



# Smell a bargain

You can pay more than £3 for a kitchen cleaner, but don't. Cheaper options are just as good – including soap and water

It's the weekend and time to give the kitchen a good scrub. Trouble is there are so many cleaners on sale, it can be hard to know which to choose. All the cleaners on test performed well, so the biggest differences are in price, value and smell.

Avoid the Ozkleen Kitchen Power as it is by far the most expensive at £3.68 – £2.90 more than our cheapest Best Buy.

You should get good value for money from the two Sainsbury's sprays. These are likely to last you longest as we had to use less of them to clean up than any other sprays. Sainsbury's Kitchen Cleaner

was the second cheapest Best Buy and is our best-value option. It does have a bleachy smell, though, and you may prefer to use a spray that has a more pleasant aroma.

In last month's plughole unblockers test, Mr Muscle gave us a Best Buy and a worst-performing product. The same is true here. Mr Muscle Orange Wipes aren't bad at cleaning but are bottom of the table when value for money is taken into account. Kitchen wipes in general are effective cleaners but terrible value when compared with sprays.

**Kitchen wipes are effective cleaners but they're terrible value**



**92% Sainsbury's Active Naturals Multi-purpose Lemon/Peppermint £1.19**

This came top overall for its performance, value for money and smell. But there's no clear list of surfaces you can and can't use it on – just a warning not to use it on damaged surfaces.

**WE LIKE** It leaves your kitchen smelling minty fresh.

Cheapest store Sainsbury's Bottle size 500ml



## Cleaning the traditional way

**Soap and water, vinegar, soda crystals – do they really work?**

The cleaners we've tested are convenient, but traditional methods offer cheap alternatives which often do the job as well if not better (see *Which?*, March 2005, p24).

Warm water and a little washing-up liquid usually take care of kitchen worktops. Traditional soda crystals are great for shifting greasy stains on stainless-steel sinks and cooker hobs. Lemon juice removes limescale from chrome taps, or mix it with a little salt (three parts salt to one part lemon juice) to clean copper and brass. Vinegar is good for cleaning glass – it's a traditional method for cleaning windows. Dilute one part vinegar to nine parts water and it works on glass cupboard doors and placemats, too. Bicarbonate of soda mixed into a paste with a little water usually shifts most splashes and spills from tiles and enamelled surfaces (such as fridges, freezers and microwaves).

## How we test

**Curry splashes, tea bags and Ribena help our tests**

We look at what the manufacturer claims the product does and also check the instructions are clear. Then we pull on our Marigolds and get down to some serious cleaning.

We test each product on six different surfaces: a white laminate worktop, a cooker hob, kitchen tiles, a stainless steel sink, cupboard doors and glass. We rate ease and speed of cleaning, how easy it is to polish off the job and how good the surface looks afterwards.

The stains differ for each surface. On the worktop we tackle curry, undiluted Ribena, lily pollen and two types of tea stain – a used tea bag and a teacup ring stain. We caked the cooker hob in pasta water and animal

fat – both frequent spills. The kitchen tiles see curry splashes, hard water stains and lard. Other surfaces suffer typical splashes and stains – from food, fat and fingermarks to old dishwasher. For each cleaner, we note how much is used to achieve the desired result to calculate value for money and note which cleaners leave the best smell.

### General warnings

Some cleaners warn about surfaces they shouldn't be used on. If in doubt, test on an inconspicuous area first. If you have bespoke kitchen surfaces such as marble or solid wood, the supplier should be able to advise on what products to use.



**88% Sainsbury's Kitchen Cleaner 79p**

This is the best-value spray on test. We had to use less of the two Sainsbury's sprays than any others and this is the second cheapest Best Buy too. The smell isn't pleasant, though.

**WE'RE NOT KEEN ON** Bleachy odour.

Cheapest store Sainsbury's Bottle size 500ml





## 89% Cif Oxy-Gel Liquid Spray £1.27

This removes stains quickly and has instructions that are OK, though not as good as some. Similarly, it's not as sweet smelling as our top-scoring cleaner but it doesn't smell bad.

**WORTH KNOWING** Not for use on marble surfaces.

Cheapest stores Asda, Tesco Bottle size 500ml

WHICH?  
**BEST BUY**



## 89% Flash Spray with Bleach £1.09

The Flash Spray lists the surfaces it will clean and gives clear guidance about what to avoid, such as damaged surfaces and aluminium. The smell of bleach is strong but if you don't mind that, it's worth trying.

**WE LIKE** The clear instructions.

Cheapest store Wilkinsons Bottle size 500ml

WHICH?  
**BEST BUY**



## 88% Mr Muscle Kitchen Lemon £1.14

You'll get a hint of lemon with this, but it's not the best-smelling cleaner around. It is a good performer, though. The instructions are clear, although not as good as those provided with some other brands.

**WE FOUND** Contains disinfectant

Cheapest store Tesco Bottle size 500ml

WHICH?  
**BEST BUY**



## 86% Asda Lemon Fresh Multi-surface Cleaner £1.00

This claims to be 'lemon fresh' but you'll need a strong sense of smell to pick up the scent. It does a good job across the board, though.

**WE LIKE** The big (750ml) bottle.

Cheapest store Asda Bottle size 750ml

WHICH?  
**BEST BUY**



## 85% Asda Lemon Fresh Kitchen Cleaner 78p

A good cleaner, but not the best on smell. The long list of surfaces you shouldn't use it on include wood and worn surfaces. Available at Asda.

**WORTH KNOWING** Contains bleach.

Cheapest store Asda Bottle size 500ml

WHICH?  
**BEST BUY**

Sainsbury's Kitchen Cleaner does a good all-round job cleaning stains off most things



## 85% Tesco Lemon Multi-purpose Cleaner 98p

This performs well on all surfaces with no real problems but the advice on the label isn't comprehensive.

**WORTH KNOWING** It can be used round the rest of the house, too.

Cheapest store Tesco Bottle size 500ml

WHICH?  
**BEST BUY**

MODEL	SPECIFICATION		WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE				SCORE %
	PRICE (£)	VOLUME (ml) OR NUMBER	INSTRUCTIONS	ODOUR	OVERALL PERFORMANCE	VALUE FOR MONEY	
SPRAYS							
1 SAINSBURY'S Active Naturals Multi-purpose Lemon/Peppermint	1.19	500	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	92
2 CIF Oxy-Gel Liquid Spray	1.27	500	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	89
3 FLASH Spray with Bleach	1.09	500	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	89
4 MR MUSCLE Kitchen Lemon	1.14	500	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	88
5 SAINSBURY'S Kitchen Cleaner	0.79	500	★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	88
6 ASDA Lemon Fresh Multi-surface Cleaner	1.00	750	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	86
7 ASDA Lemon Fresh Kitchen Cleaner	0.78	500	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	85
8 TESCO Lemon Multi-purpose Cleaner	0.98	500	★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	85
9 TESCO Kitchen Cleaner	0.78	500	★★★	★	★★★★★	★★★★★	82
10 DETTOL Multi-action 4 in 1	1.98	500	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	81
11 FLASH Citrus	1.28	500	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	81
12 CILLIT BANG Universal Degreaser	2.98	750	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	81
13 ECOVER Squirteco	1.99	500	★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	76
14 FRESH AND GREEN All Purpose Anti-bacterial	1.99	500	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	76
15 BUGS AWAY Anti-bacterial	1.98	500	★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	75
16 CIF Power Cream Lemon	1.58	500	★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★	71
17 OZKLEEN Kitchen Power	3.68	500	★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★	54
WIPES							
18 ASDA Multi-surface Wipes	0.91	40	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★	61
19 CIF Oxy-wipes	1.48	30	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★	57
20 FLASH Ultimate Orange	1.79	48	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★	57
21 DETTOL Multi-action 4 in 1	1.78	48	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★	56
22 MR MUSCLE Orange Action	1.48	30	★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★	54

### USING THE TABLE

We tested some of the bestselling kitchen cleaners from leading manufacturers. The more stars the better.

### Specification

**Price** We give the cheapest available high-street price at the time we went to press.

**Volume or number** For sprays we give the size of the bottle. For wipes we give the number in a pack.

### Test performance

**Instructions** We assess how clear the instructions are, including information about surfaces that can and cannot be cleaned.

**Odour** We assess how pleasant the smell is while doing the job and afterwards.

**Overall performance** We assess ease of cleaning, effectiveness of stain removal, time taken, ease of removing the cleaner, and appearance

after cleaning on six different surfaces, which include glass, a white laminate worktop, a hob, tiles, stainless-steel sink and cupboard doors.

**Value for money** This rating is based on price, the size of the bottle and the amount used.

### Score

This is based on:  
 Performance **50%**  
 Value for money **35%**  
 Odour **10%**  
 Instructions **5%**

## Contacts

**Asda**  
 0845 300 1111  
[www.asda.co.uk](http://www.asda.co.uk)  
**Bugs Away**  
 01908 357707  
[www.reallyreallyclean.com](http://www.reallyreallyclean.com)  
**Cif**  
 0800 776 646  
**Cillit Bang**  
[www.cillitbang.co.uk](http://www.cillitbang.co.uk)  
**Dettol**  
 0845 769 7079  
[www.dettol.co.uk](http://www.dettol.co.uk)  
**Ecover**  
 0845 130 22 30  
[www.ecover.com](http://www.ecover.com)

**Flash** 0800 716 854  
[www.pgprof.com/uk](http://www.pgprof.com/uk)  
**Fresh and Green**  
 0151 653 0253  
[www.cleanandgreenuk.com](http://www.cleanandgreenuk.com)  
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 0800 353 353  
[www.scjohnson.co.uk](http://www.scjohnson.co.uk)  
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 01284 766 261  
[www.ozkleen.co.uk](http://www.ozkleen.co.uk)  
**Sainsburys**  
 0800 636 262  
[www.sainsburys.co.uk/home.htm](http://www.sainsburys.co.uk/home.htm)  
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