



Tough towels

Not all kitchen roll was created equal – we've put 21 types of towel to the test to see which work best to clean up spills

Kitchen roll tackles messy mouths and messy floors. We've put 21 rolls, including basic, recycled and luxury offerings through our tough tests. While any kitchen roll can clean up a drop of liquid, there are major differences when it comes to big spills, which could see you using up to six sheets more of a less absorbent brand.

Our lab testers measured sheets for absorbency and strength when wet and dry. They also cleaned a number of worktop spills, including gloopy foods such as raw egg and ketchup, vegetable oil and both large and small spills of cola.

ONLINE
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Asda's Strong & Absorbent Kitchen Towel was most impressive – per sheet it's easily the least expensive of our Best Buys, and it cleans food and drink spills using an average number of sheets. It's also the best value for money.

which? MONEY SAVER
The Asda towels are not only stronger and more absorbent than Sainsbury's Ultra, for example, but you get 24 sheets more per six-pack for £1.67 less – enough to buy another two Asda rolls.

The four recycled rolls on test were less impressive, particularly for cleaning spills when the towel is wet. Waitrose Recycled Paper Kitchen Towel was the pick, staying in one piece better than the rest.

We also tried the best and worst rolls we tested to see how good they were at picking up spills on carpet, and found soaking up a drink spill from carpet uses far more sheets, so you're better off with a cloth.

Best Buys

There's a big difference between the best and worst performers in our tests, but strength and absorbency aren't all about ply – only the Waitrose and Wilkinson Best Buys are three ply; the other Best Buys have just two layers per sheet.

Top of the table is Bounty, which, though more expensive per sheet than most other brands, proved strong and effective, so you'd use less. Our testers found that most spills penetrated the paper to some extent – but you can't fault it for its ability to clean.

Asda Strong & Absorbent isn't quite as strong as the Bounty roll when wet, but they're both good at cleaning spills without tearing.

There's little difference between our other three Best Buys, though Tesco Ultra Absorbent is stronger, where Waitrose Ultra can soak up more water.

Our towel testers were particularly impressed with the Wilkinson Quencher. It was their favourite for the spill tests, as fingers didn't get as wet.

Kitchen roll holders

We tried out five to see if they could help us out of a sticky finger emergency

Alessi Bunny & Carrot £25

The roll fits on to the carrot spindle quickly and easily, and the plastic base is sturdy, but when there's less paper on the roll the rabbit is rendered useless, and it's harder to tear off one piece without using two hands. It's available at John Lewis. **VERDICT**

A fun design, but not for the sophisticated kitchen.

Simplehuman holder £16

The lightly sprung arm keeps the end of the kitchen roll under control, and it's simple to pull and tear off a sheet with one hand. The base is weighty, but not too heavy and it's not too big, so it shouldn't look out of place in

any kitchen. It's available at John Lewis. **VERDICT** This model went down a treat.

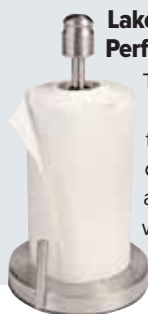
Typhoon Retro Revolution £12

It has a great retro look. The silver arm keeps the end of the roll from flapping about, but the effort needed to change the roll is off-putting. It's available online in red, black, vanilla and white. **VERDICT** It's inexpensive, but isn't the easiest holder to use.



Lakeland Tear Perfect £15

The ratchet system makes it simple to tear off as many or as few sheets at a time as you want using just one hand. The



base is heavy and large, but it might look a little bold in a small kitchen. **VERDICT** It was so easy to use that one tester was reluctant to give it back.

Argos Stainless Steel Dispenser £13

This multipurpose model is designed to be mounted on the wall. This is a bit tricky, but once the roll is on, it's easy to use. The multifunctional aspect was disappointing – it may not be wide enough for all sizes of cling film or foil, and the foil cutter shredded rather than cutting cleanly. **VERDICT** A nice idea but it doesn't quite deliver.





MODEL	SPECIFICATION				WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE				SCORE %
	PRICE (£)	ROLLS PER PACK	COST PER SHEET (p)	RECYCLED	WET STRENGTH	WATER ABSORBENCY	CLEANING SPILLS	VALUE FOR MONEY	
1 BOUNTY	4.44	6	1.5		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	73
2 ASDA Strong & Absorbent Kitchen Towels	2.50	6	0.7		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	72
3 TESCO Ultra Absorbent Kitchen Towel	3.69	6	1.1		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	70
4 WAITROSE Ultra Kitchen Towel	4.99	6	1.5		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	70
5 WILKINSON Quencher Plus Kitchen Towel	1.55	2	1.3		★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	70
6 ASDA Shades Power Towel	1.45	2	1.3		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	69
7 LIDL Floralis Premium Quality Kitchen Towel	1.85	4	0.9		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	68
8 LOTUS Thirst Pockets	3.26	6	1.0		★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	65
9 ALDI Saxon 3 Ply Kitchen Towel	1.09	2	0.9		★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	63
10 SAINSBURY'S Ultra Household Towel	4.17	6	1.2		★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	62
11 FIESTA Ultra Household Towel	1.79	2	2.0		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	58
12 LIDL Floralis Comfort Quality Kitchen Towel	1.49	4	0.6		★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	55
13 SAINSBURY'S Revive Kitchen Towel	2.25	4	1.0	✓	★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	54
14 WAITROSE Recycled Paper Kitchen Towel	3.79	6	1.1	✓	★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	54
15 M&S Absorbent & Strong Kitchen Towel	1.99	2	1.5		★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★	53
16 TESCO Greener Living Recycled Kitchen Towel	1.29	2	1.1	✓	★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	52
17 TESCO Value Jumbo Kitchen Towel	1.15	2	0.5		★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	50
18 ASDA Smart Price Kitchen Towel	0.85	4	0.4		★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	49
19 NOUVELLE Kitchen Towel	1.39	2	1.2	✓	★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★	48
20 SAINSBURY'S Basics Kitchen Roll	1.15	2	1.0		★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★	45
21 SOMERFIELD Kitchen Towel	1.54	2	1.4		★★	★★★	★★★	★★	40

USING THE TABLE

The more stars the better.

Specification

Price We give the cheapest high-street price as we went to press. Price shown is for the cheapest widely

available pack size (up to eight rolls), when calculated per roll. **Cost per sheet** Calculated on rolls in a pack and average number of sheets per roll. **Recycled** Rolls claimed to be made from recycled paper.

Test Performance

Wet strength The force required to tear a sheet when wet. **Water absorbency** The weight of water a sheet could hold after immersion. **Cleaning spills** The

average number of sheets used to clean our test spills. **Value for money** Based on cost per roll, number of sheets per roll and how many sheets our testers used to mop up spills.

Score

Effectiveness at cleaning spills **30%**
Water absorbency **30%**
Value for money **20%**
Wet strength **10%**
Sheet integrity and perforations **10%**