

Dish closure

Best Buys with superior cleaning power; a machine to avoid; plus good budget models

When it comes to buying a dishwasher, don't be afraid to be picky – some of the best models are likely to cost you a pretty penny.

All of the full-sized built-in Best Buys in our most recent test cost more than £450. Built-ins tend to be more expensive than freestanding models – all the more reason to make sure you get a model you're happy with.

The machines on test offer anywhere between three and seven programs, and some include other options such as delayed start and half load. More than a third of them have an auto program – where the dishwasher tailors the wash to the dirtiness of your load (see 'Let the

dishwasher decide', p64). Some machines, including the Best Buy Bosch SGV59T03 (1), have two auto programs.

If you don't want to splurge, there are still a few relative bargains to be had. The built-in Indesit DIF04 (6) and freestanding Beko DWD8657 (11) performed well in our tests and both cost less than £300.

Whether you want built in or freestanding, full sized or slim, we have Best Buys in each category. Go to www.which.co.uk/reviews/dishwashers for test results of more Best Buys, compact dishwashers and previously tested models.



1 FULL-SIZED BUILT IN

73% Bosch
SGV59T03 £592

We were impressed with the 55-65°C auto program on this Bosch. It worked well as the main wash, with good cleaning and excellent drying results, and it used only a little more water in our tests than the eco program. The controls are easy to use, and both racks are easily accessible. It's cheapest at Currys.



WORTH KNOWING In the main program test, the auto program used the least water per place setting of all our Best Buys.

Available Currys **Place settings** 12 **Programs** Pre rinse, auto 55-65°C, auto 65-75°C, eco 50°C and quick rinse 45°C **Delayed start** Yes **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes

With auto programs, the wash is tailored to the dirtiness of your load

Features explained

Clever devices that make dishwashers adaptable and practical

■ ADJUSTABLE HEIGHT

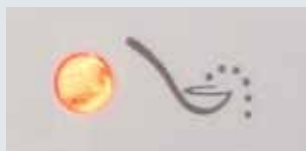
RACKS Some racks or baskets can be removed like a drawer and slotted back in at a higher or lower level to give you more space when you need it. Others may have clips on the side of the rack to adjust the height of both sides or, in the case of the AEG-Electrolux F 55011 VI (2), just one side.



■ VERSATILE LOADING

Some cutlery baskets can be removed from the racks to make space for other items. You may also find racks where the spikes for holding plates in place can be folded down – useful if you need the space for pots and pans or irregularly shaped items.

■ **INDICATORS** If you're buying a freestanding model, it's handy to have rinse aid



and salt level indicators on the front of the machine, so it's obvious when they need topping up.

■ **SPRINKLING ARMS** You'll usually find one under each rack, and most can be removed for cleaning.



■ ANTI-FLOOD DEVICES

A float switch detects water in the base of the machine and stops it filling up. An aqua-stop prevents flooding if the hose splits.

How we test

A dose of sauce helps us find the cleanest machines

Why get a dishwasher to do the dirty work if you have to clean it afterwards? As well as testing dishwashers for their ability to clean and dry tableware, we also see how well they manage to keep themselves clean.

We smear cranberry sauce on the inside of each dishwasher door – representative of those dinnery bits that dribble onto it as you load your plates. We then leave the sauce to dry overnight and run a normal wash cycle in the morning, assessing each dishwasher door afterwards for any berry-like remains.

Machines scoring five stars for self-cleaning show no trace of yesterday's cranberry sauce – so you can be confident that after your daily wash the inside of your dishwasher will shine as brightly as the glasses.



2 FULL-SIZED BUILT IN

72% AEG-Electrolux F 55011 VI £505

This AEG-Electrolux also uses an auto-wash program as its main wash. It cleans well and excels at drying, leaving glasses sparkling. It's a bit of an energy guzzler, but switching to the eco program saves power. Water consumption on the eco program is excellent – using less than 11 litres – but the program is long. It's cheapest online.

WORTH KNOWING You can adjust the height of the upper rack only on one side.

Available Online and independents **Place settings** 12 **Programs** Rinse, auto, eco 50°C and 30 minute **Delayed start** Yes **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes



3 FULL-SIZED BUILT IN

70% Bosch SGI 46M65GB £513

This model is outstanding at cleaning. It won't leave many watermarks on your glasses, but it's not the best for drying. Water and energy consumption on the main program are average, but improve on the eco setting. The delay start can be set between one and 19 hours, and there's plenty of space for tall glasses. It's cheapest online.

WORTH KNOWING It has a 'variospeed' button designed to shorten program length by increasing energy consumption.

Available Online and independents **Place settings** 12 **Programs** Pre rinse, auto 55-65°C, eco 50°C and quick 45°C **Delayed start** Yes **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes



ONLINE

Want practical tips on saving water in the home? Visit www.which.co.uk/savingwater



4 FULL-SIZED BUILT IN

70% Neff S54M45X5GB £469

This Neff performs consistently well – it washes and dries thoroughly, without leaving too many watermarks on your glasses. In our test the main auto program used just 14 litres of water, and power consumption was also reasonably economical. The eco cycle used 1.5 litres less water and less energy, although the overall program time was longer. It's cheapest at John Lewis.

WE LIKE In our test it had the shortest auto wash of our built-in Best Buys.

Available John Lewis **Place settings** 12 **Programs** Pre rinse, auto 55-65°C, eco 50°C and quick 45°C **Delayed start** Yes **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes



10 FULL-SIZED FREESTANDING

70% Miele G 1022 £450

This Miele leaves glasses sparkling. Washing is reasonably thorough and crockery comes out quite dry. The normal program is a little slow, at nearly two and a half hours, and it's rather power hungry. The machine does have an energy-saving program – it was 30 minutes longer but used almost 5 litres less water and a lot less energy. The machine is easy to load. It's cheapest at Comet and Currys.

WE LIKE It's one of the quietest of our Best Buys.

Available Comet and Currys **Place settings** 12 **Programs** Pre wash, pots and pans 75°C, auto 55-65°C, light soiling 50°C, energy save and quick wash 40°C **Delayed start** No **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** No



17 SLIMLINE BUILT IN

72% Bosch SRV43M03GB £476

This Bosch cleans well on its normal program and dries crockery brilliantly. Glasses may need a quick once-over with a cloth to remove the odd watermark. The eco program is only 10 minutes longer than the main program, and its water and energy use is low. The filter is easy to remove, but not so easy to clean. Changing the height of the top rack is simple, and the program settings are straightforward. It's cheapest at Currys.

WE FOUND It has the most energy-saving eco program of these Best Buys.

Available Argos and Currys **Place settings** 9 **Programs** Pre rinse, normal 65°C, eco 50°C, quick 35°C **Delayed start** No **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes



20 SLIMLINE FREESTANDING

70% Bosch SRS55C 02GB Classixx £296

The normal program on this Bosch is long, but no other freestanding model on test could match it for cleaning. It doesn't leave many watermarks and is good at drying. Water and energy use on the eco program are very good. It's easy to set the position of the upper rack. It's cheapest at John Lewis.

WORTH KNOWING This Bosch and the Bosch SRV43M03GB (17) have fixed-duration main washes. The other Best Buys have auto programs.

Available Argos, Comet, Currys and John Lewis **Place settings** 9 **Programs** Pre rinse, intensive 70°C, normal 65°C, eco 50°C and quick 45°C **Delayed start** Yes **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** No



Detergent action

Best Buys that perform under pressure

You've got the machine, but what should you use in it? Earlier this year we put dishwasher tablets to the test. For the most sparkling results pick up these Best Buys. For our report and ratings see *Which?*, March 2008, p70, or visit www.which.co.uk/reviews/dishwasher-detergent.

COMBINATION TABLETS

Finish Powerball Max-in-1 **84%**

21p per wash

Glist Multi Action Magic Vinegar

80% 19p per wash

Combination tablets contain detergent, rinse aid and a salt action, but it's still wise to add some dishwasher salt to your machine from time to time.

The widely available Max-in-1 tablets are the highest-scoring Finish Best Buy. Like most combination tablets, they're not the best at cleaning milk, but they excelled on egg and tea and leave glasses sparkling. The Glist tablets also impressed, but aren't quite as good on tea. They're available from Wilkinson.

DETERGENT-ONLY TABLETS

Tesco Value **84%**; Lidl W5 **82%**

Both 9p per wash

Detergent-only tablets are cheaper, but you'll need to buy dishwasher salt and rinse aid to add to your wash. These Best Buys are cheap but also very cheerful, producing excellent cleaning results on tea and starchy foods. They're better than the combination tablets for shifting milk and put in a strong performance on egg.



MODEL	SPECIFICATION					
	PRICE (£)	SIZE (cm) (hxxwxd)	PLACE SETTINGS	ADJUSTABLE UPPER BASKET	WASHING	WATERMARKS
FULL-SIZED BUILT IN						
1 BOSCH SGV59T03	592	81x60x55	12	✓	★★★★	★★★★
2 AEG-ELECTROLUX F 55011 VI	505	82x60x55	12	✓	★★★★	★★★★★
3 BOSCH SGI 46M65GB	513	81x60x58	12	✓	★★★★★	★★★★
4 NEFF S54M45X5GB	469	81x60x56	12	✓	★★★★	★★★★
5 HOTPOINT LFT114	330	82x60x56	12	✓	★★★★	★★★★
6 INDESIT DIF04	250	82x59x55	12	✓	★★★★	★★★★
7 IKEA LAGAN DW 110W	199	82x60x57	12		★★★★	★★★★
8 BOSCH SGI 45E12	400	81x61x57	12	✓	★★★★	★★★★
9 IKEA RENLIG DWH M10	399	86x60x56	14	✓	★★★	★★★★
FULL-SIZED FREESTANDING						
10 MIELE G 1022	450	85x61x60	12	✓	★★★★	★★★★★
11 BEKO DWD8657W	260	85x60x60	12	✓	★★★★	★★★★
12 BOSCH SMS50E02GB	349	85x60x61	13	✓	★★★★	★★★
13 BOSCH SGS43T72UK	230	85x60x60	12		★★★★	★★★★
14 ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZDF511	299	85x60x61	12	✓	★★★	★★★★★
15 ELECTRA E4810	236	86x60x59	12	✓	★★★	★★★★
16 HOOVER HOD6615 Vision One	279	85x60x60	15	✓	★★★★	★★★
SLIMLINE BUILT IN						
17 BOSCH SRV43M03GB	476	81x45x55	9	✓	★★★★	★★★★
18 IKEA RENLIG DWH C10W	329	82x45x55	10	✓	★★★★	★★★★
19 INDESIT DI450	264	82x45x55	9	✓	★	★★★
SLIMLINE FREESTANDING						
20 BOSCH SRS55C02GB Classixx	296	85x45x60	9	✓	★★★★★	★★★★
21 BOSCH SRS45L02GB Logixx	350	85x45x60	9	✓	★★★★	★★★
22 WHIRLPOOL ADP659	250	85x45x62	10	✓	★★★	★★

a The main wash program on these machines is the energy-save program

LET THE DISHWASHER DECIDE

Auto programs make using dishwashers even easier

Many manufacturers have introduced auto programs or 'sensor washes' to their machines. A sensor in the dishwasher detects how dirty the water is during the wash so the cycle keeps going until the water runs clean.

Manufacturers quote a temperature range for auto washes, usually from around

45°C to 65°C – the dishwasher decides how hot the water should be and how long to wash for. This means a wash containing only glasses is likely to be quicker than one you put on after the Sunday roast.

Many of the auto-wash programs had impressive results in our tests. In fact, for

the full-sized machines, the four top scorers in both the built-in and freestanding groups used the auto wash as the main program.

So maybe it's time to relinquish control – when it comes to picking the right wash for your dishes, it seems your big white box knows best.



WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE											SCORE %
MAIN PROGRAM				ENERGY-SAVE PROGRAM			EASE OF USE			GENERAL	
DRYING	DURATION (hr:min)	WATER USE	ENERGY USE	DURATION (hr:min)	WATER USE	ENERGY USE	EASE OF LOADING	SELF CLEANING	NOISE	BRAND RELIABILITY	
★★★★★	2:08	★★★★	★★★	2:28	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	Above average	73
★★★★★	2:01	★★★★	★★	2:40	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Average	72
★★★★	2:02	★★★★	★★★	2:25	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	Above average	70
★★★★	1:56	★★★★	★★★	2:26	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Above average	70
★★★★	2:07	★★★★	★★★	2:17	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Below average	68
★★★★	2:03	★★★★	★★	2:43	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Below average	68
★★★★	2:38	★★★★	★★★★	see ^a			★★★★	★★★★	★★★★		66
★★★★	2:33	★★★★	★★	2:32	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★	Above average	62
★★★★	3:15	★★★★	★★★	see ^a			★★★★	★★★★	★★★★		56
★★★★	2:22	★★★★	★	2:55	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Above average	70
★★★★★	2:37	★★★★	★★★	2:41	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★		69
★★★★★	1:49	★★★★	★★★	2:31	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Above average	67
★★★★	1:54	★★	★★	2:33	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★	Above average	63
★★★★★	2:11	★★	★★	2:40	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★	★★	Below average	63
★★★★★	2:42	★★★★	★★★	1:52	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★		62
★★★★	1:43	★★★★	★★	2:36	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★		60
★★★★★	2:18	★★★★	★★★	2:29	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	Above average	72
★★★★	1:01	★★★★★	★★★★	2:19	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★		65
★★	1:43	★★★★★	★★★★	2:46	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	★★	Below average	35
★★★★	2:26	★★★★	★★★	2:32	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Above average	70
★★★★★	1:15	★★★★	★★	2:35	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Above average	67
★★★★	1:04	★★★★★	★★★	2:21	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★	Below average	56

USING THE TABLE

The more stars the better.

Specification

Price For Best Buys we give the cheapest widely available high-street or online price as we went to press. Prices for other models are a guide to what you should expect to pay. Go to www.whichcompare.co.uk for the latest prices.

Size Depth includes handle.

Test performance

Main program We chose the normal program, or the program

expected to be used for daily washing, which washes at up to 65°C on most machines.

Energy-save program We chose the eco or economy programs that wash at around 50°C. **Washing** Models ranked ★★★★★ left dishes spotless; those graded ★ failed to remove all food residues and spread it to other items in the wash.

Watermarks ★★★★★ means glasses were left smear-free; ★★ means they had some watermarks. **Drying** ★★★★★

means dishes were fully dry;

★★ means some water drops were left. **Water use** How many litres of water are used to clean a normally soiled load. ★★★★★ means less than 12 litres, ★★ means more than 20 litres.

Energy use The kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity that a normally soiled load used. ★★★★★ means less than 0.9kWh; ★ means more than 1.65kWh. **Ease of loading** How easy it is to load and unload the racks. **Self-cleaning** See 'How we test', p62.

Noise Measured and subjective ratings of loudness during cycles.

Brand reliability Based on our annual survey of Which? members; available only for some brands.

Score

Ignores price and is based on:
Performance (washing, watermarks and drying of main program) **50%**
Energy/water use (both programs) **20%**
Ease of use **20%**
Noise **10%**

TESTING ECO PROGRAMS

Why we've changed the way we test energy-saving washes

Whereas main programs wash at around 60-65°C, eco programs wash at a lower temperature, reducing the amount of energy used.

We've been testing eco programs on their cleaning and drying performance for years. However, to bring you the results of the newest dishwashers more quickly, we now only record an eco program's duration and water and energy consumption.

Thanks to the volume of cleaning data we have for previously tested main and eco programs, we can say that a machine with a good main wash will usually also clean well on its eco program. Although the



program's temperature and duration are different, the machine itself performs similarly.

Don't Buy Indesit DI450 £264

A dishwasher's primary purpose is to clean and, unfortunately, this Indesit model (19) disappoints on its normal program, rendering its low water and energy consumption immaterial. It doesn't offer any alternative normal programs, just eco and intensive washes, so we suggest you avoid it.



Which? online Latest dishwasher tests

Check out our review of Whirlpool's new AquaSteam dishwasher

By the time this issue drops through your letterbox we'll have tested even more dishwashers. We're publishing the results online, to bring them to you faster.

To see how well the 6th Sense AquaSteam

program on Whirlpool's ADP8800 removes stubborn food with its water/steam combo, and whether it really does save time, energy and water, go online at www.which.co.uk/reviews/dishwashers.



Contacts

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

Beko 0845 600 4911; www.beko.co.uk

Bosch 0870 240 0060; www.boschappliances.co.uk

Electra 0870 516 8299; www.electra.uk.com

Hoover 0870 950 2943; www.hoover.co.uk

Hotpoint 0870 150 6070; www.hotpoint.co.uk

Ikea See website for store phone numbers; www.ikea.com/gb

Indesit 0870 442 7665; www.indesit.co.uk

Miele 01235 554455; www.miele.co.uk

Neff 0870 240 0080; www.neff.co.uk

Whirlpool 0870 600 8989; www.whirlpool.co.uk

Zanussi 0870 572 7727; www.zanussi.co.uk

Which should you choose?

Best on a budget

IKEA LAGAN DW 110W £199

Built-in machines are often expensive. If you're on a budget, the Ikea Lagan DW 110W (7) is worth considering. It's less than half the price of the Best Buys, although we can't vouch for its reliability as we don't have this data for Ikea models. Program options are limited – its main program is the eco program, so it's a lengthy wash, but results are good. Compared with eco programs on other machines, its water and energy use is fairly standard.



Best for quick cleaning

IKEA RENLIG DWH C10W £329

Another Ikea model, the slimline, built-in Renlig DWH C10 (18), completes its main 60°C wash in just over an hour – super speedy. It doesn't achieve Best Buy standard but still cleans and dries well, with space for 10 place settings. The main program used approximately 3 litres less water than its eco wash, but more energy. We have no reliability data for Ikea models, though.



Easiest to use

AEG-ELECTROLUX F 55011 VI £505

The built-in AEG-Electrolux F 55011 VI (2) is the highest-scoring model on test for ease of use. It's very easy to load and the filter is easy to access. The program buttons are solid – it's a built-in model so you have to open the door to select the program. The top rack is height adjustable on one side and has a flip-down section to support larger items. You can't remove the sprinkler arm on the top rack for cleaning, though.

