was one of the top brands in our reliability survey in June.

This model is available from Comet, Currys and B&Q Appliance Warehouse.

WE LIKE There is a cutlery tray above the top basket instead of the usual rack in the bottom basket – a clever space-saving idea.

Cheapest store Comet **Programs** Sensor, quick 40°C, sensor gentle, energy save, pots and pans 75°C, pre-wash **Delayed start** Yes (30 minutes to 24 hours) **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes

What you should look for

DELAYED START

Many models we tested have this function – useful if you have an energy tariff such as Economy 7, which gives cheaper power overnight

INDICATORS

Lights that show when you're low on salt and rinse aid. Most convenient are models that have these on the outside of the machine (or the rim of the door for built-in models)

WATER HARDNESS

Hard water can leave marks on dishes. Machines compensate with a water softener (dishwasher salt). You need to adjust the water hardness setting to suit your area

ADJUSTABLE BASKETS

Some machines have an upper basket that can be adjusted, which allows you to make extra space to fit large pots in the bottom rack

SYMBOLS

Look for models with symbols that are clearly understandable. On the Bosch SGV 53E03 (15), for example, it's hard to set some programs without referring to the manual

Jargon buster

■ **BUILT-IN/FULLY INTEGRATED** A dishwasher hidden behind a door so the unit matches kitchen cupboards.

■ **SEMI-INTEGRATED** A dishwasher behind a matching cupboard door, but with a control panel that is accessible without opening the door.

■ **SLIMLINE** Most dishwashers are about 60cm wide and hold 12 place settings. Slimline models are 45cm wide and hold nine place settings.

■ **ECO PROGRAM** This typically takes longer than a standard program but uses less water and electricity.



2 FULL-SIZED FREESTANDING

73% AEG-Electrolux Favorit F40660 £350

It may be the cheapest of the three AEG models of this kind on test, but the F40660 is a star performer at getting dishes clean and dry. It uses less water than its stable mates on its normal program and, if you're not in a rush, the eco setting saves even more water and electricity. This model is easy to use but, like the Favorit F40860 (4), it's quite noisy. In addition, you can't adjust the height of the upper basket. It's available from Comet and B&Q Appliance Warehouse.

WHICH?
BEST
BUY

WE LIKE The normal program takes a speedy one hour and 46 minutes – the quickest of our Best Buy dishwashers.

Cheapest store B&Q Appliance Warehouse **Programs** Intensive care 70°C, 30 min, normal 65°C, eco 50°C **Delayed start** Yes (3, 6, 9 hours) **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes



3 FULL-SIZED FREESTANDING

71% AEG-Electrolux Favorit F80860 £450

The F80860 shares the excellent washing and drying performance of the other three AEG Best Buys, leaving glasses crystal clear and without watermarks. It's also the quietest freestanding AEG we tested. However, it does use quite a lot of water on the normal program, so switch to the eco setting, especially as it also uses less electricity. It's available from Comet, Currys, John Lewis and B&Q Appliance Warehouse.

WHICH?
BEST
BUY

WE LIKE The stainless steel finish and digital display panel mean the machine's great to look at and controls are easy to set.

Cheapest store John Lewis **Programs** Quick 30 minute, automatic, glass-care 45°C, eco 50°C, normal 65°C, intensive care 70°C, automatic 30 minutes **Delayed start** Yes (1 to 19 hours) **Float Switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes



4 FULL-SIZED FREESTANDING

71% AEG-Electrolux Favorit F40860 £400

This model cleans, rinses and dries brilliantly on eco and normal programs, leaving your dishes spotless. It's noisier than some Best Buys, so you might not want to run it overnight if your bedroom is near the kitchen. The eco program takes two hours and 45 minutes but saves ten litres of water and about 5.9kWh of electricity, compared with the normal program, on each wash. That's around £20 a year in electricity if you run the machine every day. It's available from Comet and B&Q Appliance Warehouse.

WHICH?
BEST
BUY

WE LIKE This can take tall glasses in the top rack at the same time as a large item like a saucepan in the bottom.

Cheapest store B&Q Appliance Warehouse **Programs** Automatic 50-65°C, 30 min 60°C, intensive care 70°C, eco 50°C **Delayed start** Yes (1 to 19 hours) **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes

The Favorit F40660 is a star performer at getting dishes clean and dry

How we test

Our experts work from 4.30am to 6pm when we test dishwashers. To start, we run each machine once or twice empty, then five times with clean dishes, to make sure that it's working properly.

We fill each full-sized machine with 127 items and each slimline model with 97 items every time we wash. These items

include dinner plates, soup plates, cups and saucers, glasses, beakers, bowls and cutlery which we stain with meat, eggs, spinach, oat flakes, tomato juice, tea and milk, and leave to dry for two hours. We do three runs of the normal and eco programs on 20 models – that's



14,700 pieces of crockery and cutlery. Our

testers get the plates uniformly dirty, load the machines and set them to run. Afterwards, each item of crockery is assessed. We run only one test a day on each dishwasher to ensure the temperature inside has returned to normal.

Track it down

Here are some older models still worth finding

BOSCH SGS 55C02 £400

online This Bosch, a Best Buy last November, leaves dishes clean and is good at rinsing and drying. Its eco program avoids watermarks and saves water and energy. We found it online at www.pricerunner.co.uk for about £400. **Score 70%**

MIELE G 1270 SCVI £850

We're told this Miele built-in model is to be discontinued but it was available in

Comet, Currys and B&Q Appliance Warehouse as we went to press. It was a Best Buy in March and is great at cleaning and drying on its normal program and won't leave watermarks. Its eco program is almost as good and more efficient, although it's the slowest built-in model. Like the freestanding Miele (1), it's easy to use and loading is hassle-free. **Score 72%**



Facts & scores

A quick spin round some things our tests found

Cutlery basket

Some models, such as this AEG, have a top that fits on the cutlery basket, with individual holes to separate pieces of cutlery. Ensuring items don't touch helps cleaning but can make loading fiddly.

See through

This Electrolux model has a large window in the door, so you can see the dishes as they're washed. Electrolux says this offers peace of mind. We weren't convinced that watching bits of last night's dinner swish around would be much comfort.

Missing indicator

Indesit models are the only ones on test that don't have indicators that show when to replace the dishwasher salt. Even when you open the salt container it's not easy to tell how much is left.

Self cleaning

We spread 50ml of cranberry jam round the lower part of the door of each dishwasher and let it dry before running the main program with a clean load to see how well the machine cleans itself. Handles at the front of the upper and lower racks on this John Lewis model blocked cleaning, which meant some jam stuck, so you'd have to clean it off by hand.

MODEL	SPECIFICATION		NORMAL PROGRAM			
	PRICE (£)	SIZE HXWxD (cm)	RELIABILITY	WASHING EFFICIENCY	WATERMARKS	DRYING EFFICIENCY
FULL-SIZED FREESTANDING						
1 MIELE G 1220 SC	550	85x60x61	Good	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
2 AEG-ELECTROLUX Favorit F40660	350	85x60x62	Average	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
3 AEG-ELECTROLUX Favorit F80860	450	85x60x62	Average	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
4 AEG-ELECTROLUX Favorit F40860	400	85x60x63	Average	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
5 BEKO DWD5410	230	85x60x61		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
6 BOSCH SGS 46E02 Exxcel	360	85x60x61	Good	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★
7 ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZDF501	250	85x61x60	Poor	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
8 ELECTROLUX ESF6146 (VISI)	300	85x59x64	Average	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
9 INDESIT IDL 530	200	85x59x60	Poor	★★★★	★★★	★★★★
10 CANDY CDF 322	280	85x60x60		★★★★	★★★	★★★★★
SLIMLINE FREESTANDING						
11 BOSCH SRS 43C22 Classixx	300	85x45x61	Good	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★
12 JOHN LEWIS JLDWW905	300	85x45x61		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
FULL-SIZED BUILT-IN						
13 AEG-ELECTROLUX Favorit F86070VI	720	82x60x54	Average	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
14 ELECTROLUX ESL6115	400	82x60x55	Average	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
15 BOSCH SGV 53E03	650	81x60x55	Good	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★
16 FAGOR LF-073 IT	420	82x60x55		★★★★	★★★	★★★★★
17 JOHN LEWIS JLBIDW1200	500	82x60x55		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
18 INDESIT DI 620	280	83x60x55	Poor	★★★★	★★★	★★★★
SLIMLINE BUILT-IN						
19 ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZDT5053	550	82x45x55	Poor	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
FULL-SIZED SEMI-INTEGRATED						
20 SIEMENS SE55M570 GB	520	81x60x58	Good	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★

USING THE TABLE

We tested new models from leading brands and previous Best Buys. The more stars the better.

Specification

Price For Best Buys we give the cheapest widely available high-street price. Other prices are a guide. **Size** Depth includes handle.

Test performance

Reliability This is based on a survey on the brand's reliability for

dishwashers. Where there is a blank in the table there was insufficient data for us to be able to judge reliability. **Normal program** We chose a program called normal, universal or daily. If this wasn't available we chose a wash program of around 65°C. **Eco program** If there wasn't a program called eco, bio, energy save or similar, we chose one that washed at around 50°C. **Washing efficiency** Machines with ★★★★★ left dishes spotless, those with ★★★ or below failed to

remove all food residue or spread it to other dishes. **Watermarks** ★★★★★ means glasses are smear free; ★★★ means glasses have some watermarks.

Drying efficiency ★★★★★ means dishes are completely dry; ★★★ means there are some water droplets left behind.

Water/electricity consumption We award stars based on how many kWh of electricity and litres of water are used during the cycle, cleaning a normally soiled load.

WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE											SCORE %
PROGRAM			ECO PROGRAM								
DURATION OF PROGRAM (min)	WATER CONSUMPTION	ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION	WASHING EFFICIENCY	WATERMARKS	DRYING	DURATION OF PROGRAM (min)	WATER CONSUMPTION	ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION	EASE OF USE	NOISE	
137	★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	178	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	77
106	★★	★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	166	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★	73
122	★	★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	166	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	71
118	★	★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	165	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★	71
99	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	137	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	70
138	★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	151	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	69
118	★	★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	162	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	69
96	★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	150	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	69
97	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	160	★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★	62
104	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	151	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★	58
136	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	154	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	68
109	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	174	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	65
121	★	★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	164	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	70
117	★	★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	142	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	70
142	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	147	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	69
134	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	174	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	67
118	★	★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	161	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	66
89	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★	141	★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★	59
98	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	129	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	64
139	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	156	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	72

Ease of use This includes the instruction manual, the door, the filter, loading and unloading, using the detergent, salt and rinse-aid dispensers and adjusting racks.

Noise This includes measured and subjective ratings of how loud the model is. The more stars, the quieter.

Score

Ignores price and is based on:

Main and eco programs	50%
Ease of use	25%
Energy/water consumption	15%
Noise	10%

Contacts

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

Beko 0870 774 1050
www.beko.co.uk

Bosch 0870 240 0060
www.bosch.co.uk

Candy 01685 721222
www.candy-domestic.co.uk

Electrolux
0870 595 0950
www.electrolux.co.uk

Fagor www.fagor.com/uk

Indesit 0870 442 7665
www.indesit.co.uk

John Lewis
0845 604 9049
www.johnlewis.co.uk

Miele
01235 554455
www.miele.co.uk

Siemens
0870 2 40 0070
www.siemens.co.uk

Zanussi-Electrolux
0870 572 7727
www.zanussi.co.uk

Budget Buy

Beko DWD5410 £230

This Beko (5) is quicker and more than £100 cheaper than any Best Buy. Washing, rinsing and drying are great on its normal program and almost as good on the eco setting. The latter takes no longer than the Best Buy Miele's normal setting (two hours, 17 minutes) and uses less electricity. We have too little reliability data to make it a Best Buy but know of no problems so far. Available at Comet.



13 FULL-SIZED BUILT-IN

70% AEG-Electrolux Favorit F86070VI £720

This is a quality machine which is easy to use and not too noisy. It does a great job at getting stains off your dishes, leaving crockery dry and glasses crystal clear, on eco and normal programs.

Mind you, it comes with a hefty price tag and you'll fork out more in the long run if you run the normal program as this uses a lot of water and electricity. It's available from Comet.

WE LIKE You can adjust the top rack with a simple hoist-and-clip system – useful if you want to put large pots in the bottom.

Cheapest store Comet **Programs** Automatic 50-65°C, 30 min 60°C, intensive care 70°C, eco 50°C, glasses 45°C, pre-wash, 3-in-1, half load only on the 30 min 60°C program **Delayed start** Yes (1 to 19 hours) **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes

WHICH?
BEST
BUY



14 FULL-SIZED BUILT-IN

70% Electrolux ESL6115 £400

The Electrolux has the quickest eco program of all our Best Buys, taking two hours and 22 minutes. This is especially good, as the normal program is inefficient in water and electricity use.

It has to be said, though, that it is as good at cleaning on the normal program as the AEG and is only slightly worse on the eco program.

The ESL6115 is available from B&Q Appliance Warehouse.

WE LIKE At almost half the price of the built-in AEG, this Electrolux model is a great budget buy.

Cheapest store B&Q Appliance Warehouse **Programs** Intensive 70°C, normal 65°C, quick 65°C, bio 50°C, rinse and hold, 3 in 1 **Delayed start** Yes (3 hours) **Float switch** No **Aqua-stop** No

WHICH?
BEST
BUY

The
Electrolux
ESL6115
has the
quickest
eco
program
of all the
Best Buys



20 FULL-SIZED SEMI-INTEGRATED

72% Siemens SE55M570 GB £520

The Siemens is the only semi-integrated model we tested that's still widely available, so it's fortunate that it's such a great machine. It cleans expertly, gets rid of even dried-on food stains and doesn't leave watermarks.

On the eco program, your dishes should be perfectly dry, too. It's also very quiet so should be perfect for those with small fitted kitchens. It's available from Comet and B&Q Appliance Warehouse.

WE LIKE This was the quietest dishwasher on test.

Cheapest store Comet **Programs** Intensive 70°C, auto 55-65°C, eco 50°C, quick 45°C, pre-rinse, reduce time button, intensive drying, auto 3 in 1 **Delayed start** Yes (1 to 24 hours) **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes

WHICH?
BEST
BUY

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Worth knowing

AUTO PROGRAMS

Some dishwashers tested have an auto program, which manufacturers claim can detect the amount of dirt on dishes by how much there is in the water. The dishwasher is supposed to change the program length and water and electricity used accordingly.

We tested a selection of these programs with inconclusive results. We looked at the length of the program and how much water and electricity were used with a clean, dirty and a very dirty load of plates.

No model consistently showed much difference. For example, the length of the cycle for the John Lewis JLDWW 905 (12) was the same no matter how dirty the dishes were, and the amount

of energy used was slightly less on very dirty and dirty dishes than on clean ones. We also found that the dirtier the dishes were in the first place, the less effective cleaning was. John Lewis said our findings are not in line with its own. Until we do more tests we wouldn't recommend buying a machine based on this program alone. We also suggest scraping plates fully before loading the dishwasher.

FLOODING

Many models have devices to prevent flooding. The best have float switches, which detect water in the machine's base and stop it filling further, and aqua-stops, which prevent flooding if the hose, which fills the dishwasher with water, splits or leaks.