



# Dishing the dirt

If you want your pots sparkling clean but you don't fancy wearing earplugs, choose your dishwasher wisely

Dishwashers can save you time and water but you could live to regret a poor purchase. We tested 27 dishwashers priced from £120 to £749 and found nearly as many Don't Buys as Best Buys. Four machines were so noisy and so bad at washing and drying that they've earned Don't Buy status.

Our five new Best Buys start at £259, and they include freestanding models (both full-sized and slimline), a built-in model and a nifty Bosch compact (25). Miele and Bosch Best Buys dominated our reliability survey (see 'Built to last', *Which?*, January 2008, p38). In contrast, the top-performer in this test – the Whirlpool ADP 8000 (1) – missed out on Best Buy status due to

concerns over the brand's reliability.

We've tested all the dishwashers on their main programs (average time 2hr 10min) and their energy-save programs, which use cooler water (average time 2hr 40min). For the first time, we've also sampled intensive programs, which clean heavily soiled items with very hot water.

We loaded 11 machines with pots and pans smeared with baked-on food scraps. Intensive results were impressive, but these programs guzzled 35 per cent more electricity and 22 per cent more water than energy-save programs (for full-sized models). The intensive program results don't affect test scores (see table, p74).

To ensure smear-free results, see our latest dishwasher detergent report, p70.

Four of the five cheapest models have earned Don't Buy status



2 FULL-SIZED FREESTANDING

**71% Bosch**  
**SGS45C02GB**  
**Classixx £280**

WHICH?  
**BEST BUY**

This Bosch is outstanding at washing – whether you're running the main or energy-save program. Bosch also has a good reliability rating. The energy-save program uses three litres less water than the main one. Cheapest at Currys.

**WORTH KNOWING** A 30-minute quick-wash option is handy in a hurry.

Available Argos, Comet, Currys, John Lewis **Place settings** 12 **Main program** 2hr 30min **Main program water use** 17.5 litres **Programs** Normal, energy save, quick, pre-rinse, half-load button **Delayed start** Yes **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes

## What you should look for

### SPRINKLING ARMS

Sprinkling arms at the top and bottom of your dishwasher spray water on your dishes to clean them. You can remove most sprinkling arms to clean them

### ANTI-FLOOD DEVICES

Dishwashers come with systems to prevent them flooding:

- Float switches detect water in the base of the machine and stop it filling up
- An aqua-stop prevents flooding if the hose splits

### FLEXIBLE RACKS AND BASKETS

These let you choose where you put your dishes. You can put large pots, pans and plates in the lower basket by raising the upper basket. Even better is a quick-clip system to allow you to do this quickly and easily

### DELAYED START

A delayed start is useful if you're on a cheap overnight energy tariff, such as economy seven. Some machines will work with a timer plug

## How we test



**So you think you do a lot of washing up?** For these tests, we smeared more than 16,000 items of crockery, cutlery and glassware with food stains and left them to dry. Stains included egg, milk, oatflakes, spinach, tea and tomato juice. We ran the dishwashers in this test 149 times – the equivalent of running one dishwasher continuously for two weeks. We tested the main program three times each on all machines and the energy-save program three times for each dishwasher where it's available. We tested the intensive programs once on 11 machines.



## 13 SLIMLINE FREESTANDING

## 72% Bosch SRS45E32GB Exxcel £330

WHICH?  
BEST BUY

This Bosch – the best slimline – comes in white or silver, and washes very well. Its energy-save program uses two litres less water and 28 per cent less energy than the main program. Cheapest at Comet.

**WE LIKE** You can set a delayed start, up to 19 hours ahead.

Available Comet, Boots, Sainsbury's **Place settings** Nine **Main program** 2hr 1min **Main program water use** 14.3 litres **Programs** Auto 55-65°C, energy-save 50°C, quick 45°C, pre-rinse, half-load button **Delayed start** Yes **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop**



## 18 FULL-SIZED BUILT IN

## 73% AEG-Electrolux Favorit F86070VI £479

WHICH?  
BEST BUY

This stylish dishwasher is great for smear-free results. It's easy to use, reasonably quiet, and you can set it to run at night. The upper basket is adjustable to suit your load. And the energy-save program works a treat. Available online. **WORTH KNOWING** From April, its new name will be Favorit F86011VI.

Available Online **Place settings** 12 **Main program** 2hr 1min **Main program water use** 25.6 litres **Programs** Automatic 50-65°C, eco 50°C, glasses 45°C, intensive care 70°C, pre-wash, 30min, 60°C (plus half-load), 3-in-1 **Delayed start** Yes **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes



## 14 SLIMLINE FREESTANDING

## 71% Miele G 1202 SC £749

This slimline machine cleans outstandingly well on both programs tested. It's easy to use and is the quietest of all the models on test. Miele dishwashers are rated well for reliability. Cheapest online.

**WE FOUND** The door is tricky to open and close.

WHICH?  
BEST BUY

Available Comet, independents **Place settings** Nine **Main program** 2hr 6min **Main program water use** 16.2 litres **Programs** Sensor wash, quick wash 40°C, sensor wash gentle, light soiling 50°C, energy-save, pots and pans 75°C **Delayed start** Yes **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** Yes



## 25 COMPACT FREESTANDING

## 77% Bosch SKT5102 Classixx £259

WHICH?  
BEST BUY

This table-top model is easy to use and remains the best compact dishwasher we've seen. It's much smaller than our other Best Buys, only holding four place settings. But it cleans and dries well, especially the energy-save program, which, unusually, is faster than the main program. Bosch's reliability is good, too. Cheapest online.

**WE LIKE** At 45cm tall, this bijou Bosch is small enough to fit on a counter top.

Available Currys, John Lewis **Place settings** Four **Main program** 2hr 36min **Main program water use** 8.7 litres **Programs** Pre-rinse, delicate, economy, normal, strong **Delayed start** No **Float switch** Yes **Aqua-stop** No

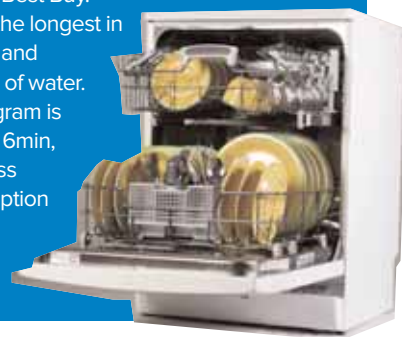
## Worth considering

### Good cleaning and perfect drying

**WHIRLPOOL ADP 8000 £380** This full-sized freestanding model (1) cleans well, dries exceptionally well and doesn't use too much water. But our members have rated Whirlpool dishwashers below average on reliability, which is why it's not a Best Buy.

The main program is the longest in this test, at 3hr 10min, and uses just over 15 litres of water.

The energy-save program is slightly quicker, at 3hr 6min, and needs 1.4 litres less water. The intensive option clocks in at just under three hours. It's cheapest at Comet.



## Don't Buy

**Dull as ditchwater – these four failed to impress**

WHICH?  
DON'T BUY

### PROLINE DWF1250P

Of all of the models tested, this Proline (11) was the worst at washing and it's one of the noisiest on test. It also left watermarks. But its energy-save program is better.



### KENWOOD KDW12SL3A

This very noisy Kenwood (12) has no energy-save program. The main program (at 2hr 35 min) washes OK, but drying left too many watermarks on the crockery, cutlery and glassware.



### MATSUI MS2W/A

Although this noisy Matsui (17) washes and dries acceptably, we were disappointed with the extent of watermarks left on pots and cutlery. It also lacks an energy-save program.



### PROLINE PDW041

This compact Proline's (27) main program lasts just 60 minutes – the shortest for the compacts on test. But it washes indifferently and it's one of the worst on test for drying. We found it very noisy.



## Facts & scores

Quickest off the mark, timer switches and child safety

### The mighty Bosch

The **Bosch SGS56E12GB Exxcel** (3) has the quickest main program of the models tested, at just 1hr 16min.

### Child stoppers

Two of the Bosches (2, 3) and two of the Miele's (4, 14) have child locks to keep out tiny fingers.

### Wash when you want

Thirteen of the 27 models have timer switches. We loved the timer function for the Whirlpool ADP 8000 (1), which you can set to start up to 24 hours ahead.

## Contacts

#### AEG-Electrolux

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

#### Baumatic

0118 933 6900  
www.baumatic.co.uk

#### Bosch

0870 240 0060  
www.bosch-appliances.co.uk

#### Candy

0870 950 2943  
www.candy-domestic.co.uk

**Currys (for Kenwood, Matsui)**  
023 9239 2333  
www.currys.co.uk

#### Electrolux

0870 595 0950  
www.electrolux.co.uk

#### Hoover

0870 950 2943  
www.hoover.co.uk

#### John Lewis

0845 604 9049  
www.johnlewis.com

#### Miele

01235 554455  
www.miele.co.uk

#### Proline

0870 542 5425  
www.comet.co.uk

#### Tricity Bendix

0870 950950  
www.tricity-bendix.co.uk

#### Whirlpool

0870 600 8989  
www.whirlpool.co.uk

#### Zanussi-Electrolux

0870 572 7727  
www.zanussi-electrolux.co.uk

MODEL	SPECIFICATION				MAIN		
	PRICE (£)	SIZE (cm) (h x w x d)	PLACE SETTINGS	ADJUSTABLE UPPER BASKET	WASHING	WATERMARKS	DRYING
<b>FULL-SIZED FREESTANDING</b>							
1 WHIRLPOOL ADP 8000	380	85x60x61	12		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
2 BOSCH SGS45C02GB Classixx	280	85x60x63	12		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
3 BOSCH SGS56E12GB Exxcel	305	85x60x61	12		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
4 MIELE G 1142 SC	530	85x60x62	12		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
5 TRICITY BENDIX TDF221	380	85x60x63	12		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
6 ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZDF231	240	85x60x64	12		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
7 AEG-ELECTROLUX F50870	349	85x60x63	12		★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
8 CANDY CFD612	240	86x60x62	12	✓	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
9 HOOVER HED6612	245	85x60x61	12	✓	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
10 BAUMATIC BFD64SS	436	85x60x65	14		★★★★	★★	★★★★
11 PROLINE DWF1250P	250	85x60x62	12	✓	★	★★	★★
12 KENWOOD KDW12SL3A	350	86x60x59	12	✓	★★★★	★★	★★
<b>SLIMLINE FREESTANDING</b>							
13 BOSCH SRS45E32GB Exxcel	330	85x45x61	9		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
14 MIELE G 1202 SC	749	85x45x62	9		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
15 HOOVER HEDS668-80	245	85x45x60	8	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
16 CANDY CSD68	220	85x45x60	8	✓	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
17 MATSUI MS2W/A	190	85x45x59	8	✓	★★★★	★★	★★★★★
<b>FULL-SIZED BUILT IN</b>							
18 AEG-ELECTROLUX Favorit F86070VI	479	82x60x55	12	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
19 BOSCH SGV46M43GB	530	81x60x55	12		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
20 WHIRLPOOL ADG 7560	400	82x60x56	12		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
21 ELECTROLUX ESL63010	430	82x60x60	12	✓	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
22 CANDY CDS 220 Intuition	220	82x60x60	12		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
<b>SLIMLINE BUILT IN</b>							
23 JOHN LEWIS JLBIDW901	450	82x45x55	9		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
24 WHIRLPOOL ADG 550	357	84x45x55	10	✓	★★★★	★★★★	★★
<b>COMPACT FREESTANDING</b>							
25 BOSCH SKT5102 Classixx	259	45x56x46	4	n/a	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
26 KENWOOD KDW4TTSL	120	47x57x50	4	n/a	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
27 PROLINE PDW041	130	47x57x50	4	n/a	★★★★	★★★★	★★

### 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 most common online price. Prices for other models are a guide to what you should

expect to pay. Go to [www.which.co.uk/shopping](http://www.which.co.uk/shopping) for the latest prices.

**Size** Depth includes the handle.

**Test performance**  
**Main program** We

chose the normal or daily program which washes at up to 65°C on most machines.

**Energy-save program** Where available, we chose the eco or economy programs

that wash at up to 50°C. **Washing** Models ranked ★★★★★ left dishes spotless, those graded ★★ or below failed to remove all food residues and

managed to spread it to other dishes.

#### Watermarks

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

WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE													SCORE %
PROGRAM			ENERGY-SAVE PROGRAM							GENERAL			
DURATION (hr:min)	WATER USE	ENERGY USE	WASHING	WATERMARKS	DRYING	DURATION (hr:min)	WATER USE	ENERGY USE	EASE OF USE	NOISE	BRAND RELIABILITY		
3:10	★★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	3:06	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Below average	72	
2:30	★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	2:33	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Above average	71	
1:16	★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	2:27	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Above average	68	
2:24	★★★★	★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	2:57	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Above average	68	
1:55	★★	★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	2:21	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★		65	
1:53	★★	★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	2:19	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★	Below average	61	
2:08	★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	2:45	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Average	49	
2:42	★★★★	★★★★	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	★★★★★	★★		49	
2:42	★★★★	★★★★	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	★★★★★	★★		48	
2:38	★★★★	★★★★	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	★★★★★	★★		46	
1:41	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	2:42	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★		38	
2:35	★★★★	★★★★	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	★★★★	★		30	
2:01	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	2:29	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Above average	72	
2:06	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	2:58	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Above average	71	
2:43	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	2:24	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★		60	
2:23	★★★★★	★★★★★	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	★★★★	★		43	
1:53	★★★★★	★★★★★	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	★★★★★	★		40	
2:01	★	★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	2:44	★★★★★	★	★★★★★	★★★★	Average	73	
1:50	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	2:25	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Above average	68	
2:19	★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	3:40	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	Below average	68	
1:52	★★	★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	2:20	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★		63	
1:35	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★	★★★★★	2:50	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★		58	
1:50	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	2:54	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★		62	
0:58	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	2:13	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	Below average	54	
2:36	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	2:24	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	Above average	77	
2:16	★★★★★	★★★★★	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	★★★★	★		47	
1:00	★★★★★	★★★★★	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	★★	★		33	

★★★★★ 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 16 litres, ★★ means more than 24 litres. **Energy use** The kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity that a normally soiled load needed.

★★★★★ means less than 0.9kWh; ★★ means more than 1.65kWh. **Ease of use** Includes how clear the instructions were, how easy it was to open and close the door,

load and unload the racks, reach the filter, and add salt, detergent and rinse aid. **Noise** Measured and subjective ratings of loudness during cycles. **Brand**

**reliability** Based on our annual survey of Which? members, only available for some brands. **Score** Ignores price and is based on:

Performance – washing, watermarks, drying and duration for both programs **50%**  
Ease of use **20%**  
Energy/water use **15%**  
Noise **10%**  
Instructions **5%**





## Green dilemmas

### Does donning the rubber gloves save water?

Washing by hand may be quick and easy for a few dishes but it won't always save water compared with a fully loaded dishwasher. Imagine washing up nearly 100 items with little more than a standard 10-litre washing-up bowl of water.

Our Best Buy Miele G 1202 SC (14) does just that – its energy-save option uses 12.1 litres of water on a full load of 97 items. That's 35 per cent less water than the main program needs, and it's the lowest water consumption of any of the full-sized and slimline models we tested in this batch.

To beat that, you'd have to wash everything by hand in a single bowlful of water, avoid leaving the tap running and dispense with soaking or rinsing items.

■ **Fill it up** The most energy-efficient way to use your dishwasher is to avoid half loads, which eat up energy and water. A fully loaded full-sized freestanding dishwasher can hold up to 14 place settings. That's a feast of 147 plates, bowls, cups, saucers, knives, forks and spoons.

■ **Use energy-save programs** Most dishwashers have a program that washes and dries for longer, and uses cooler water. Such energy-save programs use less water and electricity. And, for our Best Buys at least, energy-save programs wash nearly as well as the main program. The bonus is they use about 30 per cent less electricity, too.

### OUR RESEARCH

When selecting dishwashers to test, we consult manufacturers, market intelligence reports and industry experts, then check availability on the high street and online. Tested models include top sellers from the most popular brands, products with innovative features, models from some lesser-known brands and widely available Best Buys from previous tests.

## Best Buys tested earlier

Here are six other Best Buys, all tested in the past two years. Miele dominates with five full-sized and slimline models, while Electrolux has a great built-in. Go to [www.which.co.uk/dishwashers](http://www.which.co.uk/dishwashers) for details.



**78% Miele**  
G 1230 SC **£620**



**77% Miele**  
G 1220 SC **£474**



**71% Miele**  
G 1232 SC **£641**



**71% Miele**  
G 1222 SC **£580**



**71% Miele**  
G 1102 SC **£535**



**70% Electrolux**  
ESL6115 **£405**

## Which should you choose?



### Best on a budget

**ZANUSSI-ELECTROLUX ZDF231 £240** Not quite a Best Buy, but this full-sized freestanding machine from Zanussi-Electrolux (6) is good value for money. Its main program clocks in at 1hr 53 min and washes dishes very well.

### Kindest to the environment

**WHIRLPOOL ADP 8000 £380** This full-sized machine from Whirlpool (1) washes well without using too much water and energy, but Whirlpool has a below-average reliability record. The 3hr 10 min main program uses just over 15 litres of water to wash 127 items, while the energy-save program is four minutes shorter, and uses 30 per cent less electricity.



### Best for a small kitchen

**BOSCH SKT5102 CLASSIXX £259** This compact model (25) can be used on top of a work surface and will fit into even the cosiest of kitchens.

### Best for a quick wash

**BOSCH SGS56E12GB EXXCEL £305** The main program on this full-sized freestanding machine from Bosch (3) lasts only 1hr 16 min. That's faster than all of the other full-sized machines on test. The energy-save program lasts 2hr 27 min but uses less water and electricity. And the Bosch washes and dries well on both programs.

