



Your letters

Your say

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Your comments on articles that you've read in *Which?*



John has a tip for PVR owners

TVonics trick

August 08, p54

I've just read about the troubles you found with the TVonics DTR-FP2500 PVR – that is, the delay between picture and sound.

I have an early TVonics PVR, which has the same fault after fast rewinding. The solution I've found is to hit the pause button on the remote control followed by the play button a few seconds later; these two buttons are on a rocker switch, so it's quick and simple. Then, picture and sound should be perfectly in sync.

JOHN RESTORICK, NOTTINGHAM

WHICH? SAYS This is always worth trying if your PVR or DVD player is out of sync, but success depends on the model.

Home security

August 08, p30

In your item on burglar alarm contracts, you mentioned the savings made on home insurance premiums by fitting an alarm.

However, there is a downside that appears in the small print – the insurance cover will be invalid if the alarm is not set when you're out.

In my opinion, the small saving on a premium isn't worth the risk of not being covered if you fail to set your alarm.

DAVID VOY, HAMPSHIRE

WHICH? SAYS Thanks for pointing this out and this is certainly worth considering.

Some home insurers also require you to turn your alarm on at night for the insurance to be valid. Conditions vary between insurers so check your policy and speak to the insurer if you're unsure.

Children's savings

August 08, p22

I was prompted to write when I saw that the Halifax/Bank of Scotland Save4it account for children came out on top.

We opened this account about two years ago for our sons. A year later, I noticed from their passbooks that tax had been deducted from their interest.

When I queried this, I was told I should have registered them to be tax-exempt when opening the account and should have been told this by the member of staff. Perhaps I'm a bit naive, but I would have thought that an account that's open only to those under 16 wouldn't deduct tax.

I was repaid the tax that had just been deducted but had to claim the previous year's from the tax office.

JANE BROWN, WEST DUMBARTONSHIRE

WHICH? SAYS Children should be registered to be tax exempt; this can be done using an R85 form (see www.hmrc.gov.uk). A child can save tax-free up to a limit, which is £5,435 in 2008-09.

Teaching skills

August 08, p18

I might have been indignant – but decided that it was better to be amused – by your classification of teachers in your report on income protection insurance.

You said teachers were 'skilled manual workers', or perhaps you even meant 'semi-skilled workers' but, thanks to our 'skills', you did get the sum right.

MICHAEL KNIGHT, SWITZERLAND

Wine strength

July 08, p5

In your article on wine measures, you correctly drew attention to the increasing size of wine glasses used in pubs – but it didn't refer to the closely related problem of the increasing strength of wine.

When I first started drinking more than 40 years ago, table wine was typically 8% alcohol. Now 14% is par for the course, and I have even seen table wines containing 16% alcohol – which was previously thought to be the domain only of fortified wines.

This means that, while a typical 125ml glass of wine 40 years ago contained 1 unit (10ml) of alcohol, a typical 175ml glass now contains nearly 2.5 units.

With considerable effort in searching, I've found it is possible to buy wine containing 8% alcohol, from Weightwatchers, and it makes for a pleasant light drink. It's marketed on its benefits in reducing weight, but not on its low alcohol content.

I now have to add water to most wines, as it's the only way to make them refreshing and palatable.

SAM BOOTE, NOTTINGHAM

Packaging

July 08, p38

One packaging issue that we never see mentioned is the packaging on multibuy, such as outer sleeves of cardboard that you might find on tins of tomatoes, boxes of longlife milk or yogurts, for example.

It's perfectly possible to give a discount on several separate products – the cardboard is purely to make people buy more than they need, and is a complete waste.

JAMES AND HALCYON LEONARD, OXFORD



Sam wishes that winemakers would reduce their alcohol strengths

CORRECTION

Microwaves,
Aug 08, p62

The contact number for Swan (Littlewoods Direct) is 0844 822 2321.