

Best Buy shredders

Protect yourself from ID theft with Best Buy shredders that are a cut above the rest

Identity theft costs the UK economy £1.2bn per year – that's £25 for every adult. To stop thieves accessing your details, it's essential to shred all paper-based documents that include personal data. The Home Office (www.identity-theft.org) advises that you destroy everything that has your name and address on, even junk mail. All our Best Buy shredders will destroy your old

documents quickly and easily, leaving nothing for thieves to steal.

An international shredding standard is used to rate shredder security, and all shredders tested by Which? reached level 3, which means they will effectively destroy confidential material and are suitable for home use. A rating of 5 is good enough for top-secret material. We found that strip-cut shredders rarely

You can pick up a Best Buy shredder for just £31

achieve better than level 2 security and should be avoided.

which? MONEY SAVER Choosing the Best Buy Swordfish 500DC (£31) rather than the 1000XC (£92), which got the same test score, will save you £61.

A good way to dispose of paper shreds is to put them in the compost, but avoid using glossy paper in this way.



90% Fellowes DS1 £78

This excellent, but bulky, shredder takes up to 14 sheets in one go and cross-cuts them at 25 sheets every 17 seconds – the fastest model we've ever tested. It's easy to use, gets full marks in our durability test, and is the only Best Buy that the manufacturer says can take staples and paper clips. **WE FOUND** The touch-sensitive safety strip around the mouth of the shredder was a bit too sensitive.

Available Argos Bin size 18 litres Staples and paperclips Yes



89% Swordfish 500DC £31

This small diamond-cut shredder has few features, but does the basics well. It's easy to use and takes eight sheets at a time, shredding 25 sheets of A4 paper in 30 seconds. Should you have a jam, then there's an excellent reverse motor function. This shredder is best for lower volumes, having a relatively small 7.5-litre bin, but it's a durable machine. **WORTH KNOWING** The cutting blades need regular lubrication.

Available Online Bin size 7.5 litres Staples and paperclips No



89% Swordfish 1000XC £92

This big, caster-mounted model has a 20-litre bin, which saves you having to empty it too often. It has simple, well laid-out controls and is straightforward to use. Our testers destroyed 11 sheets of A4 paper at once, and it can shred 25 sheets in 25 seconds, making this one of the most capable shredders we've tested.

WORTH KNOWING Its blades need regular lubrication.

Available Online Bin size 20 litres Staples and paperclips No

MODEL		SPECIFICATION									WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE			SCORE %	
		PRICE (£)	CUT TYPE	SIZE (cm) (hxwxdd)	PAPER SIZE	BIN SIZE (litres)	MAX A4 PAGE LOAD	ACCEPTS CDS	ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS	ACCEPTS STAPLES	ACCEPTS PAPERCLIPS	SPEED	EASE OF USE	DURABILITY	
1	FELLOWES DS1	78	C	57x40x29	A4	18	14		✓	✓	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	90
2	SWORDFISH 500DC	31	D	34x29x16	A4	7.5	8					★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	89
3	SWORDFISH 1000XC	92	D	54x35x26	A4	20	11		✓			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	89
4	SWORDFISH 700DC	38	D	39x29x19	A4	12.5	9					★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	83
5	FELLOWES Powershred P-58Cs	49	C	42x24x38	A4	17	10		✓	✓		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	82
6	TESCO FXCUTPRO	35	C	47x24x36	A4	16	15	✓	✓			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	82
7	STAPLES Medium Duty	33	D	44x35x26	A4	20	10	✓	✓	✓		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	81
8	FELLOWES Powershred P-48C	35	C	37x36x27	A4	19	9		✓	✓		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	80
9	HSM Shredstar X5	50	C	41x34x21	A4	16	8			✓		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	79
10	STAPLES Light Duty	14	D	38x31x19	A4	12.5	8			✓		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	78
11	ADVENT Maxishred 150UK	30	C	39x34x18	A4	14.5	10		✓	✓	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	77
12	RYMAN Home Office PS-071B	25	C	41x34x21	A4	16	7		✓	✓	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	75
13	FELLOWES Powershred P-45C	34	C	38x36x27	A4	18	8		✓	✓		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	74
14	TESCO Value 10L Cross Cut	13	C	31x30x16	A4	8.5	7			✓	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	67



83% Swordfish 700DC £38

The Best Buy Swordfish 700DC can shred 25 sheets of A4 in just 30 seconds. Like the other Swordfish shredders, it is very easy to use. However, it's not as versatile as other Best Buys, as it can only be used to shred paper. It simply gobbled up the paper in our test, while a flap stopped the bin from being overfilled.

WORTH KNOWING Its blades need regular lubrication.

Available Online Bin size 12.5 litres Staples and paperclips No

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. If we couldn't find them at major high-street retailers, we give the common online price. Prices for other models are a

guide to what you should expect to pay.

Cut type Whether the shredder has cross (C) or diamond (D) cutters.

Paper size Size of paper (such as A4, A5) that can fit through the shredder's 'throat'.

Bin size The usable bin size; may differ from manufacturer's claim.

Weight Without paper.

Max A4 page load

How many pages a

model can deal with at once; may differ from manufacturer's claim.

Accepts Whether it can shred CDs, credit cards, paperclips and staples.

Test performance

Speed Time it takes to shred 25 sheets of A4 paper.

Ease of use For loading paper, clearing jams, emptying bin and

clarity of instructions.

Durability How well model worked after being fed 1,000 sheets of paper.

Score

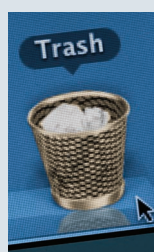
Ignores price and based on:

Ease of use	30%
Versatility	30%
Speed	20%
Durability	10%
Maximum page load	10%



Which? online Digital shredding

It's surprisingly easy to retrieve 'deleted' digital documents from a computer hard drive, so it's worth considering a digital shredder, especially if you are selling an old computer. See www.which.co.uk/protectID for tips on protecting your identity in the digital world.



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