



# Icing on the make

Chest freezers show the biggest improvement of all built-in and freestanding models tested

This year in our tests we've seen an improvement in the freezing power of some chest freezers. The best models now freeze more food quickly, bringing them closer to the standard of worktop-height and tall models.

In previous years we've penalised chest freezers that have locks that are not childproof. From August, to comply with the latest European refrigeration standard, lockable freezers must have locks that are not self-latching. Key locks should also require two actions – like push and twist – to reduce the risk of a child becoming trapped inside the freezer.

When we tested it, the Whirlpool WCS8-OAP chest freezer (15) had only a single-action key lock, but Whirlpool has since advised us that all lockable freezers produced since January 2007 incorporate new, fully compliant locks. So Whirlpool models with dual-action locks should now be arriving in stores.

The performance of a freezer largely depends on its compressor. For this reason we can provide advice only on models we've tested, not on similar models. But at [www.which.co.uk/freezers](http://www.which.co.uk/freezers) you can see results for 35 previously tested models still available.

**Dual-action locks reduce the risk of a child being trapped**

## Going green

Keeping cool doesn't have to harm the planet

### CFCs and HFCs

Before the development of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in the 1930s, the refrigerants used in fridges and freezers were either toxic or flammable, or both. It wasn't until the 1970s, long after CFCs were in common use, that their harmful effect on the ozone layer was discovered. The Montreal Protocol in 1987 led to the phasing out of CFCs, replacing them with hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). But HFCs are still greenhouse gases, though they affect the environment less than CFCs.

In the 1990s, more ozone-friendly refrigerants such as propane and isobutane were developed. This year, for the first time, every model in our test uses the environmentally friendlier isobutane refrigerant.



### Disposal

You can take your freezer to your local tip for free disposal. If you can't take it to the site yourself, some councils or retailers will collect it from your house, but they may charge you for this, so it's best to check first (see 'Out with the old', p33).



## What's in your freezer?

There's no point in buying a tall freezer if you don't really need the space. We've looked at the average capacity of different types of freezer we've tested to see how much food they can store

The biggest freezer in this year's test – the Miele GT 316 ES – has a capacity of **291 litres**

Tall freezer average: **177 litres**

Worktop-height freezer average: **74 litres**

### MORE FREEZERS ONLINE

**FREE**  
website access  
35 more freezers tested

Go to [www.which.co.uk/freezers](http://www.which.co.uk/freezers) for more information on what features are worth having and for the model numbers of matching fridges. If you need help logging in, visit [www.which.co.uk/loginhelp](http://www.which.co.uk/loginhelp) for a step-by-step guide.



## 1 WORKTOP HEIGHT

## 86% Miele FN 1432 S £350

This Miele holds a little less than many other worktop-height models but it can freeze a lot in one go. It's easy to set up and works well at the manufacturer's recommended settings. Insulation is good: it can keep food frozen for around 30 hours in a power cut.

It's sold at Comet.

**WE LIKE** It has a handy marker system on the drawers so you can monitor how long food has been stored.



**Cheapest store** Comet **Capacity** 72 litres **Fast freeze** Yes **Visible high-temperature warning** Yes **Audible high-temperature alert** Yes



## 2 WORKTOP HEIGHT

## 81% Lec U5526W £150

With only one control, the Lec is a simple appliance. The temperature-setting dial is at the back of the freezer near the top and faces upwards, so it's easy to adjust but also likely to be out of reach of children. It's quick to freeze fresh food and it's fairly efficient, too. You can buy the Lec from Argos and Currys.

**WE LIKE** This is the cheapest of our Best Buy worktop-height models.



**Cheapest store** Argos and Currys **Capacity** 66 litres **Fast freeze** Turn dial **Visible high-temperature warning** No **Audible high-temperature alert** No



## 3 WORKTOP HEIGHT

## 80% John Lewis JLUCFZW6002 £249

This John Lewis model can hold 80 litres and it's quick at freezing, too. The digital settings are displayed in Celsius so it's easy to set up. It works well at the manufacturer's recommended settings and has visible and audible high-temperature warnings. Because it's a frost-free model you don't need to defrost it. It's exclusive to John Lewis.

**WE FOUND** This was one of the easiest models on test to clean.



**Cheapest store** John Lewis **Capacity** 80 litres **Fast freeze** Yes **Visible high-temperature warning** Yes **Audible high-temperature alert** Yes

The Miele can keep food frozen for around 30 hours in a power cut



## 4 WORKTOP HEIGHT

## 78% Whirlpool AFB 6650 £188

Being A+, this model is well insulated so it's efficient and good at keeping food frozen in a power cut. You have to open the door to access the controls and you'll need a tool or coin to set the temperature dial – it's too difficult to turn by hand. The high-temperature warning light can be seen only when the freezer door is open. It's available online.

**WE FOUND** This Whirlpool model was the cheapest to run of our worktop-height Best Buys.



**Available Online** **Capacity** 77 litres **Fast freeze** Yes **Visible high-temperature warning** Yes **Audible high-temperature alert** No



## 5 WORKTOP HEIGHT

## 77% Zanussi- Electrolux ZUF1056 £250

This frost-free Zanussi is cheaper to run than many of the models we tested that have to be manually defrosted. The deeper bottom drawer means there's space for bigger boxes, and the setting dial has temperature graduations marked on it, so it's fairly easy to set up. The Zanussi is available from Currys.

**WE LIKE** The control panel is angled upwards so it's easier to see from a standing position.



**Cheapest store** Currys **Capacity** 80 litres **Fast freeze** Yes **Visible high-temperature warning** Yes **Audible high-temperature alert** Yes



## 6 WORKTOP HEIGHT

## 76% Hotpoint RZA34 £194

With a generous capacity of 86 litres, the Hotpoint is also quick to freeze fresh food. It works well at the recommended settings and maintains a stable temperature. It also comes with a handy tube that you can fit to the front of the freezer to remove the water when defrosting. You can buy it from Argos, Currys, Comet and John Lewis.

**WORTH KNOWING** The two top drawers can be removed if you prefer to store food on the shelves.



**Cheapest store** Currys **Capacity** 86 litres **Fast freeze** Yes **Visible high-temperature warning** Yes **Audible high-temperature alert** No

## Which should you choose?

### Best on a budget

**WHITE KNIGHT WK245A £223** If you're after a cheap tall model we were impressed with this White Knight (25); it's easy to set up and use, has lots of space, is fairly quick to freeze – and it's cheap to run, too. We have no reliability data, as White Knight is new to refrigeration, and it's not suitable for rooms where the temperature is below 16°C, so don't set it up somewhere cold.



### Best for extra storage

**MIELE GT 316 ES £475** This Miele chest freezer (16) has oodles of space. It's an A++ model so it's energy efficient and in a power cut it could keep food frozen for a stunning four days. It can freeze more fresh food in a day than most other models – equivalent to roughly nine large chickens – but this is only a fraction of its overall capacity, hence its low score for freezing power in our table.



### Best for easy use

**JOHN LEWIS JLUCFZW6002 £249** As well as being simple to set up, the control panel on this John Lewis freezer (3) is angled upwards so it's easy to see when you're standing. The fast freeze will automatically switch off after 48 hours if you forget to deactivate it, and the controls are easy to use if you have poor grip.



### 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-appliances.co.uk  
**Fridgemaister**  
0845 052 9006

www.fridgemaister.co.uk  
**Frigidaire**  
0845 052 9005  
www.frigidaire.co.uk  
**Hoover**  
0870 950 2943  
www.hoover.co.uk  
**Hotpoint**  
0870 150 6070  
www.hotpoint.co.uk  
**Indesit**  
0870 150 6070  
www.indesit.co.uk  
**John Lewis**

0845 604 9049  
www.johnlewis.com  
**Lec**  
0870 458 4386  
www.lec.co.uk  
**Liebherr**  
0870 898 5050  
www.liebherr.com/lh/en  
**Miele**  
01235 554455  
www.miele.co.uk  
**Norfröst**  
01847 822200  
www.norfröst.co.uk

**Sovereign**  
01527 578333  
www.sovereign-appliances.com  
**Whirlpool**  
0870 600 8989  
www.whirlpool.co.uk  
**White Knight**  
01422 200660  
www.crosslee.co.uk  
**Zanussi-Electrolux**  
0870 572 7727  
www.zanussi-electrolux.co.uk

### SAVINGS ON FREEZERS FOR WHICH? MEMBERS

## Great savings with Hughes Direct

Hughes Direct is offering Which? members an exclusive discount on the Bosch GUD 15A40 from this month's freezer report. This model is available for £273 including delivery.

To find out more details about this freezer offer and other member-only discounts from Hughes Direct, visit [www.hughesdirect.co.uk/](http://www.hughesdirect.co.uk/)



which or call 0845 678 0084. Offer valid until 31 August 2007 and is subject to availability.

Each month Which? members can take advantage of the great deals offered by Hughes Direct. All goods are guaranteed to be a minimum of 10 per cent below high-street prices published in Which? product reports (even when delivery charges are taken into account). If you find the same product cheaper elsewhere (including delivery) within seven days of purchase, Hughes Direct promises to refund 110 per cent of the difference. Call now or go online to see how much you can save!

MODEL			
		PRICE (£)	SIZE (cm) (hxxwxd)
WORKTOP HEIGHT			
1	MIELE FN 1432 S	350	85x60x63
2	LEC U5526W	150	84x55x63
3	JOHN LEWIS JLUCFZW6002	249	85x60x63
4	WHIRLPOOL AFB 6650	188	85x60x63
5	ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZUF1056	250	85x60x63
6	HOTPOINT RZA34	194	85x60x62
7	BEKO ZA90	130	85x55x61
8	LIEBHERR GP 1356	340	85x56x63
9	SOVEREIGN SF312	110	84x49x60
10	BOSCH GSD 10N20	179	85x50x61
11	FRIDGEMASTER MTRZ98	110	86x51x50
CHEST			
12	FRIGIDAIRE FC105	150	85x55x58
13	ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZFC35C	100	85x55x58
14	NORFROST C4AES	120	84x56x59
15	WHIRLPOOL WCS8-0AP	220	89x112x65
16	MIELE GT 316 ES	475	92x129x70
BUILT IN			
17	JOHN LEWIS JLBUCF01	399	82x60x57
18	ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZUD9100FA	470	82x60x57
19	BOSCH GUD 15A40	310	82x60x55
20	AEG-ELECTROLUX AG78850-4I	440	88x55x55
21	HOTPOINT HUZ121I	270	82x58x57
22	INDESIT IN F 140 GI	241	88x54x57
TALL			
23	WHIRLPOOL AFG 8030	280	139x60x61
24	INDESIT UFAN 300	232	150x65x67
25	WHITE KNIGHT WK245A	223	145x60x62
26	BEKO TZDA523	220	146x54x63
27	FRIGIDAIRE FVE2199B	250	144x60x60
28	HOOVER HNU 271 AFF <sup>a</sup>	300	162x60x66

<sup>a</sup> This model will be changing its number to HZF6163

### USING THE TABLE

We tested models from leading manufacturers and own brands. 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 a model is available only online, the price is in *italics*. Prices for other models are a guide to what you should expect to pay. **Size** Dimensions of the model, including hinges, with door/lid closed. You must



SPECIFICATION								WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE					SCORE %
VOLUME (litres)	ENERGY LABEL	FROST-FREE	RUNNING COST (£/yr)	ROOM TEMP (°C)	AUDIBLE HIGH-TEMP ALERT	COLOURS	MATCHING FRIDGE	FREEZING POWER	INSULATION	EASE OF USE	FLEXIBLE STORAGE	RELIABILITY	
72	B	✓	19	10 to 38	✓	W	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	Average	86
66	A		15	16 to 32		W, S	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★	Average	81
80	A	✓	15	10 to 43	✓	W	✓	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	Average	80
77	A+		14	10 to 38		W	✓	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★	Average	78
80	A	✓	14	10 to 43	✓	W	✓	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	Average	77
86	A		15	10 to 38		W, G	✓	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★	Average	76
82	A		15	10 to 32		W, S	✓	★★★★	★★★★	★★	★	Average	70
77	A+		14	10 to 43	✓	W	✓	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★		70
69	A		18	16 to 32		W		★★★★★	★★★	★★	★		70
75	A		17	10 to 43		W	✓	★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★	Average	69
56	B		20	16 to 32		W, S	✓	★★★★	★★	★★★	★★★		68
102	C		14	10 to 32		W		★★★★	★★★★★	★★	★	Good	80
102	C		19	10 to 32		W, S		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★	Average	79
102	A		17	16 to 32		S		★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★	Average	70
220	A+		15	16 to 32		W		★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★	Average	70
291	A++		14	10 to 43	✓	W		★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	Average	68
85	A		13	10 to 38	✓	W	✓	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	Average	81
85	A		13	10 to 38	✓	W	✓	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	Average	81
82	A		15	10 to 38	✓	W	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★	Average	78
78	A		14	10 to 38	✓	W	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★	Average	75
64	B		19	16 to 38		W	✓	★★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★	Average	74
97	B		22	10 to 38		W	✓	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★		70
138	A		16	10 to 38		W		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★	Average	78
173	A+		21	10 to 38		W	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★		74
191	A		18	16 to 38		W	✓	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★		68
144	A		19	10 to 32		W, S	✓	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	Average	63
172	B		28	16 to 32		W	✓	★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	Good	60
180	A	✓	27	16 to 38		W		★★	★★	★★★	★★		55

add several cm on each side and at the rear for air circulation. **Volume** Our measurement of usable space, as opposed to manufacturers' claims. **Energy label** Manufacturer's claimed rating. **Room temp**

Optimum room temperature range for the freezer. Above or below these limits, it's best to use a freezer with an audible high-temperature warning to highlight problems. **Audible high-temp alert** An alarm sounds

when the temperature inside the freezer gets too high. **Colours** G=graphite, S=silver, W=white. **Test performance** **Freezing power** How much fresh food it can freeze

relative to its size. **Insulation** How quickly the freezer temperature rises if the power goes off. **Ease of use** How easy it is to clean and to use the controls. **Flexible storage** How easy it is to rearrange shelves.

**Score** Ignores price and based on: Temperature stability and freezing power **40%** Ease of use/defrosting **20%** Insulation **15%** Running cost **15%** Noise **10%**



12 CHEST

## 80% Frigidaire FC105 £150

With a capacity of 102 litres, this chest freezer may be small, but it performs well and is quick to freeze food. This is a basic appliance: there are no baskets for organising food, but the rudimentary setting dial has numbered graduations so it's fairly easy to find the right setting. You will also have to manually defrost it; the water is collected in the bottom of the freezer. It's available online.

**WATCH OUT** The setting dial is set low down towards the back of the freezer, so it's not easy to reach.

Available Online Capacity 102 litres Fast freeze Turn dial Visible high-temperature warning No Audible high-temperature alert No



13 CHEST

## 79% Zanussi- Electrolux ZFC35C £100

Cosmetically, this Zanussi looks very much like the Frigidaire FC105 (12), but it includes a basket for slightly more versatile storage. And, as with the Frigidaire, the temperature setting dial is hard to reach, but once it's set up you shouldn't really need to adjust it. You can buy the Zanussi-Electrolux from Comet and Currys.

**WORTH KNOWING** This model is available in silver or white; the ZFC35C is the white version.

Cheapest store Currys Capacity 102 litres Fast freeze Turn dial Visible high-temperature warning No Audible high-temperature alert No



17 BUILT IN

## 81% John Lewis JLBIUCF01 £399

This John Lewis model is really quick at freezing fresh food and it's also fairly cheap to run. During defrosting, the water can be collected in the bottom of the freezer so it won't make too much mess on your floor. An audible alert will let you know if the temperature is not cold enough, saving food that would otherwise go off. There is no thermometer, though. Available from John Lewis.

**WE LIKE** There's a clear drawer-marking system that helps you organise groceries.

Cheapest store John Lewis Capacity 85 litres Fast freeze Yes Visible high-temperature warning Yes Audible high-temperature alert Yes



18 BUILT IN

## 81% Zanussi- Electrolux ZUD9100FA £470

Fairly cheap to run, this Zanussi-Electrolux has ample storage for a built-in model. It's very quiet and it has good temperature stability. There's also a thermometer you can attach to any of the drawers to be sure the temperature inside the freezer remains at its optimum. Available from Comet and Currys.

**WE LIKE** This model has an audible alarm to warn you if you've left the door open.

Cheapest store Currys Capacity 85 litres Fast freeze Yes Visible high-temperature warning Yes Audible high-temperature alert Yes



19 BUILT IN

## 78% Bosch GUD 15A40 £310

The Bosch can hold up to 82 litres – pretty good for a built-in freezer. You can freeze a light load of fresh food quite quickly, and temperature stability is good. The controls are fairly easy to use and there's a thermometer inside the door so you can be sure the temperature is right.

Available from Comet, Currys, and Tesco.

**WORTH KNOWING** A recess under the bottom drawer provides extra storage space, which doubles as an area to collect water when defrosting.

Cheapest store Currys and Comet Capacity 82 litres Fast freeze Yes Visible high-temperature warning Yes Audible high-temperature alert Yes



The Whirlpool is one of the best tall models for freezing lots of food rapidly to retain freshness



23 TALL

## 78% Whirlpool AFG 8030 £280

This tall freezer from Whirlpool has 138 litres of usable space and is one of the best tall models for freezing lots of food rapidly to retain freshness. It requires manual defrosting, though, and collecting the water is rather awkward. But it works well at the recommended setting and maintains a stable temperature. You can buy the Whirlpool from Comet.

**WORTH KNOWING** Whirlpool's matching fridge, the ARC 1910, scored highly in our fridge tests but didn't quite make a Best Buy.

Cheapest store Comet Capacity 138 litres Fast freeze Yes Visible high-temperature warning Yes Audible high-temperature alert No

