# The Best Air Purifiers of 2022

## The Tester

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The Blueair Dustmagnet has exceptional particle filtering performance and even makes for a nice end table  
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 The Winix 5500-2 cleans the air with a true HEPA filter, carbon filter, and plasma technology that helps remove odors. It has intuitive controls and thoughtful extras like a sleep mode, and timer.  
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 LG's PuriCare AeroTower combines a HEPA-rated air purifier with a ductless room fan, and adds an elegant design.   
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 This air purifier works well to remove particles, VOCs, and more from the air. It also doubles as an indoor air quality monitor.   
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 A powerful air purifier with true HEPA filtration. Its efficient design, with a central fan, packs a lot of filtration into a compact design.  
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Updated October 24, 2022

We spend most of our time indoors, and the air quality in our homes and offices can be surprisingly poor. Poor air quality comes from many sources, including wildfire smoke, allergy-causing pollen and dust mites, viruses and bacteria, and common household chemicals. Air purifiers improve indoor air quality by removing these pollutants. After extensive testing, we identified the Blueair Dustmagnet 5410i (available at Amazon for $159.99) as the overall best air purifier, combining multiple filters to remove particles and chemicals. When choosing an air purifier, focus on your main air quality concerns. If you suffer from allergies, are concerned about airborne viruses and bacteria, or encounter wildfire smoke, you need a particle filter. Particle filters don’t remove chemicals, though. To tackle these, your air purifier will need an activated carbon filter or other chemical removal stage.

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For the tiniest particulate matter, like smoke and virus carrying aerosols, you need a high-efficiency particle (HEPA) filter. For a budget friendly option, the Winix 5500-2 (available at Amazon) is exceptional. It’s not only a top performer and inexpensive for a large HEPA purifier, but it has low running costs based on filter price and replacement schedules, which we include in our product testing. Credit: Reviewed / David Ellerby The Blueair Dustmagnet has exceptional particle filtering performance and even makes for a nice end table.

Best Overall Blueair DustMagnet 5410i Area coverage: 356 square feet Dimensions: 26 x 11 x 11 inches Color options: Matte white plastic, gray fabric Maximum noise level: 49 decibels The Blueair DustMagnet 5410i is the best all-around air purifier we’ve tested. In lab testing, it cut through particle pollution at an impressive rate. It also combined excellent performance with a thoughtful design. It’s not just an air purifier but also a handy end-table. Given the exceptional particle removal, the DustMagnet is an ideal choice if you’re concerned about smoke particles, pollen, pet dander, or airborne dust. Even at its highest fan setting, the DustMagnet is one of the quietest air purifiers we’ve tested, and in sleep mode, it’s whisper quiet. Swapping out your bedside table for this air purifier won’t disturb your sleep. The smart features that monitor air quality and filter life and integrate with Alexa and Google Home are another plus. App installation wasn’t the smoothest, but overall the air purifier was a snap to set up and use. Chemical absorption was the only area where the DustMagnet fell a little short, with lower than average performance at removing VOCs. The DustMagnet uses a HEPASilent filter. This isn’t quite the same as a HEPA filter, meaning it hasn’t been rated in the same way for the efficiency of small particle filtering. HEPASilent refers to the low noise levels we measured. The filter is less dense than most HEPA filters, so it doesn’t need a noisy, powerful fan to create air flow. Despite the lower density filter, the DustMagnet uses an ingenious workaround to compensate. An electrostatic filter clumps particles together, making them easier to trap with the HEPASilent filter. Pros Exceptional particle removal Quiet Alexa and Google Home integration Cons Lower density filter $159.99 from Amazon $279.99 from Walmart $199.99 from Target $159.99 from Abt

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Credit: Reviewed / David Ellerby The Winix 5500-2 high purifying performance score comes from a combination of several filtering steps.

Best Value Winix 5500-2 Area coverage: 360 square feet Dimensions: 15 x 8 x 24 inches Color options: Black Maximum noise level: 57 decibels The Winix 5500-2 is our best value performer, scoring well for particle and chemical removal, ease of use, and low filter replacement costs. The impressive all round performance comes from a combination of filters. A washable pre-filter protects the other filters from large items like pet hair, and a true HEPA filter captures microscopic particles. A carbon filter absorbs chemical pollutants, like VOCs from paint and cleaning products, and is washable to extend its life. Finally, the Plasmawave stage produces reactive ions that break down more chemicals. We love the automatic features: An air sensor adjusts performance to match the air quality. Also, a light sensor which dims the controls and turns down the fan for sleep mode after dark. The washable filter stages and relatively long filter life keep filter costs low. Get the Winix 5500-2 filter replacement Pros Easy to move Easy to change filters Cons None that we could find $148.53 from Amazon $150.99 from Best Buy $148.53 from Wayfair

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Credit: Reviewed/David Ellerby The LG PuriCare Aerotower has excellent air purifying performance with a tall slender design and ductless fan for good air circulation

Best For Large Spaces LG PuriCare AeroTower U9CV1C Area coverage: 818 square feet Dimensions: 44 x 11 x 11 inches Color options: Silver, beige Maximum noise level: 50 decibels The LG PuriCare AeroTower is a HEPA rated air purifier for large spaces. It performed well for both particle and chemical filtering in our lab tests. The flexible functions, automated controls, and smart features placed it near the top of our rankings. Unlike most air purifiers, the Aerotower is a tall, tapering, column. In fact, it resembles a skyscraper near LG’s head office. Although the appearance may not suit all tastes, that extra height has a function. Air purifiers rely on unobstructed airflow to work at their best. The top two-thirds of the tower is a ductless fan with adjustable rotation, flow rate, and flow patterns. This creates excellent air circulation. The AeroTower’s design means that you’re getting two products in one, a ductless room fan, and an air purifier. It also one of the largest square footage ratings we’ve tested, so if you like the looks and have lots of space, go for this elegant LG. Get the LG PuriCare Aerotower filter replacement Pros HEPA rated Good for large spaces Includes a ductless room fan Cons Appearance might not suit all tastes Requires unobstructed air flow $468.74 from Amazon $399.99 from Best Buy $344.99 from Walmart

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Credit: Reviewed / Beckett Dubay / Michael Elderbee With a fresh design that doesn't scream "I'm an air purifier," the Coway Airmega Icon won't look so out of place in your living room.

Best Design Coway Airmega Icon Area coverage: 649 square feet Dimensions: 21 x 9 x 22 inches Color options: Beige Maximum noise level: 50 decibels The Coway Airmega Icon may be the best looking air purifier we’ve tested. Admittedly, that’s a low bar, but with the legs and fabric treatment, this is as stylish as air purifiers get. It looks more like a mid-century end table than a typical air purifier. Appearance doesn’t mean much if the air purifier doesn’t perform well. In lab tests the Icon was a solid all round performer for both particle and chemical filtering. The Icon also has sophisticated air quality and light sensing so it runs in a quiet, low energy mode at night or if the air quality is good. It will even charge your phone. The extensive area coverage makes this a good choice for large rooms or open plan homes. Cleaning the fabric cover is a potential downside, but if you want something more stylish and energy efficient than the average air purifier, the Icon is a sound choice. Get the Coway Airmega Icon filter replacement Pros Attractive design Good features Works well Cons Large Heavy to move Hard to clean fabric cover Buy now at Coway

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Credit: Reviewed / David Ellerby The Medify’s filters are rated HEPA 13, a high-efficiency type often used in medical facilities that are effective at removing the aerosols that spread SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID.

Best HEPA Air Purifier Medify MA-50 Area coverage: 1,100 square feet Dimensions: 8 x 8 x 21 inches Color options: Black, white, silver Maximum noise level: 56 decibels The Medify MA-50 is a powerful air purifier with true HEPA filtration. Its efficient design, with a central fan pulling air through filters on all four sides, maximizes its filtering capacity. The Medify’s filters are rated HEPA 13, a high-efficiency type often used in medical facilities. The HEPA filters can remove the aerosols that spread SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID. High-quality filters are expensive, so the annual filter replacement costs are high. Also, the better the filter, the more it blocks airflow. This means that the fans need to be powerful to pull air through the filter, meaning an intrusive noise level at higher settings. The MA-50 is designed for large rooms, so it is better suited to an open plan home or office. Fortunately, Medify also has a range of air purifiers with the same HEPA filtration rating, but for small spaces. These are the Medify MA-40, MA-25, and MA14. We didn’t test the smaller units directly, but their similar filter design should give equivalent high performance. Get the Medify MA-50 filter replacement Pros Excellent HEPA filter Large coverage area Powerful fans Cons Expensive filters Noisy at higher settings $324.99 from Amazon $324.99 from Best Buy $324.99 from Walmart

Other Air Purifiers We Tested Dyson Purifier Humidify+Cool PH04 Area coverage: 360 square feet Dimensions: 36 x 12 x 11 inches Color options: nickel/gold, white/gold Maximum noise level: 52 decibels The Dyson PH04 is one of the best air purifiers we’ve tested for general VOC removal but fell short on particle removal. It is packed with high quality air sensors. Many air purifiers monitor dust particle levels, but the PH04 also tracks VOCs, including formaldehyde. The PH04 is the only air purifier we’ve tested with a filter stage specifically designed to break down formaldehyde. Formaldehyde and other VOCs have many sources like paints, particleboard, and cleaning products. We didn’t specifically test the formaldehyde filter. We draw the line at filling our lab with toxic gas! The PH04 is a multi-function device, with a fan, air purifier and humidifier. If humidity is too low, dust levels increase, and dry air irritates the nose and throat. This means humidity control and air purification are closely linked. Even so, the PH04 is a specialized product. We recommend it if you’re concerned about chemical pollution and have a living space with low humidity, but the fancy sensors make for a high price tag. As well as white/gold the PH04 comes in nickel/gold. Get the Dyson PH04 filter replacement Pros Excellent at neutralizing VOCs HEPA filter Humidifier function as a bonus Cons Below average for removing particulates Expensive in the market Buy now at Amazon $919.99 from Best Buy $919.99 from Walmart $919.00 from Abt

Ikea Förnuftig Area coverage: 105 square feet Dimensions: 12 x 4 x 18 inches Color options: Black, white Maximum noise level: 54 decibels The IKEA Förnuftig is a simple, inexpensive purifier that’s well suited to smaller spaces. The replacement filters are an equally good value, so the running cost is low. It also looks great. The fabric cover gives it the appearance of a speaker. It also has the flexibility to be free-standing or wall-mounted, the only air purifier we tested with both options. The fabric cover acts as a prefilter, and, with the optional carbon filter in place, the Förnuftig was excellent at removing chemical pollutants like VOCs. The main area where the Förnuftig falls short is particle filtering. The filter is EPA rather than HEPA rated. This means that although the filter is very effective at trapping particles, it has a slightly lower efficiency than HEPA-rated filters. Get the IKEA Förnuftig filter replacement Pros Simple design Low cost Looks great Cons Non-HEPA particle filter Limited to smaller spaces Buy now at Ikea   
  
 OdorStop OSAP5 Area coverage: 1,000 square feet Dimensions: 10 x 10 x 16 inches Color options: Black, white Maximum noise level: 54 decibels The OdorStop OSAP5 combined the most filtering mechanisms of any purifier we tested. A HEPA filter and ionizer trap particles, plus activated carbon and UV light tackle chemicals. There’s an air quality sensor built-in, so it monitors and automatically adjusts to the current air quality. Its circular shape with a central fan also allows for a large filter area in a relatively small space. The OdorStop was one of the quieter purifiers we tested. The low noise, plus the dimmable display, make this a good choice for bedrooms. Get the OdorStop OSAP5 filter replacement Pros Multiple filter mechanisms Low noise Automatic filtering Cons Moderate filtering performance Buy now at Amazon $217.54 from Walmart $139.99 from Lowe's   
  
 Honeywell PowerPlus HEPA Area coverage: 200 square feet Dimensions: 14 x 9 x 15 inches Color options: Black Maximum noise level: 60 decibels The Honeywell PowerPlus True HEPA was a solid performer at VOC and particle removal. There’s also an optional extra carbon filter to increase VOC removal. The particle filters are HEPA, although the manufacturer doesn’t give the exact rating of the filters. The large filter allows for a high air filtering capacity, but it’s expensive to replace. There’s also an air quality sensor that allows the purifier to run automatically, changing its fan level to match the air conditions. Although the display lighting can be dimmed, this was one of the noisier purifiers we tested. You’ll need to turn down the fan at night for sleeping. Get the Honeywell PowerPlus True HEPA filter replacement Pros Large filtering capacity Automatic mode Cons Bulky design Noisy at higher settings Buy now at Home Depot   
  
 Filtrete Smart Room Air Purifier FAP-SC02W, Medium Area coverage: 150 square feet Dimensions: 12 x 10 x 18 inches Color options: Black Maximum noise level: 55 decibels The Filtrete FAP-SC02W is a smart purifier designed for smaller rooms. It comes supplied with a HEPA filter only, so the basic unit isn’t equipped to tackle chemicals like VOCs. You can add a carbon chemical filter as an option, though. This purifier is packed with smart features that allow automatic air quality monitoring and connectivity with Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant. You can also monitor purifier performance via a phone app. If particle filtering is your main concern, and you want a purifier you can set and forget, this is a good choice for you. Get the Filtrete FAP-SC02W filter replacement Pros Packed with smart features Connects with Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant Can set and forget Cons Basic unit can't handle VOCs Buy now at Amazon $284.99 from Walmart   
  
 Aura Air Area coverage: 600 square feet Dimensions: 15 x 15 x 6 inches Color options: Gray Maximum noise level: 64 decibels The Aura Air was excellent at VOC removal, but it was less effective at particle filtering. This was the only air purifier we tested that didn’t have a physical control panel. It has to be set up and controlled with an Android or iPhone app. The performance data from the manufacturer shows effectiveness at virus removal, including Sars-CoV-2, the COVID causing virus. The Aura Air combines multiple filtering mechanisms, a prefilter, a filter for particles, and VOCs. The filter also contains copper, which, combined with UV light, targets bacteria and viruses. The Aura Air was the only purifier we tested that had to be wall-mounted. This location could improve airflow compared to floor units. The fan is also powerful, but noisy. The downside of wall mounting is that once installed, you can’t move it to other parts of your home. Also, remember that you’ll need to mount it near a power outlet, and there’ll be a power cord running down your wall. The Aura Air is a good choice if you are mainly concerned about VOCs, bacteria, and viruses and are happy with a wall-mounted purifier. Get the Aura Air filter replacement Pros Excellent chemical filtering Automatic control Cons Has to be wall-mounted No manual controls Noisy Buy now at Aura Air   
  
 Cuisinart PuRXium CAP-500 Area coverage: 1,000 square feet Dimensions: 11 x 11 x 23 inches Color options: White Maximum noise level: 59 decibels The Cuisinart PuRXium has multiple filtering stages: HEPA, carbon, and UV light. The HEPA filter has a high-performance H13 rating. A large filter that wraps around all four sides of the purifier packing a lot of filtering capacity into a relatively small footprint. The Cuisinart performed well at both VOC and particle removal in our tests. Like all high-grade HEPA purifiers it suffers from high filter replacement costs. The power needed to pull air through the filter also increases fan noise. There is a sleep setting though, that dims the display and turns down the fan speed. The controls and settings are simple to use. There’s no air sampling feature or automatic mode. This means you’ll need to set the fan speed as there’s no automatic mode to adjust to air quality. Get the Cuisinart PuRXium filter replacement Pros Large filter area High HEPA rating Powerful fan Cons Expensive replacement filters Noisy at higher settings $195.97 from Amazon $199.99 from Best Buy $159.90 from Walmart $199.99 from Target

How We Tested Air Purifiers In our lab, we tested how well air purifiers could remove dust, smoke, and VOCs from an enclosed space. They were also rated on noise and display light levels, ease of setup and use, their looks, and annual filter cost. The Tester Hi, I’m Dave Ellerby, the Chief Scientist in the Reviewed labs. I got my Ph.D. from the University of Leeds in 2000 and my bachelor of science from the University of Manchester in 1997. I oversee our lab testing, develop tests for new products, and update tests to ensure they’re as meaningful as possible. Pollen allergies in the spring and the year-round aroma of two large dogs make me particularly interested in indoor air quality. The Tests Credit: Reviewed / David Ellerby We built an airtight chamber in our lab in order to measure how quickly each air purifier could remove particles and volatile organics compounds (VOCs) from the air. We tested how quickly the purifiers could remove smoke particles and volatile organics compounds (VOCs) added to an airtight chamber in our lab. Each purifier was placed in the chamber and turned to its maximum fan setting. If extra filter mechanisms were available, we switched these on. We recorded changes in particle and VOC levels, measuring the air cleaning rate for each purifier. For particles, we focused on those smaller than 10 microns as they’re small enough to make it into your lungs. We assessed how easy it was to set up the purifier and change the filter and noted how many settings and filter stages it had. We also figured out the annual cost of replacing filters. Finally, the air purifiers went home with the tester to see if fan noise and display lights affected sleeping, conversation, and TV viewing. This also allowed us to assess how they look in a domestic setting. What You Should Know Before Buying an Air Purifier Air purifier choice depends on the size of your space, your air quality worries, and how automated you want your purifier to be. How Do Air Purifiers Work? The heart of most air purifiers is a fan that pulls room air through the filters and returns cleaner air to the room. All the air purifiers we tested had a particle filtering stage. Many had extra filter mechanisms to tackle chemical pollution, viruses, and bacteria. Some purifiers include an air quality monitor that automatically adjusts fan speed to match the pollution levels in your home. This keeps down energy and filter use. What is a HEPA Filter? High efficiency particulate air filters (HEPA filters) are rated by how efficiently they remove particles down to 0.3 microns. HEPA filters have a number rating from H10 to H14; the higher, the better. H10 and H11 filters are sometimes described as “True HEPA,” and H13 and H14 filters as “Medical Grade.” HEPA filters stop smoke. Even though many viruses and bacteria are smaller than 0.3 microns, they’re spread in larger liquid droplets called aerosols. HEPA filters trap these and limit the spread of airborne bacteria and viruses, including COVID. HEPA filters aren’t just for tiny particles, they trap everything larger than 0.3 microns. So if you have allergies, HEPA will help out with larger particles like pollen, mold spores and pet dander too. This means HEPA air purifiers are a perfect choice if you’re concerned about any type of airborne particle. Be careful in your choice, as some filter manufacturers use the terms “HEPA like” or “HEPA type.” These are marketing terms that don’t clearly define filter quality. If you’re investing in a HEPA filter, also look for a purifier with a pre-filter. These trap larger items, like pet hair, before they get to your other filter stages. There’s no point paying for a HEPA filter if it gets clogged with cat hair! Room Size and Clean Air Delivery Rating (CADR rating) Most air purifiers list a coverage area in square feet. For reference, a typical living room or master bedroom is in the 200 to 300 square foot range. You should match the purifier to your room size. If it’s too small, it won’t filter the air effectively—too large, and you’re paying for fan power and a filter area you don’t need. Some manufacturers also report CADR. As explained by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this shows how efficiently the air purifier removes pollutants. If available, the CADR is a more direct performance guide than recommended area coverage. You should choose a CADR value that’s about two thirds of your room square footage. Removing Airborne Particles Airborne particles come in a range of sizes. Allergens like pollen and mold spores are relatively large at 10 to 100 microns. If you’re allergic to these, you may not need the highest performance filters. Most other problem particles are much smaller. Pet dander and dust mite allergens are in the 10 micron and less range. Smoke, and the aerosol droplets created when you cough and sneeze that spread bacteria and viruses are even smaller, at 1 micron or less. Hairs are about 70 microns thick, so you can’t see most of the smaller particles. To stop smoke, bacteria, and viruses, you’ll need a HEPA filter. Removing Chemical Air Pollution Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are a major chemical pollutant released by paint, plastics, cleaning products, hair spray, and glue. Nitrogen dioxide comes from burning fossil fuels, and although traffic fumes are a major source, it can make its way into your home. Nitrogen dioxide and some VOCs have negative health impacts. Particle filters don’t remove airborne chemicals. If you’re worried about chemical pollutants, ensure your purifier has carbon filters or other mechanisms specifically designed to trap or neutralize them. More Articles You May Enjoy

The Best Humidifiers Here’s why you should be using an air purifier—stat Can air purifiers make your life easier during allergy season? Monitor your home’s indoor air quality for these evil gasses

We spend most of our time indoors, and the air quality in our homes and offices can be surprisingly poor. Poor air quality comes from many sources, including wildfire smoke, allergy-causing pollen and dust mites, viruses and bacteria, and common household chemicals. Air purifiers improve indoor air quality by removing these pollutants.

After extensive testing, we identified the Blueair Dustmagnet 5410i (available at Amazon for $159.99) as the overall best air purifier, combining multiple filters to remove particles and chemicals.

When choosing an air purifier, focus on your main air quality concerns. If you suffer from allergies, are concerned about airborne viruses and bacteria, or encounter wildfire smoke, you need a particle filter. Particle filters don’t remove chemicals, though. To tackle these, your air purifier will need an activated carbon filter or other chemical removal stage.

For the tiniest particulate matter, like smoke and virus carrying aerosols, you need a high-efficiency particle (HEPA) filter.

For a budget friendly option, the Winix 5500-2 (available at Amazon) is exceptional. It’s not only a top performer and inexpensive for a large HEPA purifier, but it has low running costs based on filter price and replacement schedules, which we include in our product testing. Credit: Reviewed / David Ellerby The Blueair Dustmagnet has exceptional particle filtering performance and even makes for a nice end table.

The Blueair Dustmagnet has exceptional particle filtering performance and even makes for a nice end table.

The Blueair DustMagnet 5410i is the best all-around air purifier we’ve tested.

In lab testing, it cut through particle pollution at an impressive rate. It also combined excellent performance with a thoughtful design. It’s not just an air purifier but also a handy end-table.

Given the exceptional particle removal, the DustMagnet is an ideal choice if you’re concerned about smoke particles, pollen, pet dander, or airborne dust.

Even at its highest fan setting, the DustMagnet is one of the quietest air purifiers we’ve tested, and in sleep mode, it’s whisper quiet. Swapping out your bedside table for this air purifier won’t disturb your sleep.

The smart features that monitor air quality and filter life and integrate with Alexa and Google Home are another plus. App installation wasn’t the smoothest, but overall the air purifier was a snap to set up and use.

Chemical absorption was the only area where the DustMagnet fell a little short, with lower than average performance at removing VOCs.

The DustMagnet uses a HEPASilent filter. This isn’t quite the same as a HEPA filter, meaning it hasn’t been rated in the same way for the efficiency of small particle filtering.

HEPASilent refers to the low noise levels we measured. The filter is less dense than most HEPA filters, so it doesn’t need a noisy, powerful fan to create air flow.

Despite the lower density filter, the DustMagnet uses an ingenious workaround to compensate. An electrostatic filter clumps particles together, making them easier to trap with the HEPASilent filter.

Exceptional particle removal   
  
 Quiet   
  
 Alexa and Google Home integration   
  
 Lower density filter

The Winix 5500-2 high purifying performance score comes from a combination of several filtering steps.

The Winix 5500-2 is our best value performer, scoring well for particle and chemical removal, ease of use, and low filter replacement costs. The impressive all round performance comes from a combination of filters.

A washable pre-filter protects the other filters from large items like pet hair, and a true HEPA filter captures microscopic particles.

A carbon filter absorbs chemical pollutants, like VOCs from paint and cleaning products, and is washable to extend its life. Finally, the Plasmawave stage produces reactive ions that break down more chemicals.

We love the automatic features: An air sensor adjusts performance to match the air quality. Also, a light sensor which dims the controls and turns down the fan for sleep mode after dark. The washable filter stages and relatively long filter life keep filter costs low.

Get the Winix 5500-2 filter replacement

Easy to move   
  
 Easy to change filters   
  
 None that we could find

The LG PuriCare Aerotower has excellent air purifying performance with a tall slender design and ductless fan for good air circulation

The LG PuriCare AeroTower is a HEPA rated air purifier for large spaces. It performed well for both particle and chemical filtering in our lab tests. The flexible functions, automated controls, and smart features placed it near the top of our rankings.

Unlike most air purifiers, the Aerotower is a tall, tapering, column. In fact, it resembles a skyscraper near LG’s head office. Although the appearance may not suit all tastes, that extra height has a function.

Air purifiers rely on unobstructed airflow to work at their best. The top two-thirds of the tower is a ductless fan with adjustable rotation, flow rate, and flow patterns. This creates excellent air circulation.

The AeroTower’s design means that you’re getting two products in one, a ductless room fan, and an air purifier. It also one of the largest square footage ratings we’ve tested, so if you like the looks and have lots of space, go for this elegant LG.

Get the LG PuriCare Aerotower filter replacement

HEPA rated   
  
 Good for large spaces   
  
 Includes a ductless room fan   
  
 Appearance might not suit all tastes   
  
 Requires unobstructed air flow

With a fresh design that doesn’t scream “I’m an air purifier,” the Coway Airmega Icon won’t look so out of place in your living room.

The Coway Airmega Icon may be the best looking air purifier we’ve tested. Admittedly, that’s a low bar, but with the legs and fabric treatment, this is as stylish as air purifiers get. It looks more like a mid-century end table than a typical air purifier.

Appearance doesn’t mean much if the air purifier doesn’t perform well. In lab tests the Icon was a solid all round performer for both particle and chemical filtering.

The Icon also has sophisticated air quality and light sensing so it runs in a quiet, low energy mode at night or if the air quality is good. It will even charge your phone.

The extensive area coverage makes this a good choice for large rooms or open plan homes. Cleaning the fabric cover is a potential downside, but if you want something more stylish and energy efficient than the average air purifier, the Icon is a sound choice.

Get the Coway Airmega Icon filter replacement

Attractive design   
  
 Good features   
  
 Works well   
  
 Large   
  
 Heavy to move   
  
 Hard to clean fabric cover

The Medify’s filters are rated HEPA 13, a high-efficiency type often used in medical facilities that are effective at removing the aerosols that spread SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID.

The Medify MA-50 is a powerful air purifier with true HEPA filtration. Its efficient design, with a central fan pulling air through filters on all four sides, maximizes its filtering capacity.

The Medify’s filters are rated HEPA 13, a high-efficiency type often used in medical facilities. The HEPA filters can remove the aerosols that spread SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID.

High-quality filters are expensive, so the annual filter replacement costs are high. Also, the better the filter, the more it blocks airflow. This means that the fans need to be powerful to pull air through the filter, meaning an intrusive noise level at higher settings.

The MA-50 is designed for large rooms, so it is better suited to an open plan home or office. Fortunately, Medify also has a range of air purifiers with the same HEPA filtration rating, but for small spaces.

These are the Medify MA-40, MA-25, and MA14. We didn’t test the smaller units directly, but their similar filter design should give equivalent high performance.

Get the Medify MA-50 filter replacement

Excellent HEPA filter   
  
 Large coverage area   
  
 Powerful fans   
  
 Expensive filters   
  
 Noisy at higher settings

The Dyson PH04 is one of the best air purifiers we’ve tested for general VOC removal but fell short on particle removal. It is packed with high quality air sensors. Many air purifiers monitor dust particle levels, but the PH04 also tracks VOCs, including formaldehyde.

The PH04 is the only air purifier we’ve tested with a filter stage specifically designed to break down formaldehyde. Formaldehyde and other VOCs have many sources like paints, particleboard, and cleaning products.

We didn’t specifically test the formaldehyde filter. We draw the line at filling our lab with toxic gas!

The PH04 is a multi-function device, with a fan, air purifier and humidifier. If humidity is too low, dust levels increase, and dry air irritates the nose and throat. This means humidity control and air purification are closely linked.

Even so, the PH04 is a specialized product. We recommend it if you’re concerned about chemical pollution and have a living space with low humidity, but the fancy sensors make for a high price tag.

As well as white/gold the PH04 comes in nickel/gold.

Get the Dyson PH04 filter replacement

Excellent at neutralizing VOCs   
  
 HEPA filter   
  
 Humidifier function as a bonus   
  
 Below average for removing particulates   
  
 Expensive in the market

The IKEA Förnuftig is a simple, inexpensive purifier that’s well suited to smaller spaces. The replacement filters are an equally good value, so the running cost is low.

It also looks great. The fabric cover gives it the appearance of a speaker. It also has the flexibility to be free-standing or wall-mounted, the only air purifier we tested with both options.

The fabric cover acts as a prefilter, and, with the optional carbon filter in place, the Förnuftig was excellent at removing chemical pollutants like VOCs.

The main area where the Förnuftig falls short is particle filtering. The filter is EPA rather than HEPA rated. This means that although the filter is very effective at trapping particles, it has a slightly lower efficiency than HEPA-rated filters.

Get the IKEA Förnuftig filter replacement

Simple design   
  
 Low cost   
  
 Looks great   
  
 Non-HEPA particle filter   
  
 Limited to smaller spaces

The OdorStop OSAP5 combined the most filtering mechanisms of any purifier we tested. A HEPA filter and ionizer trap particles, plus activated carbon and UV light tackle chemicals. There’s an air quality sensor built-in, so it monitors and automatically adjusts to the current air quality.

Its circular shape with a central fan also allows for a large filter area in a relatively small space. The OdorStop was one of the quieter purifiers we tested. The low noise, plus the dimmable display, make this a good choice for bedrooms.

Get the OdorStop OSAP5 filter replacement

Multiple filter mechanisms   
  
 Low noise   
  
 Automatic filtering   
  
 Moderate filtering performance

The Honeywell PowerPlus True HEPA was a solid performer at VOC and particle removal. There’s also an optional extra carbon filter to increase VOC removal.

The particle filters are HEPA, although the manufacturer doesn’t give the exact rating of the filters. The large filter allows for a high air filtering capacity, but it’s expensive to replace.

There’s also an air quality sensor that allows the purifier to run automatically, changing its fan level to match the air conditions. Although the display lighting can be dimmed, this was one of the noisier purifiers we tested. You’ll need to turn down the fan at night for sleeping.

Get the Honeywell PowerPlus True HEPA filter replacement

Large filtering capacity   
  
 Automatic mode   
  
 Bulky design   
  
 Noisy at higher settings

The Filtrete FAP-SC02W is a smart purifier designed for smaller rooms. It comes supplied with a HEPA filter only, so the basic unit isn’t equipped to tackle chemicals like VOCs. You can add a carbon chemical filter as an option, though.

This purifier is packed with smart features that allow automatic air quality monitoring and connectivity with Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant. You can also monitor purifier performance via a phone app.

If particle filtering is your main concern, and you want a purifier you can set and forget, this is a good choice for you.

Get the Filtrete FAP-SC02W filter replacement

Packed with smart features   
  
 Connects with Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant   
  
 Can set and forget   
  
 Basic unit can't handle VOCs

The Aura Air was excellent at VOC removal, but it was less effective at particle filtering. This was the only air purifier we tested that didn’t have a physical control panel. It has to be set up and controlled with an Android or iPhone app.

The performance data from the manufacturer shows effectiveness at virus removal, including Sars-CoV-2, the COVID causing virus.

The Aura Air combines multiple filtering mechanisms, a prefilter, a filter for particles, and VOCs. The filter also contains copper, which, combined with UV light, targets bacteria and viruses.

The Aura Air was the only purifier we tested that had to be wall-mounted. This location could improve airflow compared to floor units.

The fan is also powerful, but noisy. The downside of wall mounting is that once installed, you can’t move it to other parts of your home. Also, remember that you’ll need to mount it near a power outlet, and there’ll be a power cord running down your wall.

The Aura Air is a good choice if you are mainly concerned about VOCs, bacteria, and viruses and are happy with a wall-mounted purifier.

Get the Aura Air filter replacement

Excellent chemical filtering   
  
 Automatic control   
  
 Has to be wall-mounted   
  
 No manual controls   
  
 Noisy

The Cuisinart PuRXium has multiple filtering stages: HEPA, carbon, and UV light. The HEPA filter has a high-performance H13 rating. A large filter that wraps around all four sides of the purifier packing a lot of filtering capacity into a relatively small footprint.

The Cuisinart performed well at both VOC and particle removal in our tests. Like all high-grade HEPA purifiers it suffers from high filter replacement costs. The power needed to pull air through the filter also increases fan noise. There is a sleep setting though, that dims the display and turns down the fan speed.

The controls and settings are simple to use. There’s no air sampling feature or automatic mode. This means you’ll need to set the fan speed as there’s no automatic mode to adjust to air quality.

Get the Cuisinart PuRXium filter replacement

Large filter area   
  
 High HEPA rating   
  
 Powerful fan   
  
 Expensive replacement filters   
  
 Noisy at higher settings

In our lab, we tested how well air purifiers could remove dust, smoke, and VOCs from an enclosed space. They were also rated on noise and display light levels, ease of setup and use, their looks, and annual filter cost.

Hi, I’m Dave Ellerby, the Chief Scientist in the Reviewed labs. I got my Ph.D. from the University of Leeds in 2000 and my bachelor of science from the University of Manchester in 1997.

I oversee our lab testing, develop tests for new products, and update tests to ensure they’re as meaningful as possible. Pollen allergies in the spring and the year-round aroma of two large dogs make me particularly interested in indoor air quality.

We built an airtight chamber in our lab in order to measure how quickly each air purifier could remove particles and volatile organics compounds (VOCs) from the air.

We tested how quickly the purifiers could remove smoke particles and volatile organics compounds (VOCs) added to an airtight chamber in our lab.

Each purifier was placed in the chamber and turned to its maximum fan setting. If extra filter mechanisms were available, we switched these on. We recorded changes in particle and VOC levels, measuring the air cleaning rate for each purifier. For particles, we focused on those smaller than 10 microns as they’re small enough to make it into your lungs.

We assessed how easy it was to set up the purifier and change the filter and noted how many settings and filter stages it had. We also figured out the annual cost of replacing filters.

Finally, the air purifiers went home with the tester to see if fan noise and display lights affected sleeping, conversation, and TV viewing. This also allowed us to assess how they look in a domestic setting.

Air purifier choice depends on the size of your space, your air quality worries, and how automated you want your purifier to be.

The heart of most air purifiers is a fan that pulls room air through the filters and returns cleaner air to the room.

All the air purifiers we tested had a particle filtering stage. Many had extra filter mechanisms to tackle chemical pollution, viruses, and bacteria.

Some purifiers include an air quality monitor that automatically adjusts fan speed to match the pollution levels in your home. This keeps down energy and filter use.

High efficiency particulate air filters (HEPA filters) are rated by how efficiently they remove particles down to 0.3 microns.

HEPA filters have a number rating from H10 to H14; the higher, the better. H10 and H11 filters are sometimes described as “True HEPA,” and H13 and H14 filters as “Medical Grade.”

HEPA filters stop smoke. Even though many viruses and bacteria are smaller than 0.3 microns, they’re spread in larger liquid droplets called aerosols. HEPA filters trap these and limit the spread of airborne bacteria and viruses, including COVID.

HEPA filters aren’t just for tiny particles, they trap everything larger than 0.3 microns. So if you have allergies, HEPA will help out with larger particles like pollen, mold spores and pet dander too. This means HEPA air purifiers are a perfect choice if you’re concerned about any type of airborne particle.

Be careful in your choice, as some filter manufacturers use the terms “HEPA like” or “HEPA type.” These are marketing terms that don’t clearly define filter quality.

If you’re investing in a HEPA filter, also look for a purifier with a pre-filter. These trap larger items, like pet hair, before they get to your other filter stages. There’s no point paying for a HEPA filter if it gets clogged with cat hair!

Most air purifiers list a coverage area in square feet. For reference, a typical living room or master bedroom is in the 200 to 300 square foot range.

You should match the purifier to your room size. If it’s too small, it won’t filter the air effectively—too large, and you’re paying for fan power and a filter area you don’t need.

Some manufacturers also report CADR. As explained by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this shows how efficiently the air purifier removes pollutants.

If available, the CADR is a more direct performance guide than recommended area coverage. You should choose a CADR value that’s about two thirds of your room square footage.

Airborne particles come in a range of sizes. Allergens like pollen and mold spores are relatively large at 10 to 100 microns. If you’re allergic to these, you may not need the highest performance filters.

Most other problem particles are much smaller. Pet dander and dust mite allergens are in the 10 micron and less range. Smoke, and the aerosol droplets created when you cough and sneeze that spread bacteria and viruses are even smaller, at 1 micron or less.

Hairs are about 70 microns thick, so you can’t see most of the smaller particles. To stop smoke, bacteria, and viruses, you’ll need a HEPA filter.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are a major chemical pollutant released by paint, plastics, cleaning products, hair spray, and glue. Nitrogen dioxide comes from burning fossil fuels, and although traffic fumes are a major source, it can make its way into your home.

Nitrogen dioxide and some VOCs have negative health impacts.

Particle filters don’t remove airborne chemicals. If you’re worried about chemical pollutants, ensure your purifier has carbon filters or other mechanisms specifically designed to trap or neutralize them.

David Ellerby  
   
  
  
 Chief Scientist

Dave Ellerby is Reviewed’s Chief Scientist, and has a Ph.D. from the University of Leeds and a B.Sc. from the University of Manchester.

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# The Best School Backpacks of 2022

## The Tester

Recommendations are independently chosen by Reviewed’s editors. Purchases made through the links below may earn us and our publishing partners a commission.

Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

The extra padded straps and chest harness are adjustable for all body types and take some of the pressure off carrying bulky or heavy items.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This pack is for someone who considers sturdiness a top priority.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The lightweight JanSport was easy to fill and, despite its light weight, it’s durable.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Even when packed to the brim, the ergonomics on this backpack make it feel light.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This is classic backpack that is good for school, camp, sports or a hike.  
  
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Updated September 26, 2022

Backpacks are the quintessential symbol of back-to-school season. There are so many choices and it’s easiest to let our kids pick their favorite color or style, but will the one they choose be the best bag for the job? Hard to say. With that in mind, we tested nine backpacks to see which ones we preferred based on convenience, ease of use, comfort, and appearance. Our favorite backpack is the L.L. Bean Deluxe Book Pack (available at L.L. Bean) which combines convenience, support, and durability while remaining a good value for the price. If the student in your life needs something primarily for carrying a laptop or electronics, the Incase Icon Laptop Backpack (available at Amazon) is an ideal option thanks to its padding as well as its chic design. Lastly, for an affordable backpack that still remains a classic after many years, the JanSport SuperBreak One Backpack (available at Amazon) comes in a wide variety of designs that will please even the choosiest of teens.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Credit: Reviewed / Tim Renzi Durable and roomy, the L.L. Bean Deluxe Book Pack can carry a lot of supplies and still be comfortable.

Best Overall L.L. Bean Deluxe Book Pack This is a durable, flexible, weatherproof backpack that is reasonably priced. Plus, the website states that if the purchaser is not 100% satisfied with the bag, it can be returned for a full refund within one year of purchase. The extra padded straps and chest harness are adjustable for all body types and take some of the pressure off carrying bulky or heavy items. It feels secure and can be grabbed by the straps or the loop on top. The largest storage area has a secure space for a laptop, and plenty of room for books, a sweatshirt, or other bulky items. The middle section can carry notebooks and thinner items. A small, padded pocket sits inside the middle pocket and has a hole for a charging cord or other delicate items that need to be tucked away for safety. The front of the pack has a zippered pocket for pencils, highlighters, and keys which can be attached to a cord with a clip. The storage areas are well thought out. It’s not easy to lose items and there is plenty of space. Two large water bottle holders make it easy to be well hydrated all day. This is a simple looking bag that comes in nine color choices including black, camp green, navy, red and true teal. It isn’t our first choice as far as style goes, but the durability and storage options make up for what it lacks in appearance. It’s also the only pack we tested with reflective trim—a great addition if your student walks home from the subway or bus stop after dark. A few online reviews mentioned problems with the water bottle holders tearing or the zipper getting stuck, but we didn’t experience that issue during our extensive testing. Pros Sturdy construction Machine-washable Ergonomic design Cons Few design choices Buy now at L.L. Bean

ADVERTISEMENT

Credit: Reviewed / Tim Renzi The Icon InCase keeps laptops safe and secure.

Best for Laptops and Electronics Incase Icon Laptop Backpack This pack is for someone who considers sturdiness a top priority. It’s the most padded of all the packs we tried and has the sleekest design, so it works for school or the office. The Icon is perfect for adults or older kids carrying a laptop and other heavy materials or items that need a lot of support and who can afford to pay more for a backpack. This backpack is so padded it can stand by itself. The laptop case is super soft and supportive so, of all the packs we tested, I would be least concerned about my student’s laptop being damaged. The straps have extra padding as well so it doesn’t dig into shoulders, although for smaller wearers, the pack might be a bit bulky. The Icon has lots of pockets. Aside from the soft, cushiony laptop section there are two large areas for books, notebooks and other items. The backpack is so deep that if you forget you put something in it, you might not remember until you clean it out. The front most section has quite a few smaller areas for pens, pencils, a phone or keys. There is also a padded, smaller zipper area up top for perhaps your phone, so it doesn’t scratch. One big downside is the lack of a water bottle holder. If you are looking for a stylish, professional looking pack, this is the one for you. Pros Heavily padded Multiple storage options High-quality, ergonomic construction Cons Less kid friendly Heavy Buy now at Amazon $199.95 from B&H Photo Video $141.82 from Walmart

ADVERTISEMENT

Credit: Reviewed / Tim Renzi The JanSport SuperBreak One is reasonably priced and comes in a wide selection of colors.

Best Value JanSport Superbreak One This is the simplest backpack we tested, but simple is sometimes better. The lightweight JanSport was easy to fill and, despite its light weight, it’s durable. It has the least frills and costs the least out of all the bags we tested, yet it’s one of our top picks because of its ease of use and flexibility. It comes with a limited lifetime warranty (which excludes normal wear and tear). We got a lot of positive comments on this bag, and there are many designs to choose from. The JanSport is ideal for anyone who needs a more casual—yet stylish—backpack, including school children or campers. It comes in so many designs and colors you can find a design that will appeal to almost everyone. Even though this bag is thinner and less padded than other packs, it’s more flexible and therefore comfortable, especially for those with smaller frames. It has enough room that you can include a laptop sleeve of your own, which is what we did. The JanSport had the least pockets of all the packs we tested, which contributed to its light weight and ease. You know exactly what you put in it and won’t easily lose items. There is one main pocket and one smaller pocket in the front. This particular model doesn’t come with a water bottle holder, so given how much we liked the product, we would order a different model that comes with a large water bottle holder. We love how easy it is to toss in the wash. This pack is very casual because of its canvas exterior and the multiple fun designs available such as camo, garden tea party, galaxy and a variety of solid colors. Pros Machine washable Best warranty Many design choices Cons No water bottle pocket $36.00 from Amazon $41.90 from Walmart

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Fjällräven Kånken The Fjallraven Kanken is a simple, well-made, classic looking backpack that feels light even when you pack it to the max. The sleek design, great color options, and trendy look of this pack make it great for school, extracurricular activities, camping, or anytime you need extra storage. Even when packed to the brim, the ergonomics on this pack make it feel light. It comes with a foam board which can be placed at the back of the large pocket and protects the user’s back. A strap on top makes the bag easy to grab. The one large section of the Fjallraven Kanken stores more than it would appear to. There is a separate section for a laptop near the foam board which may keep a computer more protected. A smaller pocket in front is great for keys, pens, a phone, or anything else you want to access quickly. The Fjallraven comes in over 30 eye catching color choices making it easy for anyone to find a bag that fits your style. It’s a casual, clean looking bag and we like that the circle logo on the front of the bag is reflective. There were several major downsides to the Fjallraven, however. The shoulder straps aren’t padded, which made it somewhat uncomfortable when worn for a long period of time, and it wasn't roomy enough to hold our tester's lunchbox as well as all of her required schoolbooks and laptop. And while the Kanken does have two sturdy water bottle holders, they are narrow and didn't fit a large bottle. Pros Comes in lots of colors Lightweight Sleek design Cons Straps aren't padded Narrow water bottle pocket Buy now at Amazon

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Adidas Prime 6 This is a classic backpack that is good for school, camp, sports or a hike, and is ideal for anyone who wants a straightforward well-fitting backpack. However, if you're looking for a colorful backpack, you'll be disappointed with the Adidas—it only comes in varying shades of grey and black with a few lighter options like beige or linen green. The back and the shoulder straps are well padded, thick, and adjustable, which makes it easy for any body type to be comfortable. The bottom can be stretched or contracted depending on what the wearer is carrying. There are three larger storage pockets and two smaller ones. There is also a pouch for a phone or items you want to keep in a safe place. The two water bottle holders are great for carrying thinner bottles, however they didn’t hold our thicker bottle. The material is easy to wipe clean if lunches spill or pens mark up the inside. The laptop section is more padded than the rest of the bag. The straps are wide, cushioned, and well-fitted. It does come with a warranty. Pros One year warranty Many pockets Cons Few design choices $65.00 from Amazon

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Under Armour Gameday 2.0 Backpack The Under Armour Gameday is a standard looking backpack that can be used for school, as a casual office bag, or for the gym. While it's fine for all ages, its simple design and sturdy laptop section make it more suited for older kids or adults. Younger kids may want more of a variety of colors and designs, but the choices of black, white, blue, grey and other solid colors are classic. The back of this bag is stiff and sturdy and so are the straps. Overall, it’s comfortable, but it can pull on your shoulders and feel heavy after a long day if it’s packed with too many items. The laptop compartment is well padded, and it can be slim or stretch it to fill it a decent amount of supplies. It’s deep and the pockets are slim but can extend to be wider by pushing on the bottom of the main section. The laptop pocket is tight and soft making it very supportive of electronics. There is a small, soft compartment up top for glasses. Pros Classic look Sturdy construction Supportive tablet sleeve Cons Few design options Stiff straps Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Herschel Heritage Youth X-Large Backpack The Herschel backpack is light and simple, and is good for young children or older people carrying lighter items. The website says the Herschel Youth XL is for kids age 8 to 12 to take to school, camp, or for sports, and we totally agree. We packed it to capacity and probably wouldn’t be able to fit much more. Older kids and adults might find it to be too small. When this bag wasn’t headed to school, we grabbed it at the last minute to bring items on roads trips like books and art supplies because the two pockets make it easy to find things. The Herschel has thick padded straps that easily adjust as well as a lap belt. It also has two pockets and a thin laptop divider. The small front pocket is great for storing a phone, sanitizer, keys, and a few pens. The main pocket holds a decent amount of stuff. We were able to pack it with everything we needed for the day, but we tested it to its limits. There is one water bottle holder, but it was too thin to hold our water bottle. The stylish, simple look can fit in almost anywhere. It comes in 17 color choices including some really cute patterns like tie dye, camo, polka dots and motorbikes. We received a lot of positive comments on our ash rose colored bag with red and white striped wipeable lining. Pros Kid-friendly designs Has a warranty Quality construction Cons Flimsy tablet sleeve Buy now at Herschel Supply Co.   
  
 Lands' End Kids ClassMate Extra Large The Lands' End Kids ClassMate Extra Large Backpack is a traditional school backpack with four pockets made of washable canvas. While it's a good choice for anyone, younger children will especially love the fun designs. The material on the Lands' End Kids ClassMate is thin and flexible. The shoulder straps have more padding than the rest of the backpack, but overall the thin material made the bag uncomfortable for long-term wear. There are three main larger pockets and a smaller one in front that help your student stay organized. It has section for a laptop, but it doesn’t have extra padding. The water bottle holders are nice and big and easily held our large bottle. Pros Variety of design choices Machine washable Large water bottle pockets Cons Flimsy tablet sleeve Buy now at Lands' End   
  
 Vera Bradley Grand Backpack Vera Bradley bags are known for their beautiful designs, and their backpacks are no exception. These bags are beautiful inside and out. Several of the floral options are pretty and unique so this pack stands out in a crowd. This is a versatile bag that can be used for school, camp, or traveling. It’s also one of the pricier bags we tested. The Grand Backpack is great for anyone that wants a more feminine design; even the bags with a grey or black exterior have a floral lining. The website states that the bag is made from 24 recycled plastic water bottles and is water-repellant so it’s great for someone who wants an eco-friendly bag that will withstand the elements. My student found that the Vera Bradley was comfortable when packed lightly, but when fully packed it fell forward when it was set down on the ground. Plus, the straps are less padded than some of the other bags we tested. This bag has a lot of sections. The main compartment can be expanded or contracted by pushing the base of the bag in or out. There are two mesh compartments in the biggest section which is nice for storing smaller items. The back section fits a laptop and is well padded. There is a deep front pocket that contains a compartment designed for pens and smaller items. The deep pocket was an easy place to lose things we tossed in and forgot about. There are two water bottle holders, but they were tight and didn’t fit our fatter water bottle. This bag also has a sleeve on the back so it can be secured to luggage, which is a nice feature. Pros Eco-friendly Attractive designs Cons Cavernous pockets $125.00 from Amazon $125.00 from Target $125.00 from Walmart

How We Tested School Backpacks The Tester Hi, I’m Jaclyn Greenberg. I live on the East Coast with my husband, three children, and a dog. I love researching products that make our lives easier and sharing those findings with other busy moms. Last year, when my daughter started middle school, her backpack was extremely bulky and I worried about her carrying a heavy bag all day. We loved trialing which backpacks were the most comfortable and proficient. I also love researching accessible products like adaptive swimwear, flotation devices to keep disabled kids safe, and sharing product info for items like our favorite beanbags. The Tests Credit: Reviewed / Jaclyn Greenberg We packed every backpack with all the necessities for a full day of school. We packed these bags to the brim with everything a middle schooler carries each day, and more: a laptop, laptop case, accordion folder with papers, YA book, dry erase board, two notebooks, a pencil case, phone, lunchbox, lunchbox case, and water bottle. Then, we sent it to the wilds middle school for several days where it was taken on and off over a period of six to eight hours. After school, I asked my student a few key questions, including “How comfortable was the bag after carrying it around to various classrooms?,” “Was it easy to find your items when you needed them?,” and “Did you like the way it looked? Did others comment on the style?” We then scored each backpack on comfort, durability, attractiveness, and how well they functioned under the rough daily use of a busy middle school student. What You Should Know About School Backpacks Think About What’s Going to Be Put in It Depending on what items your child carries in their backpack, they may require specific features. Are they avid readers that love to pack a bag full of books? Or will they mostly be carting around a laptop—and need a padded sleeve? Do they carry lots of small items that need to be kept safe like sunglasses, keys, and a wallet? Larger items that need a lot of room? Will they do better with several sections so their belongings are compartmentalized, or will more compartments just cause confusion and make it hard to find loose papers, pens, or a phone? Take the time to truly assess your child’s unique needs in order to find the best backpack for them. Whether or Not It Holds a Water Bottle These days, most students carry water bottles, which means having a backpack with a dedicated space for their bottle is important. But just because a backpack has a water bottle holder doesn’t mean that it fits all sizes. It’s worth double checking to make sure that any backpack you’re planning to purchase will accommodate whatever size water bottle your student carries. How Comfortable It Will Be for Long School Days Tweens and teens are in school—and carrying around a full-to-the-brim backpack—for hours every day. If it’s not comfortable when it’s filled with all their belongings, it’s going to make lugging it from class to class a miserable experience. Padded straps and an appropriately sized backpack for the build of your child are paramount for comfort.

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The Best Lunch Coolers The Best Lunch Boxes for Kids The Best Laptops for Students The Best Laptop Sleeves

Backpacks are the quintessential symbol of back-to-school season. There are so many choices and it’s easiest to let our kids pick their favorite color or style, but will the one they choose be the best bag for the job? Hard to say. With that in mind, we tested nine backpacks to see which ones we preferred based on convenience, ease of use, comfort, and appearance.

Our favorite backpack is the L.L. Bean Deluxe Book Pack (available at L.L. Bean) which combines convenience, support, and durability while remaining a good value for the price. If the student in your life needs something primarily for carrying a laptop or electronics, the Incase Icon Laptop Backpack (available at Amazon) is an ideal option thanks to its padding as well as its chic design. Lastly, for an affordable backpack that still remains a classic after many years, the JanSport SuperBreak One Backpack (available at Amazon) comes in a wide variety of designs that will please even the choosiest of teens.

The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Durable and roomy, the L.L. Bean Deluxe Book Pack can carry a lot of supplies and still be comfortable.

This is a durable, flexible, weatherproof backpack that is reasonably priced. Plus, the website states that if the purchaser is not 100% satisfied with the bag, it can be returned for a full refund within one year of purchase.

The extra padded straps and chest harness are adjustable for all body types and take some of the pressure off carrying bulky or heavy items. It feels secure and can be grabbed by the straps or the loop on top. The largest storage area has a secure space for a laptop, and plenty of room for books, a sweatshirt, or other bulky items. The middle section can carry notebooks and thinner items. A small, padded pocket sits inside the middle pocket and has a hole for a charging cord or other delicate items that need to be tucked away for safety. The front of the pack has a zippered pocket for pencils, highlighters, and keys which can be attached to a cord with a clip. The storage areas are well thought out. It’s not easy to lose items and there is plenty of space. Two large water bottle holders make it easy to be well hydrated all day.

This is a simple looking bag that comes in nine color choices including black, camp green, navy, red and true teal. It isn’t our first choice as far as style goes, but the durability and storage options make up for what it lacks in appearance. It’s also the only pack we tested with reflective trim—a great addition if your student walks home from the subway or bus stop after dark.

A few online reviews mentioned problems with the water bottle holders tearing or the zipper getting stuck, but we didn’t experience that issue during our extensive testing.

Sturdy construction   
  
 Machine-washable   
  
 Ergonomic design   
  
 Few design choices

The Icon InCase keeps laptops safe and secure.

This pack is for someone who considers sturdiness a top priority. It’s the most padded of all the packs we tried and has the sleekest design, so it works for school or the office. The Icon is perfect for adults or older kids carrying a laptop and other heavy materials or items that need a lot of support and who can afford to pay more for a backpack.

This backpack is so padded it can stand by itself. The laptop case is super soft and supportive so, of all the packs we tested, I would be least concerned about my student’s laptop being damaged. The straps have extra padding as well so it doesn’t dig into shoulders, although for smaller wearers, the pack might be a bit bulky.

The Icon has lots of pockets. Aside from the soft, cushiony laptop section there are two large areas for books, notebooks and other items. The backpack is so deep that if you forget you put something in it, you might not remember until you clean it out. The front most section has quite a few smaller areas for pens, pencils, a phone or keys. There is also a padded, smaller zipper area up top for perhaps your phone, so it doesn’t scratch. One big downside is the lack of a water bottle holder.

If you are looking for a stylish, professional looking pack, this is the one for you.

Heavily padded   
  
 Multiple storage options   
  
 High-quality, ergonomic construction   
  
 Less kid friendly   
  
 Heavy

The JanSport SuperBreak One is reasonably priced and comes in a wide selection of colors.

This is the simplest backpack we tested, but simple is sometimes better. The lightweight JanSport was easy to fill and, despite its light weight, it’s durable. It has the least frills and costs the least out of all the bags we tested, yet it’s one of our top picks because of its ease of use and flexibility. It comes with a limited lifetime warranty (which excludes normal wear and tear). We got a lot of positive comments on this bag, and there are many designs to choose from.

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The JanSport had the least pockets of all the packs we tested, which contributed to its light weight and ease. You know exactly what you put in it and won’t easily lose items. There is one main pocket and one smaller pocket in the front. This particular model doesn’t come with a water bottle holder, so given how much we liked the product, we would order a different model that comes with a large water bottle holder. We love how easy it is to toss in the wash.

This pack is very casual because of its canvas exterior and the multiple fun designs available such as camo, garden tea party, galaxy and a variety of solid colors.

Machine washable   
  
 Best warranty   
  
 Many design choices   
  
 No water bottle pocket

The Fjallraven Kanken is a simple, well-made, classic looking backpack that feels light even when you pack it to the max. The sleek design, great color options, and trendy look of this pack make it great for school, extracurricular activities, camping, or anytime you need extra storage.

Even when packed to the brim, the ergonomics on this pack make it feel light. It comes with a foam board which can be placed at the back of the large pocket and protects the user’s back. A strap on top makes the bag easy to grab.

The one large section of the Fjallraven Kanken stores more than it would appear to. There is a separate section for a laptop near the foam board which may keep a computer more protected. A smaller pocket in front is great for keys, pens, a phone, or anything else you want to access quickly.

The Fjallraven comes in over 30 eye catching color choices making it easy for anyone to find a bag that fits your style. It’s a casual, clean looking bag and we like that the circle logo on the front of the bag is reflective.

There were several major downsides to the Fjallraven, however. The shoulder straps aren’t padded, which made it somewhat uncomfortable when worn for a long period of time, and it wasn’t roomy enough to hold our tester’s lunchbox as well as all of her required schoolbooks and laptop. And while the Kanken does have two sturdy water bottle holders, they are narrow and didn’t fit a large bottle.

Comes in lots of colors   
  
 Lightweight   
  
 Sleek design   
  
 Straps aren't padded   
  
 Narrow water bottle pocket

This is a classic backpack that is good for school, camp, sports or a hike, and is ideal for anyone who wants a straightforward well-fitting backpack. However, if you’re looking for a colorful backpack, you’ll be disappointed with the Adidas—it only comes in varying shades of grey and black with a few lighter options like beige or linen green.

The back and the shoulder straps are well padded, thick, and adjustable, which makes it easy for any body type to be comfortable. The bottom can be stretched or contracted depending on what the wearer is carrying.

There are three larger storage pockets and two smaller ones. There is also a pouch for a phone or items you want to keep in a safe place. The two water bottle holders are great for carrying thinner bottles, however they didn’t hold our thicker bottle. The material is easy to wipe clean if lunches spill or pens mark up the inside. The laptop section is more padded than the rest of the bag. The straps are wide, cushioned, and well-fitted. It does come with a warranty.

One year warranty   
  
 Many pockets   
  
 Few design choices

The Under Armour Gameday is a standard looking backpack that can be used for school, as a casual office bag, or for the gym. While it’s fine for all ages, its simple design and sturdy laptop section make it more suited for older kids or adults. Younger kids may want more of a variety of colors and designs, but the choices of black, white, blue, grey and other solid colors are classic.

The back of this bag is stiff and sturdy and so are the straps. Overall, it’s comfortable, but it can pull on your shoulders and feel heavy after a long day if it’s packed with too many items.

The laptop compartment is well padded, and it can be slim or stretch it to fill it a decent amount of supplies. It’s deep and the pockets are slim but can extend to be wider by pushing on the bottom of the main section. The laptop pocket is tight and soft making it very supportive of electronics. There is a small, soft compartment up top for glasses.

Classic look   
  
 Sturdy construction   
  
 Supportive tablet sleeve   
  
 Few design options   
  
 Stiff straps

The Herschel backpack is light and simple, and is good for young children or older people carrying lighter items. The website says the Herschel Youth XL is for kids age 8 to 12 to take to school, camp, or for sports, and we totally agree. We packed it to capacity and probably wouldn’t be able to fit much more. Older kids and adults might find it to be too small. When this bag wasn’t headed to school, we grabbed it at the last minute to bring items on roads trips like books and art supplies because the two pockets make it easy to find things.

The Herschel has thick padded straps that easily adjust as well as a lap belt. It also has two pockets and a thin laptop divider. The small front pocket is great for storing a phone, sanitizer, keys, and a few pens. The main pocket holds a decent amount of stuff. We were able to pack it with everything we needed for the day, but we tested it to its limits. There is one water bottle holder, but it was too thin to hold our water bottle.

The stylish, simple look can fit in almost anywhere. It comes in 17 color choices including some really cute patterns like tie dye, camo, polka dots and motorbikes. We received a lot of positive comments on our ash rose colored bag with red and white striped wipeable lining.

Kid-friendly designs   
  
 Has a warranty   
  
 Quality construction   
  
 Flimsy tablet sleeve

The Lands’ End Kids ClassMate Extra Large Backpack is a traditional school backpack with four pockets made of washable canvas. While it’s a good choice for anyone, younger children will especially love the fun designs.

The material on the Lands’ End Kids ClassMate is thin and flexible. The shoulder straps have more padding than the rest of the backpack, but overall the thin material made the bag uncomfortable for long-term wear. There are three main larger pockets and a smaller one in front that help your student stay organized. It has section for a laptop, but it doesn’t have extra padding. The water bottle holders are nice and big and easily held our large bottle.

Variety of design choices   
  
 Machine washable   
  
 Large water bottle pockets   
  
 Flimsy tablet sleeve

Vera Bradley bags are known for their beautiful designs, and their backpacks are no exception. These bags are beautiful inside and out. Several of the floral options are pretty and unique so this pack stands out in a crowd. This is a versatile bag that can be used for school, camp, or traveling. It’s also one of the pricier bags we tested.

The Grand Backpack is great for anyone that wants a more feminine design; even the bags with a grey or black exterior have a floral lining. The website states that the bag is made from 24 recycled plastic water bottles and is water-repellant so it’s great for someone who wants an eco-friendly bag that will withstand the elements.

My student found that the Vera Bradley was comfortable when packed lightly, but when fully packed it fell forward when it was set down on the ground. Plus, the straps are less padded than some of the other bags we tested.

This bag has a lot of sections. The main compartment can be expanded or contracted by pushing the base of the bag in or out. There are two mesh compartments in the biggest section which is nice for storing smaller items. The back section fits a laptop and is well padded. There is a deep front pocket that contains a compartment designed for pens and smaller items. The deep pocket was an easy place to lose things we tossed in and forgot about. There are two water bottle holders, but they were tight and didn’t fit our fatter water bottle. This bag also has a sleeve on the back so it can be secured to luggage, which is a nice feature.

Eco-friendly   
  
 Attractive designs   
  
 Cavernous pockets

Hi, I’m Jaclyn Greenberg. I live on the East Coast with my husband, three children, and a dog. I love researching products that make our lives easier and sharing those findings with other busy moms. Last year, when my daughter started middle school, her backpack was extremely bulky and I worried about her carrying a heavy bag all day. We loved trialing which backpacks were the most comfortable and proficient.

I also love researching accessible products like adaptive swimwear, flotation devices to keep disabled kids safe, and sharing product info for items like our favorite beanbags.

We packed every backpack with all the necessities for a full day of school.

We packed these bags to the brim with everything a middle schooler carries each day, and more: a laptop, laptop case, accordion folder with papers, YA book, dry erase board, two notebooks, a pencil case, phone, lunchbox, lunchbox case, and water bottle. Then, we sent it to the wilds middle school for several days where it was taken on and off over a period of six to eight hours.

After school, I asked my student a few key questions, including “How comfortable was the bag after carrying it around to various classrooms?,” “Was it easy to find your items when you needed them?,” and “Did you like the way it looked? Did others comment on the style?” We then scored each backpack on comfort, durability, attractiveness, and how well they functioned under the rough daily use of a busy middle school student.

Depending on what items your child carries in their backpack, they may require specific features. Are they avid readers that love to pack a bag full of books? Or will they mostly be carting around a laptop—and need a padded sleeve? Do they carry lots of small items that need to be kept safe like sunglasses, keys, and a wallet? Larger items that need a lot of room? Will they do better with several sections so their belongings are compartmentalized, or will more compartments just cause confusion and make it hard to find loose papers, pens, or a phone? Take the time to truly assess your child’s unique needs in order to find the best backpack for them.

These days, most students carry water bottles, which means having a backpack with a dedicated space for their bottle is important. But just because a backpack has a water bottle holder doesn’t mean that it fits all sizes. It’s worth double checking to make sure that any backpack you’re planning to purchase will accommodate whatever size water bottle your student carries.

Tweens and teens are in school—and carrying around a full-to-the-brim backpack—for hours every day. If it’s not comfortable when it’s filled with all their belongings, it’s going to make lugging it from class to class a miserable experience. Padded straps and an appropriately sized backpack for the build of your child are paramount for comfort.

Jaclyn Greenberg  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Jaclyn Greenberg lives with her husband and three children on the East Coast. She writes about her experiences parenting as well as challenges related to accessibility and inclusion.

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# The Best Running Watches of 2022

## The Testers

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

The Garmin Forerunner 255 and 255S are the best running watches for easily digestible data before, during, and after workouts.  
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 This running watch is intuitive, easy to navigate, and provides data for runners that is easily digestible and straightforward without any bells and whistles.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Though it doesn’t have as many premium features of the 255, the Garmin Forerunner 245 Music allows you to stream music wirelessly from your favorite streaming services to wireless headphones.  
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 Designed for serious runners and triathletes, the Suunto 9 Baro offers solid tracking, but its massive size may be off-putting to some athletes.  
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 The Polar Pacer provides a wealth of data and tests that might help you achieve a personal best, but the awkward button placement and extra-long watch band might be a turnoff to some.  
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Updated October 3, 2022

Whether you’re an experienced runner or just starting out, all you need to conquer your next run is a pair of running shoes and some pavement, a nearby track, trail, or treadmill. And while other gear might be helpful, the only accessory that has the potential to really enhance your workouts is a running watch. We’ve spent months testing the most popular GPS watches and determined that the Garmin Forerunner 255 (available at Amazon) is the best running watch because of its compact, intuitive design, workout suggestions, and daily training reports, as well as the optional extra feature of music storage. If our top pick isn’t your cup of tea, don’t worry. We’ve got plenty of other options. Credit: Reviewed / Tim Renzi We selected the Garmin Forerunner 255 as our best overall running watch. Best Overall Garmin Forerunner 255 After our extensive hands-on tests, we’re confident that the Garmin Forerunner 255 is the best running watch for most runners. Like all Garmin products, the 255 and the smaller-but-otherwise-identical 255S is hands-down the easiest setup: All that’s required is downloading the app to your phone and syncing directions appear directly on the watch face, thanks to Bluetooth connectivity. Before and during workouts, the watch is easy to navigate. Each of the five buttons is clearly labeled, so you never have to second-guess during a run whether you’re pausing or stopping your workout. You also don’t have to dig through too many screens to find the stats you care about. While running, your time, distance, and pace are prominently displayed. Should you decide you want more granular feedback, it’s easy to toggle through additional screens to view your heart rate, lap information, and the time of day you completed each workout. A standout feature on this watch: When you choose “run” as your activity, it also gives you a suggested workout, pace, and distance and explains why it is recommending that particular workout. More often than not, because our tester was only testing this watch for a few weeks, she didn’t do the workout. However, on the occasions she tried it, she found it refreshing to follow a prescribed workout, especially for a specific pace and distance. The watch also explains why it recommends each workout, which was interesting to see. Also helpful: the ability to preload running routes and be notified along the way that you’re on the right track. The Forerunner 255 offers the ability to track all manner of other workouts, too, including the ability to map open-water swims, a feature not available in its predecessor, the 245. (However, triathletes won’t find a triathlon mode here; they’ll have to look to the pricier Forerunner 955 for that.) The 255S, the version we tested, has a compact design with a 41mm face (about 1 inch in diameter) and a slim 18mm (0.7-inch) band, so it can easily double as an everyday watch if the style suits you. The silicone band is comfortable, neither too long nor too short, and doesn’t irritate sensitive skin, even when it gets too sweaty. If you opt for the larger 255, you’ll get a face size of 46mm (about 2 inches) for the same price. The battery lasts up to 12 days in smartwatch mode, minimizing the amount of time you need to charge. You’ll get up to 26 hours of GPS workout tracking on a single charge, too. One downside: The GPS can be finicky. It often took minutes (rather than seconds) to acquire a signal—not ideal, especially at the start of a race. This happened frequently enough where our tester didn’t have the patience to wait for it to sync properly, and just started her runs without the GPS acquiring. On the other hand, there were a few times when the watch acquired a GPS signal in a matter of seconds. This inconsistency was especially surprising as we did our test runs on the same routes. It’s worth noting that our tester never carried her phone with her: Garmins, and most GPS watches in general, find satellites faster after being recently synced to a phone with GPS. Like most running watches, the 255 and 255S track steps, sleep, and data for other types of workouts, such as bike rides and swims. Each morning, the watch screen displays a “morning report,” which outlines your sleep data, recovery time, and training status, and provides a suggested workout based on what you could strive for with your current level of fitness. This was a treat our tester looked forward to and it inspired her to get moving, as the data is informative, but not overwhelming to digest before you’ve had your coffee. The 255 comes in eight colors and with the option to pay $50 more for music storage for up to 500 songs that you can listen to over Bluetooth earbuds (not included). Music controls can be accessed by pressing the down arrow on any screen, and can play songs downloaded to your phone via your computer, Spotify, or Amazon Music, as well as any run-specific playlists from your computer or phone that you’d like to sync to your watch. If you plan to listen to tunes during your next marathon, you can expect up to 6 hours of battery life from a full charge. Pros Intuitive to set up and use Comfortable to wear Packed with useful features Cons Sometimes finicky GPS Buy now at Amazon $349.99 from Best Buy $349.99 from Target $349.99 from Abt

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Credit: Reviewed / Kate McCarthy The Forerunner 55 does a great job with the basics any runner might want at their wrist.

Best Value Garmin Forerunner 55 Like most Garmin watches, using the Forerunner 55 is a straightforward process: The watch has clearly labeled buttons and a straightforward home screen, with all the vital information you might want at the touch of a button or two. This makes it a good option for runners who want a watch that provides easy-to-read basic data on their running and other workouts. One of the best things about the Garmin Forerunner line, and this watch in particular, is how intuitive it is. You don’t have to dig through screens for any information. The most vital stats—mileage, pace, and heart rate—are easy to spot during your run, with a full recap that you can scroll through when you’re finished. The Forerunner 55 provides up to two weeks on smartwatch mode and 20 hours of GPS tracking capabilities on a single charge, as compared to the 255’s 12 days and 26 hours. At 42mm (1.65 inches) in diameter, the watch is a hair larger than the 255S and half centimeter smaller than the 255, a good size to clearly display all the data without feeling bulky. The 20mm (0.8-inch) silicone wristband isn’t too wide to feel cuff-like, and most importantly, didn’t irritate our tester’s skin when sweat got under it during runs. Some runners who prefer the 55’s simple interface and no-frills approach might be content to give up some higher-end features, most notably the barometric altimeter for more accurate measuring of elevation. But shelling out more for the 255, with or without music capability, gets you additional sensors designed to help you progress as a runner while avoiding overtraining, such as more advanced heart-rate and training effect metrics, and handy features like GPS turn-by-turn guidance for unfamiliar routes. You also don’t get the “morning report” capturing your holistic health or a detailed sleep report, like you would with the Forerunner 255. Also, like other Garmins including our top pick, the GPS on the Forerunner 55 can be finicky. It often took minutes (rather than seconds) to acquire, though it’ll locate the satellites faster if you sync it to your location-enabled smartphone first. That said, for an easy-to-use, wrist-worn way to track your runs, the 55 delivers a great value. Pros Interface is intuitive and easy to navigate Tracks workouts other than running Display screen is easy to read during runs Cons GPS can be slow to acquire $199.99 from Amazon $199.99 from Target $199.99 from Abt $199.99 from Newegg

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How We Tested Running Watches Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar During my runs, I looked at how easy it was to see my stats in the middle of a run, how quickly the watch acquired GPS signal, how accurate the GPS tracking was, and how easy it was to navigate the watch for data before, during and after my run. The Testers Reviewed’s casual and avid runners alike jumped at the chance to delve into what makes the latest batch of running watches worth your time. Our testers used the watches like any runner would, but went further. We filled out a detailed questionnaire about each watch, assessing features such as the accuracy of the GPS tracking, the detailedness of the post-run data collection and analysis, and the watches’ design and comfort. Our aim was to find the picks that can help you become a smarter, stronger, more confident runner.  
The Tests While researching watches to test, we looked at the most popular watches for sale in a variety of price ranges. We also consulted fitness publications to see what their editors considered the best of the best. We narrowed it down to a handful of watches that fit the lifestyles of everyone from run-walker to Boston Marathon qualifier. When testing, we looked at basic setup factors at first. We examined how easy it was to sync each watch with a smartphone and any corresponding apps, and navigated through the various menus on the watches themselves to assess how easy it was to find settings and info.

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We tested many of the watches on the same 5-mile loop and did a track workout with each one. We also used them during treadmill classes, during yoga and spin class, while swimming laps, and during at least four different races. During our runs, we looked at how quickly the watch acquired a GPS signal, how easy it was to see stats while running, how accurate the GPS and heart rate tracking appeared to be, and how easy it was to navigate the watch for data before and during a run. After every workout, we checked the data on both the watch and the app to confirm accuracy and to see what it was like to navigate information on each of them. Throughout, we considered factors like comfort, aesthetics, water resistance, and durability. What You Should Know About Running Watches What’s the Difference Between Running Watches and Fitness Trackers? A GPS running watch is the next level up from a fitness tracker if you are—or decide you want to become—a more dedicated runner. While a fitness tracker tracks things like steps taken, calories burned, and heart rate, a GPS watch does all that and more—albeit typically in a larger package.

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Both running watches and fitness trackers have increasingly similar features, in that you’ll find GPS for mapping outdoor activities as well as sensors to track everyday activity and sleep within both. However, some differences exist with regard to how a runner might use a watch vis a vis how an everyday active person uses a fitness tracker. Running watches usually have larger screens for faster at-a-glance data during a run, with LED or at least anti-reflective displays, so they’re easier to read in direct sunlight. They also typically operate with buttons around the edges rather than touch screens, as runners don’t trust themselves (or their sleeves) from accidentally stopping or pausing a run. In a practical sense, a button offers more precision for starting, stopping, or adding a lap when fractions of a second count. Running watches often tend to look more “athletic” than fitness trackers, which people often want to be less conspicuous, both in looks and in comfort so they can be worn to collect sleep data.

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Both may include smartwatch features, such as phone notifications, but if you want something that’s basically like wearing your phone on your wrist, you’ll want to consider a smartwatch. These have all the aforementioned features of a fitness tracker and possibly of a running watch, but their touchscreens—as well as lack of truly dedicated running features—make them less of an ideal choice for running. Nearly all these wearables offer heart rate tracking, but with the same caveat across the board: Though it’s great for an estimate, it’s tough to get accurate realtime results from a wrist-worn monitor. If you want more exact numbers, you’ll need a chest strap monitor. — Other Running Watches We Tested Garmin Forerunner 245 Music The previous iteration of our best overall, the Forerunner 245, offers many of the same features, including training load monitoring, an easy-to-read display, and heart rate and activity monitoring. If you can get it on sale, it’s a solid pick that offers up to 24 hours of GPS tracking and 7 days in smartwatch mode on one charge. By forgoing the 255, you’ll miss out on high-end extras like the morning training report and the suggested workouts as well as elevation details, as the 245 lacks a barometric altimeter. That said, the 245 has a leg or two up on the Forerunner 55, our Best Value pick, including data related to your training status and the effectiveness of your runs. The 245 only comes in one size—roughly the same as the 55 and halfway between the 255S and 255—and comes with optional music storage for an additional $50. Pros Comfortable Large display On-board music option available Cons No barometric altimeter for elevation data $228.86 from Amazon $319.99 from Best Buy $349.99 from Target $349.99 from Walmart

Suunto 9 Baro Triathletes and serious runners who want an influx of data about all of their workouts will love the Suunto 9 Baro. It is very straightforward to set up, and the combination of buttons on the side of the watch and a touch screen allows you to easily scroll through data regardless of whether you’re sitting at home or out on a tough run. During a workout, the large numbers showing pace, time, and distance are easy to make out, no matter how quickly you’re running. It also has settings to track multiple workouts, so when you’re cross training, you can still get stats about your other workouts. Like many other watches we tested, you can individually track a swim, bike ride, or run. However, if you’re competing in a triathlon, you can also switch to the triathlon setting to track all three in one event. That said, the Suunto 9 Baro is absolutely gigantic—its face measures 50mm across (nearly 2 inches), and feels significantly larger than our Best Overall Garmin. It’s built like a tank and feels indestructible, which is great for when you’re working out. However, this made it wildly uncomfortable when we tried to wear it everyday. We had a handful of people around the lab try on the Suunto 9 Baro during testing and all of them had the same shocked reaction over how large this watch truly is. If you’re looking for something sleek and discreet, this is not the watch for you. Pros Large, easy to see touchscreen Data at a glance while running Built like a tank Cons Absolutely massive Uncomfortable to wear for long periods of time $468.49 from Amazon $599.00 from Eastern Mountain Sports $499.00 from Walmart   
  
 Polar Pacer Like other Polar watches we’ve tested in the past, setting up the Pacer was pretty intuitive, minus its slow syncing with the app. Though it’s not on par with Garmin in terms of easy setup, the Pacer itself offers one of the easiest watch interfaces to navigate. It offers a ton of data, which could be overwhelming, but it’s presented in a way that’s clear and easy to digest. It was easy to look at the stats you might care about the most (such as workout tracking, heart rate, and route navigation), and disregard those you might not care about (like performance tests and running power). The Polar app is one of the best apps out there, giving you plenty of information in a more navigable way than Garmin’s more cluttered app interface. The watch face is on the slightly larger side—it has a 45mm diameter (about 1.75 inches), a touch smaller than the Garmin Forerunner 255 but nowhere near as massive as the Suunto 9. Bonus for those with larger wrists: The Polar Pacer comes with a 20mm wide silicone band that’s already plenty long but can be lengthened further with extensions. Runners with extra-small wrists will have an excessive amount of watch band to deal with, but despite that, wearing it throughout the day and into an evening run proved comfortable, easy, and irritation-free. While this may seem like a minor inconvenience to some, the layout of the buttons on this watch was a major source of frustration for our tester. There are three buttons on the right side, and two on the left (as compared to two and two on many other watches)—and “pause” is a different button than “stop” and than “start/resume.” Most watches—including the Garmins—start, pause, and stop using the same button. Because the Polar’s aren’t clearly labeled and they are flush to the sides of the watch, she often pressed the wrong button during her runs, ending her workout instead of merely pausing it. That said, if the Polar were your only watch, you’d probably get used to it quickly enough. Like many other running watches, the Pacer tracks multiple workouts and has music streaming capability. Avid runners will love the prompts for fitness tests that will help you earn a new PR or keep you race-ready, which include basic running or walking tests that measure your VO2max, the best way to illustrate your aerobic fitness. Pros Music streaming capability Great app functionality Tracks multiple workouts Cons Awkward button placement Not ideal for runners with small wrists $184.32 from Amazon $349.99 from Best Buy $349.99 from Target $349.99 from Abt   
  
 Coros Apex (42mm) The Coros Apex watch is by far one of the easiest watches to set up. All you have to do is download the app, scan the code that appears on the watch and, boom! Your watch and phone are synced. This was one of our testers’ favorite watches for track workouts during the testing process, as she could easily set intervals and rest time on the watch without having to design the workout in the app first. Also great: When you hit pause at a crosswalk or on a break, you can easily scroll through your current in-activity stats to select what you want to see—as opposed to other watches that don’t allow you to control the watch when it’s paused. Initially, the Apex had a tough time accessing GPS: During runs, it would often beep and say “GPS acquired,” making our tester wonder when the GPS had been lost, or if distance was tracked accurately. Another downside: The only way to scroll through the watch interface is via a digital knob and a button. While reminiscent of the Apple Watch, this knob is much more sensitive to the touch. It takes some getting used to before you can comfortably scroll through the menus. The default data screens present a lot of information that is difficult to absorb while running. This might be fine during a casual run, but could be a dealbreaker on race day for those looking to PR. Like the Garmin Forerunner 255, it comes in two sizes, 42mm, which we tested, and 46mm (but the larger Coros costs more). Depending on bone structure and fashion preferences, most people could probably get away with wearing it as an everyday watch as well. Pros Easy to set up and use Metrics can be viewed while watch is paused Cons Unreliable GPS Default data screen is cluttered Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Polar Vantage M Despite a bumpy setup process, the Polar Vantage M is a decent watch for the serious runner or triathlete who wants data presented in a clear but detailed way. The screen’s font is large and easy to read, so our tester could immediately see her heart rate, time, distance, and pace. Although it has a sleek look, the fit of this watch is pretty bulky, especially underneath long sleeves and while wearing gloves. At 46mm across (1.8 inches), the watch face is just large enough that if you have a smaller bone structure, you probably wouldn’t want to wear it as an everyday watch. That said, the stopwatch and countdown setting makes it easy to use for a track workout, and the way the Vantage M buzzes on your wrist after your preferred distance means you’ll never miss your mile splits because you didn’t hear a beep. One of the more frustrating aspects of the Polar Vantage M is that you have to hit two different buttons to start a workout and stop it: Our tester often found herself getting confused and hitting the wrong one. The buttons are also flush to the side of the watch, making them challenging to press. However, with a built-in triathlon setting and profiles for about 20 other sports, the Vantage M could be a boon for multisport athletes. Pros Data is easy to read Great for multisport athletes Cons Bulky Buttons can be awkward $223.71 from Amazon $295.50 from Walmart   
  
 Apple Watch Series 8 The Apple Watch Series 8 is the latest version of the best smartwatch you can buy, according to our testers. In addition to all the apps that basically work as extensions to an iPhone, it offers a number of health tracking features, including the ability to record runs. Like other running watches, it offers activity-specific data including segments, splits, and elevation, as well as heart rate and custom workouts. More advanced runners will appreciate info that could help you become a more efficient runner, like stride length and ground contact time. Workouts can be paused by pressing the side button and the digital crown, or by swiping left or right on the touchscreen and pressing pause. That said, most runners chafe at using a touchscreen to control their watch, even one like Apple’s that promises good reactivity even from sweaty fingers. For someone who runs occasionally or casually, the Apple Watch may do the trick for tracking the effort. However, the more dedicated runners who train for races and want features such as onboard workout plans may be happier with our top pick or any of the other watches on this list designed specifically for running. Pros Same outstanding quality Potentially life-saving crash detection QWERTY keyboard Cons Incremental upgrade Temperature sensor underutilized Ovulation predictions retrospective $389.00 from Amazon $399.00 from Best Buy $399.99 from Target $399.00 from Abt

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Whether you’re an experienced runner or just starting out, all you need to conquer your next run is a pair of running shoes and some pavement, a nearby track, trail, or treadmill. And while other gear might be helpful, the only accessory that has the potential to really enhance your workouts is a running watch.

We’ve spent months testing the most popular GPS watches and determined that the Garmin Forerunner 255 (available at Amazon) is the best running watch because of its compact, intuitive design, workout suggestions, and daily training reports, as well as the optional extra feature of music storage. If our top pick isn’t your cup of tea, don’t worry. We’ve got plenty of other options.

We selected the Garmin Forerunner 255 as our best overall running watch.

After our extensive hands-on tests, we’re confident that the Garmin Forerunner 255 is the best running watch for most runners. Like all Garmin products, the 255 and the smaller-but-otherwise-identical 255S is hands-down the easiest setup: All that’s required is downloading the app to your phone and syncing directions appear directly on the watch face, thanks to Bluetooth connectivity.

Before and during workouts, the watch is easy to navigate. Each of the five buttons is clearly labeled, so you never have to second-guess during a run whether you’re pausing or stopping your workout. You also don’t have to dig through too many screens to find the stats you care about. While running, your time, distance, and pace are prominently displayed. Should you decide you want more granular feedback, it’s easy to toggle through additional screens to view your heart rate, lap information, and the time of day you completed each workout.

A standout feature on this watch: When you choose “run” as your activity, it also gives you a suggested workout, pace, and distance and explains why it is recommending that particular workout. More often than not, because our tester was only testing this watch for a few weeks, she didn’t do the workout. However, on the occasions she tried it, she found it refreshing to follow a prescribed workout, especially for a specific pace and distance. The watch also explains why it recommends each workout, which was interesting to see. Also helpful: the ability to preload running routes and be notified along the way that you’re on the right track. The Forerunner 255 offers the ability to track all manner of other workouts, too, including the ability to map open-water swims, a feature not available in its predecessor, the 245. (However, triathletes won’t find a triathlon mode here; they’ll have to look to the pricier Forerunner 955 for that.)

The 255S, the version we tested, has a compact design with a 41mm face (about 1 inch in diameter) and a slim 18mm (0.7-inch) band, so it can easily double as an everyday watch if the style suits you. The silicone band is comfortable, neither too long nor too short, and doesn’t irritate sensitive skin, even when it gets too sweaty. If you opt for the larger 255, you’ll get a face size of 46mm (about 2 inches) for the same price. The battery lasts up to 12 days in smartwatch mode, minimizing the amount of time you need to charge. You’ll get up to 26 hours of GPS workout tracking on a single charge, too.

One downside: The GPS can be finicky. It often took minutes (rather than seconds) to acquire a signal—not ideal, especially at the start of a race. This happened frequently enough where our tester didn’t have the patience to wait for it to sync properly, and just started her runs without the GPS acquiring. On the other hand, there were a few times when the watch acquired a GPS signal in a matter of seconds. This inconsistency was especially surprising as we did our test runs on the same routes. It’s worth noting that our tester never carried her phone with her: Garmins, and most GPS watches in general, find satellites faster after being recently synced to a phone with GPS.

Like most running watches, the 255 and 255S track steps, sleep, and data for other types of workouts, such as bike rides and swims. Each morning, the watch screen displays a “morning report,” which outlines your sleep data, recovery time, and training status, and provides a suggested workout based on what you could strive for with your current level of fitness. This was a treat our tester looked forward to and it inspired her to get moving, as the data is informative, but not overwhelming to digest before you’ve had your coffee.

The 255 comes in eight colors and with the option to pay $50 more for music storage for up to 500 songs that you can listen to over Bluetooth earbuds (not included). Music controls can be accessed by pressing the down arrow on any screen, and can play songs downloaded to your phone via your computer, Spotify, or Amazon Music, as well as any run-specific playlists from your computer or phone that you’d like to sync to your watch. If you plan to listen to tunes during your next marathon, you can expect up to 6 hours of battery life from a full charge.

Intuitive to set up and use   
  
 Comfortable to wear   
  
 Packed with useful features   
  
 Sometimes finicky GPS

The Forerunner 55 does a great job with the basics any runner might want at their wrist.

Like most Garmin watches, using the Forerunner 55 is a straightforward process: The watch has clearly labeled buttons and a straightforward home screen, with all the vital information you might want at the touch of a button or two. This makes it a good option for runners who want a watch that provides easy-to-read basic data on their running and other workouts.

One of the best things about the Garmin Forerunner line, and this watch in particular, is how intuitive it is. You don’t have to dig through screens for any information. The most vital stats—mileage, pace, and heart rate—are easy to spot during your run, with a full recap that you can scroll through when you’re finished.

The Forerunner 55 provides up to two weeks on smartwatch mode and 20 hours of GPS tracking capabilities on a single charge, as compared to the 255’s 12 days and 26 hours. At 42mm (1.65 inches) in diameter, the watch is a hair larger than the 255S and half centimeter smaller than the 255, a good size to clearly display all the data without feeling bulky. The 20mm (0.8-inch) silicone wristband isn’t too wide to feel cuff-like, and most importantly, didn’t irritate our tester’s skin when sweat got under it during runs.

Some runners who prefer the 55’s simple interface and no-frills approach might be content to give up some higher-end features, most notably the barometric altimeter for more accurate measuring of elevation. But shelling out more for the 255, with or without music capability, gets you additional sensors designed to help you progress as a runner while avoiding overtraining, such as more advanced heart-rate and training effect metrics, and handy features like GPS turn-by-turn guidance for unfamiliar routes. You also don’t get the “morning report” capturing your holistic health or a detailed sleep report, like you would with the Forerunner 255.

Also, like other Garmins including our top pick, the GPS on the Forerunner 55 can be finicky. It often took minutes (rather than seconds) to acquire, though it’ll locate the satellites faster if you sync it to your location-enabled smartphone first.

That said, for an easy-to-use, wrist-worn way to track your runs, the 55 delivers a great value.

Interface is intuitive and easy to navigate   
  
 Tracks workouts other than running   
  
 Display screen is easy to read during runs   
  
 GPS can be slow to acquire

During my runs, I looked at how easy it was to see my stats in the middle of a run, how quickly the watch acquired GPS signal, how accurate the GPS tracking was, and how easy it was to navigate the watch for data before, during and after my run.

Reviewed’s casual and avid runners alike jumped at the chance to delve into what makes the latest batch of running watches worth your time. Our testers used the watches like any runner would, but went further. We filled out a detailed questionnaire about each watch, assessing features such as the accuracy of the GPS tracking, the detailedness of the post-run data collection and analysis, and the watches’ design and comfort. Our aim was to find the picks that can help you become a smarter, stronger, more confident runner.

While researching watches to test, we looked at the most popular watches for sale in a variety of price ranges. We also consulted fitness publications to see what their editors considered the best of the best. We narrowed it down to a handful of watches that fit the lifestyles of everyone from run-walker to Boston Marathon qualifier.

When testing, we looked at basic setup factors at first. We examined how easy it was to sync each watch with a smartphone and any corresponding apps, and navigated through the various menus on the watches themselves to assess how easy it was to find settings and info.

We tested many of the watches on the same 5-mile loop and did a track workout with each one. We also used them during treadmill classes, during yoga and spin class, while swimming laps, and during at least four different races.

During our runs, we looked at how quickly the watch acquired a GPS signal, how easy it was to see stats while running, how accurate the GPS and heart rate tracking appeared to be, and how easy it was to navigate the watch for data before and during a run. After every workout, we checked the data on both the watch and the app to confirm accuracy and to see what it was like to navigate information on each of them.

Throughout, we considered factors like comfort, aesthetics, water resistance, and durability.

A GPS running watch is the next level up from a fitness tracker if you are—or decide you want to become—a more dedicated runner. While a fitness tracker tracks things like steps taken, calories burned, and heart rate, a GPS watch does all that and more—albeit typically in a larger package.

Both running watches and fitness trackers have increasingly similar features, in that you’ll find GPS for mapping outdoor activities as well as sensors to track everyday activity and sleep within both. However, some differences exist with regard to how a runner might use a watch vis a vis how an everyday active person uses a fitness tracker.

Running watches usually have larger screens for faster at-a-glance data during a run, with LED or at least anti-reflective displays, so they’re easier to read in direct sunlight. They also typically operate with buttons around the edges rather than touch screens, as runners don’t trust themselves (or their sleeves) from accidentally stopping or pausing a run. In a practical sense, a button offers more precision for starting, stopping, or adding a lap when fractions of a second count.

Running watches often tend to look more “athletic” than fitness trackers, which people often want to be less conspicuous, both in looks and in comfort so they can be worn to collect sleep data.

Both may include smartwatch features, such as phone notifications, but if you want something that’s basically like wearing your phone on your wrist, you’ll want to consider a smartwatch. These have all the aforementioned features of a fitness tracker and possibly of a running watch, but their touchscreens—as well as lack of truly dedicated running features—make them less of an ideal choice for running.

Nearly all these wearables offer heart rate tracking, but with the same caveat across the board: Though it’s great for an estimate, it’s tough to get accurate realtime results from a wrist-worn monitor. If you want more exact numbers, you’ll need a chest strap monitor.

—

The previous iteration of our best overall, the Forerunner 245, offers many of the same features, including training load monitoring, an easy-to-read display, and heart rate and activity monitoring. If you can get it on sale, it’s a solid pick that offers up to 24 hours of GPS tracking and 7 days in smartwatch mode on one charge. By forgoing the 255, you’ll miss out on high-end extras like the morning training report and the suggested workouts as well as elevation details, as the 245 lacks a barometric altimeter. That said, the 245 has a leg or two up on the Forerunner 55, our Best Value pick, including data related to your training status and the effectiveness of your runs.

The 245 only comes in one size—roughly the same as the 55 and halfway between the 255S and 255—and comes with optional music storage for an additional $50.

Comfortable   
  
 Large display   
  
 On-board music option available   
  
 No barometric altimeter for elevation data

Triathletes and serious runners who want an influx of data about all of their workouts will love the Suunto 9 Baro. It is very straightforward to set up, and the combination of buttons on the side of the watch and a touch screen allows you to easily scroll through data regardless of whether you’re sitting at home or out on a tough run. During a workout, the large numbers showing pace, time, and distance are easy to make out, no matter how quickly you’re running. It also has settings to track multiple workouts, so when you’re cross training, you can still get stats about your other workouts. Like many other watches we tested, you can individually track a swim, bike ride, or run. However, if you’re competing in a triathlon, you can also switch to the triathlon setting to track all three in one event.

That said, the Suunto 9 Baro is absolutely gigantic—its face measures 50mm across (nearly 2 inches), and feels significantly larger than our Best Overall Garmin. It’s built like a tank and feels indestructible, which is great for when you’re working out. However, this made it wildly uncomfortable when we tried to wear it everyday. We had a handful of people around the lab try on the Suunto 9 Baro during testing and all of them had the same shocked reaction over how large this watch truly is. If you’re looking for something sleek and discreet, this is not the watch for you.

Large, easy to see touchscreen   
  
 Data at a glance while running   
  
 Built like a tank   
  
 Absolutely massive   
  
 Uncomfortable to wear for long periods of time

Like other Polar watches we’ve tested in the past, setting up the Pacer was pretty intuitive, minus its slow syncing with the app. Though it’s not on par with Garmin in terms of easy setup, the Pacer itself offers one of the easiest watch interfaces to navigate. It offers a ton of data, which could be overwhelming, but it’s presented in a way that’s clear and easy to digest. It was easy to look at the stats you might care about the most (such as workout tracking, heart rate, and route navigation), and disregard those you might not care about (like performance tests and running power). The Polar app is one of the best apps out there, giving you plenty of information in a more navigable way than Garmin’s more cluttered app interface.

The watch face is on the slightly larger side—it has a 45mm diameter (about 1.75 inches), a touch smaller than the Garmin Forerunner 255 but nowhere near as massive as the Suunto 9. Bonus for those with larger wrists: The Polar Pacer comes with a 20mm wide silicone band that’s already plenty long but can be lengthened further with extensions. Runners with extra-small wrists will have an excessive amount of watch band to deal with, but despite that, wearing it throughout the day and into an evening run proved comfortable, easy, and irritation-free.

While this may seem like a minor inconvenience to some, the layout of the buttons on this watch was a major source of frustration for our tester. There are three buttons on the right side, and two on the left (as compared to two and two on many other watches)—and “pause” is a different button than “stop” and than “start/resume.” Most watches—including the Garmins—start, pause, and stop using the same button. Because the Polar’s aren’t clearly labeled and they are flush to the sides of the watch, she often pressed the wrong button during her runs, ending her workout instead of merely pausing it. That said, if the Polar were your only watch, you’d probably get used to it quickly enough.

Like many other running watches, the Pacer tracks multiple workouts and has music streaming capability. Avid runners will love the prompts for fitness tests that will help you earn a new PR or keep you race-ready, which include basic running or walking tests that measure your VO2max, the best way to illustrate your aerobic fitness.

Music streaming capability   
  
 Great app functionality   
  
 Tracks multiple workouts   
  
 Awkward button placement   
  
 Not ideal for runners with small wrists

The Coros Apex watch is by far one of the easiest watches to set up. All you have to do is download the app, scan the code that appears on the watch and, boom! Your watch and phone are synced. This was one of our testers’ favorite watches for track workouts during the testing process, as she could easily set intervals and rest time on the watch without having to design the workout in the app first.

Also great: When you hit pause at a crosswalk or on a break, you can easily scroll through your current in-activity stats to select what you want to see—as opposed to other watches that don’t allow you to control the watch when it’s paused.

Initially, the Apex had a tough time accessing GPS: During runs, it would often beep and say “GPS acquired,” making our tester wonder when the GPS had been lost, or if distance was tracked accurately. Another downside: The only way to scroll through the watch interface is via a digital knob and a button. While reminiscent of the Apple Watch, this knob is much more sensitive to the touch. It takes some getting used to before you can comfortably scroll through the menus. The default data screens present a lot of information that is difficult to absorb while running. This might be fine during a casual run, but could be a dealbreaker on race day for those looking to PR.

Like the Garmin Forerunner 255, it comes in two sizes, 42mm, which we tested, and 46mm (but the larger Coros costs more). Depending on bone structure and fashion preferences, most people could probably get away with wearing it as an everyday watch as well.

Easy to set up and use   
  
 Metrics can be viewed while watch is paused   
  
 Unreliable GPS   
  
 Default data screen is cluttered

Despite a bumpy setup process, the Polar Vantage M is a decent watch for the serious runner or triathlete who wants data presented in a clear but detailed way. The screen’s font is large and easy to read, so our tester could immediately see her heart rate, time, distance, and pace.

Although it has a sleek look, the fit of this watch is pretty bulky, especially underneath long sleeves and while wearing gloves. At 46mm across (1.8 inches), the watch face is just large enough that if you have a smaller bone structure, you probably wouldn’t want to wear it as an everyday watch. That said, the stopwatch and countdown setting makes it easy to use for a track workout, and the way the Vantage M buzzes on your wrist after your preferred distance means you’ll never miss your mile splits because you didn’t hear a beep.

One of the more frustrating aspects of the Polar Vantage M is that you have to hit two different buttons to start a workout and stop it: Our tester often found herself getting confused and hitting the wrong one. The buttons are also flush to the side of the watch, making them challenging to press. However, with a built-in triathlon setting and profiles for about 20 other sports, the Vantage M could be a boon for multisport athletes.

Data is easy to read   
  
 Great for multisport athletes   
  
 Bulky   
  
 Buttons can be awkward

The Apple Watch Series 8 is the latest version of the best smartwatch you can buy, according to our testers. In addition to all the apps that basically work as extensions to an iPhone, it offers a number of health tracking features, including the ability to record runs.

Like other running watches, it offers activity-specific data including segments, splits, and elevation, as well as heart rate and custom workouts. More advanced runners will appreciate info that could help you become a more efficient runner, like stride length and ground contact time. Workouts can be paused by pressing the side button and the digital crown, or by swiping left or right on the touchscreen and pressing pause. That said, most runners chafe at using a touchscreen to control their watch, even one like Apple’s that promises good reactivity even from sweaty fingers.

For someone who runs occasionally or casually, the Apple Watch may do the trick for tracking the effort. However, the more dedicated runners who train for races and want features such as onboard workout plans may be happier with our top pick or any of the other watches on this list designed specifically for running.

Same outstanding quality   
  
 Potentially life-saving crash detection   
  
 QWERTY keyboard   
  
 Incremental upgrade   
  
 Temperature sensor underutilized   
  
 Ovulation predictions retrospective   
  
  
 Courtney Campbell  
   
  
  
 Contributing Writer

Courtney is an editor and shopper with a passion for finding the best things on the internet. She’s a foodie and will talk about the latest batch of kombucha she’s brewing to anyone who will listen. She has previously worked for Country Living, Woman’s Day, and Our State Magazine.

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Alison edits Reviewed’s health, fitness, sex, and wellness coverage, and occasionally writes about her favorite products. She’s also an avid runner and yoga enthusiast, and loves to cook and garden in her spare time.

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# The Best Galaxy Projectors of 2022

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The BlissLights projector has an adjustable brightness, which is nice if you have some light sensitivity, and has an auto shutoff after four hours.  
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 If you’re looking to upgrade your smart home, the Kapebow projector works with Amazon’s Alexa, an app on your phone, or the included remote control.  
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 This galaxy projector is remote operated with sixteen colors, five modes, and five brightness options, and has an additional eight white-noise sounds.  
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 With eight nebula effects accompanied by twinkling green stars, this projector offers an angled projection, letting you place it anywhere in the room.  
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Updated October 22, 2022

A great addition to any chill night or even a great light show to add to your next party, galaxy projectors are easy, inexpensive gadgets that transport you to another dimension with the click of a button. Great when paired with a sound machine for optimal relaxation in bed or in a bath, galaxy projectors are often used as an upgrade to the traditional night light and can level up any sleepover. Some galaxy projectors even have built-in speakers that are easily paired with your phone to play music or nighttime sounds, which makes them great for parties, too. After researching and sifting through thousands of reviews, we found the best galaxy projectors to show you the night sky, and they’re all available on Amazon.

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BlissLights Sky Lite The BlissLights Sky Lite is a small machine that’s easily stored but makes a big impression on people who don’t typically leave reviews. Inspired by its crisp moving stars and nebula clouds, people love this galaxy projector even despite the fact that it can’t be controlled remotely. The tilting base makes for easy setup in any room, and the projector’s capabilities offer blue or green color modes for the stars against a backdrop of blue nebula clouds, with or without stars, clouds, or motion. Overall, people say that this galaxy projector is pretty quiet, but some do report on the machine getting noisy after using it for a short time, so that could be annoying if you receive a glitchy product. The BlissLights galaxy projector has an adjustable brightness of the LED lights, which is nice if you have some light sensitivity, and has an auto shutoff after four hours, so you don’t have to worry about it running all night. While this is a straightforward galaxy projector, the buttons are on the side of the unit and can easily be hit when moving the machine. BlissLights actually has an entire product line of light projectors, whether you’re looking to enjoy a starry sky or some chill mood lighting, and even has their own smart app to control the projectors from your phone. Pros Auto shutoff Quiet Cons Easy to accidentally hit buttons No remote Buy now at Amazon

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Kapebow Star Projector Galaxy If you’re looking for an addition to your smart home, the Kapebow galaxy projector is a great pick, as it easily pairs to work alongside Amazon’s Alexa for voice control, an app on your phone, or the included remote control. There are no complaints with the coverage of this star machine and set up is a breeze. Once you’ve set up your projector, you have the choice of four colors, ten lighting effects, and four dimming options to create the perfect space. The built-in speaker can be used with a USB cable and wall plug or Bluetooth to play your favorite sounds or songs. The speakers aren’t very loud so we would use this for low-key use instead of for parties, unless you play music separately. Like some other galaxy projectors, this projector has the option for a one- or two-hour auto shutoff. One thing that people really don’t like about this galaxy projector is that turn-off announcements are stated loudly in a female voice that is unable to be disabled. It may also disrupt your sleep. Pros Works with Alexa Easy setup Cons Loud announcements So-so speakers Buy now at Amazon

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Rossetta Galaxy Projector Another galaxy projector with a lot of options, the Rossetta galaxy star projector is a great gift for anyone. Different base colors make it easy to camouflage your machine into any space, making for a more seamless experience. This galaxy projector is remote operated with sixteen colors, five modes, and five brightness options, and has an additional eight white-noise sounds, which can be set to a one or two hour timer. Five brightness settings also make for a fun experience, whether you’re partying or relaxing. Auto shutoff makes sure that your projector turns off after four hours. People love this galaxy projector, but some wish that there was some leeway in where you could place it. Despite the five-foot cord, it can be a little annoying having it right in the middle of the room. Pros Remote operated Lots of features Cons Must be placed in the middle of the room Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Seianders Aurora Lights Star Projector The Seianders galaxy projector is a little different from some others in that it has a projected moon along with the aurora and star features. While the moon might be a little cheesy for some, kids seem to like it. Plus, it has a remote control for all of the available functions, such as timing, light color, brightness, mode, and sound from its Bluetooth speaker. Still, the speaker may not be the best, especially since some address issues in their reviews. Dimmable with thirteen colors, we like the option for lots of different settings, but some find the green stars to be a little out of place and would prefer something more natural looking. While this might be a user issue, one person mentions that the stars dim on and off and they can’t seem to find a way to get them to stay on constantly. This projector would be great for big rooms as it has a large projection capability. Pros Dimmable Remote operated Multiple timer options Cons Bluetooth issues Buy now at Amazon

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Astronaut Space Buddy Projector With a total of eight nebula effects accompanied by twinkling green stars, this little projector offers an angled projection, letting you place it anywhere in the room for a stellar show. The projector includes a remote control to easily choose your desired effect, as well as an optional timer of 45 or 90 minutes so you won’t have to worry about drifting off and leaving your little buddy on all night long. This adorable space projector is a great gift for anyone who has an affinity for space or a good time. It often goes on sale during Prime Day deals. With lots of high ratings, you’ll be hard pressed to find someone who isn’t a fan of the Space Buddy. With the exception of being top heavy, there aren’t many complaints about this projector. Another thing that is definitely a preference is that the stars only come in the green option, which for most shouldn’t be a problem. Pros Remote control Adjustable angled projection Cons A bit top heavy Green stars Buy now at Amazon

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A great addition to any chill night or even a great light show to add to your next party, galaxy projectors are easy, inexpensive gadgets that transport you to another dimension with the click of a button.

Great when paired with a sound machine for optimal relaxation in bed or in a bath, galaxy projectors are often used as an upgrade to the traditional night light and can level up any sleepover. Some galaxy projectors even have built-in speakers that are easily paired with your phone to play music or nighttime sounds, which makes them great for parties, too.

After researching and sifting through thousands of reviews, we found the best galaxy projectors to show you the night sky, and they’re all available on Amazon.

The BlissLights Sky Lite is a small machine that’s easily stored but makes a big impression on people who don’t typically leave reviews. Inspired by its crisp moving stars and nebula clouds, people love this galaxy projector even despite the fact that it can’t be controlled remotely. The tilting base makes for easy setup in any room, and the projector’s capabilities offer blue or green color modes for the stars against a backdrop of blue nebula clouds, with or without stars, clouds, or motion.

Overall, people say that this galaxy projector is pretty quiet, but some do report on the machine getting noisy after using it for a short time, so that could be annoying if you receive a glitchy product.

The BlissLights galaxy projector has an adjustable brightness of the LED lights, which is nice if you have some light sensitivity, and has an auto shutoff after four hours, so you don’t have to worry about it running all night. While this is a straightforward galaxy projector, the buttons are on the side of the unit and can easily be hit when moving the machine.

BlissLights actually has an entire product line of light projectors, whether you’re looking to enjoy a starry sky or some chill mood lighting, and even has their own smart app to control the projectors from your phone.

Auto shutoff   
  
 Quiet   
  
 Easy to accidentally hit buttons   
  
 No remote

If you’re looking for an addition to your smart home, the Kapebow galaxy projector is a great pick, as it easily pairs to work alongside Amazon’s Alexa for voice control, an app on your phone, or the included remote control. There are no complaints with the coverage of this star machine and set up is a breeze.

Once you’ve set up your projector, you have the choice of four colors, ten lighting effects, and four dimming options to create the perfect space. The built-in speaker can be used with a USB cable and wall plug or Bluetooth to play your favorite sounds or songs. The speakers aren’t very loud so we would use this for low-key use instead of for parties, unless you play music separately. Like some other galaxy projectors, this projector has the option for a one- or two-hour auto shutoff.

One thing that people really don’t like about this galaxy projector is that turn-off announcements are stated loudly in a female voice that is unable to be disabled. It may also disrupt your sleep.

Works with Alexa   
  
 Easy setup   
  
 Loud announcements   
  
 So-so speakers

Another galaxy projector with a lot of options, the Rossetta galaxy star projector is a great gift for anyone. Different base colors make it easy to camouflage your machine into any space, making for a more seamless experience. This galaxy projector is remote operated with sixteen colors, five modes, and five brightness options, and has an additional eight white-noise sounds, which can be set to a one or two hour timer.

Five brightness settings also make for a fun experience, whether you’re partying or relaxing. Auto shutoff makes sure that your projector turns off after four hours. People love this galaxy projector, but some wish that there was some leeway in where you could place it. Despite the five-foot cord, it can be a little annoying having it right in the middle of the room.

Remote operated   
  
 Lots of features   
  
 Must be placed in the middle of the room

The Seianders galaxy projector is a little different from some others in that it has a projected moon along with the aurora and star features. While the moon might be a little cheesy for some, kids seem to like it. Plus, it has a remote control for all of the available functions, such as timing, light color, brightness, mode, and sound from its Bluetooth speaker. Still, the speaker may not be the best, especially since some address issues in their reviews.

Dimmable with thirteen colors, we like the option for lots of different settings, but some find the green stars to be a little out of place and would prefer something more natural looking. While this might be a user issue, one person mentions that the stars dim on and off and they can’t seem to find a way to get them to stay on constantly. This projector would be great for big rooms as it has a large projection capability.

Dimmable   
  
 Remote operated   
  
 Multiple timer options   
  
 Bluetooth issues

With a total of eight nebula effects accompanied by twinkling green stars, this little projector offers an angled projection, letting you place it anywhere in the room for a stellar show. The projector includes a remote control to easily choose your desired effect, as well as an optional timer of 45 or 90 minutes so you won’t have to worry about drifting off and leaving your little buddy on all night long.

This adorable space projector is a great gift for anyone who has an affinity for space or a good time. It often goes on sale during Prime Day deals. With lots of high ratings, you’ll be hard pressed to find someone who isn’t a fan of the Space Buddy.

With the exception of being top heavy, there aren’t many complaints about this projector. Another thing that is definitely a preference is that the stars only come in the green option, which for most shouldn’t be a problem.

Remote control   
  
 Adjustable angled projection   
  
 A bit top heavy   
  
 Green stars   
  
  
 Ceara Perez-Murphy  
   
  
  
 Staff Writer, Search

Ceara Perez-Murphy is a staff writer at Reviewed.

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# The Best Stainless-Steel Skillets of 2022

## How to Clean a Stainless-Steel Skillet

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

This excellent performing stainless-steel skillet is deep and comes with a lid so it’s a great skillet for one-dish dinners. Plus, it’s easy to clean.  
  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This shiny skillet heats up evenly thanks to a thick disc of aluminum on the bottom. It’s a great choice for anyone with an electric smooth-top range as it makes good contact with the glass ceramic surface.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 For even cooking, this skillet is a great choice. However, you might not like the look of the short black handle and will have to work at keeping it clean.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Multitasking cooks will love that you don’t have to be vigilant about stirring when simmering and sautéing in this even heating skillet. But keeping it clean requires a lot of elbow grease.   
  
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 This beautiful and professional-looking skillet outperforms better-known brands for a lot less. To keep it looking good, however, be prepared to spend some time scrubbing.  
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Updated October 26, 2022

A stainless-steel skillet is a go-to kitchen workhorse, capable of cooking almost anything. Searing, braising, frying, sautéing, and making pan sauces—this pan can do it all. And if it’s durable, it should last a lifetime. Our best stainless-steel skillet is the Anolon Tri-Ply Clad Frying Pan. While All-Clad, our second best overall, still makes great skillets. Because your stainless-steel pan is likely to stick around for a while, it’s reasonable to wonder if it’s worthwhile to splurge on a spendy skillet (or even an entire stainless-steel cookware set). To find out, we chose the best stainless-steel pans from well-known cookware brands at a variety of price points and looked into their properties. While two skillets rose to the top of our ratings, there wasn’t a bad pan in the bunch. If you’re looking to spend even less, our best value is the Cuisinart Chef’s Classic Stainless Skillet with Helper Handle (available at Amazon), which has incredibly even heat distribution.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser After our most recent round of testing, the Anolon Tri-Ply Clad Frying Pan with Lid is the best stainless-steel pan you can buy.

Best Overall Anolon Tri-Ply Clad Frying Pan with Lid Our top pick for a stainless-steel skillet is the Anolon Tri-Ply Clad 12.75-Inch Frying Pan With Lid. First, it aced all our cooking tests, browning evenly and keeping tomato sauce at an absolute constant temperature with no stirring required. Thanks to a high flared side, we found it particularly easy to flip mushrooms by pulling back on the handle the way the pros do and to get around the edge with a whisk to make pan gravy. It should also make it effortless to turn out a frittata. Of all the skillets we worked with, the Anolon is the deepest, plus it includes a lid. That makes it a great choice for chili, pot roast, or meatballs in tomato sauce. The pan handle stays cool to the touch but you will need a pot holder to lift the lid. We only wish there was a helper handle to make it easier to lift when chock full of hot food. One of the things we like best about this skillet—especially compared to others on this list—is it’s relatively easy to clean and restore to a like-new condition, even after searing a spattering steak. It can also go from stovetop to the oven—up to 500°F—to brown off that frittata. While burnt-on spatters may need detailed work, this skillet is dishwasher safe, too. Pros Heats evenly Excellent at simmering Handle stays cool to the touch Easy to clean Oven safe Cons No helper handle $99.99 from Amazon $99.99 from Walmart

ADVERTISEMENT

Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The Cuisinart Chef’s Classic Stainless Skillet with Helper Handle is our best value pick thanks to its great performance at a reasonable price.

Best Value Cuisinart Chef’s Classic Stainless Cookware Skillet with Helper Handle For the money, you can’t beat the Cuisinart Chef’s Classic Stainless Skillet with Helper Handle. It was the only skillet among our test group with a disc bottom and because of that, it was the only one that browned food perfectly evenly. If you have an electric or induction range or cooktop with a smooth glass ceramic cooking surface, this skillet is an excellent choice as the disc will make good contact with the glass. With a wide bottom, this pan also provides lots of room for browning off beef cubes for stew or frying eggs. One thing to note is that the sides are straighter than on some skillets, but we were still able to flip mushrooms like a chef and found it exceptionally easy to get around the edge with a whisk to make pan gravy. You’ll notice that the Cuisinart has a gleaming surface and it cleaned up easily and kept its shine. Unlike other skillets we tested, this pan has a helper handle which is exceptionally convenient when it’s filled with a saucy dish like chicken cacciatore and you need to use two hands to move it from the stove to the countertop or to the table. While the long skillet handle stays cool enough to use without protection, you will need a pot holder for the small one. You can pop this pan in the oven up to a temperature of 500°F which means it’s a great choice to crisp up a crumb topping on skillet mac ’n cheese. Like many companies, Cuisinart says its pan is dishwasher safe, but suggests hand washing. Pros Browns perfectly evenly Excellent at searing Includes helper handle Oven and dishwasher safe Cons Only moderate at keeping a steady simmer Buy now at Amazon $54.95 from Abt $54.95 from QVC $54.95 from Walmart

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KitchenAid Stainless-Steel 5-Ply Clad Fry Pan You’ll be able to depend on the reasonably priced KitchenAid Stainless Steel 5-Ply Clad Fry Pan for excellent performance whether you’re simmering a marinara sauce or searing a sirloin. But keep in mind that this skillet is not as deep as some so you might not be able to make enough sauce or chili for a big crowd. The KitchenAid, has five layers of ply construction and is oven safe up to a temperature of 500°F which means you can start your salmon off on the stovetop to crisp the skin on the bottom and then transfer it to the oven to finish cooking. Even after a long simmer on the stovetop, the handle stays cool enough to handle without an oven mitt. This skillet is unreservedly safe for dishwasher cleaning but as on many, we did have to do a lot of scrubbing by hand and weren’t successful at completely removing fatty spatter marks. We have one big pet peeve about this pan. The handle is made of black stainless steel and is also short and narrow. Although it’s easy to use, the color is much less attractive than shiny stainless steel and the size makes it look out of proportion. If how your cookware looks is a priority, you might want to choose another skillet. Pros Heats evenly Excellent at searing Simmers well Cool handle Oven, induction, and dishwasher safe Cons Black stainless-steel handle detracts from appearance Hard to get completely clean Buy now at Amazon $99.99 from Target $180.00 from JCPenney $99.95 from Walmart

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Le Creuset Stainless-Steel Fry Pan For its ability to keep tomato sauce at a perfect simmer and brown onions evenly with minimal stirring, the 12-Inch Le Creuset Stainless Steel Fry Pan rose high in our ratings. Its classic shape with a flared side made it easy to toss mushrooms by pulling back on the handle. The rounded handle is very comfortable to hold and doesn’t get hot on the stovetop. You can use the Le Creuset in the oven to a temperature of 500°F and place it in the dishwasher to clean. However, we found it stained badly and even after a lot of soaking and scrubbing, we weren’t able to get it looking like new. Pros Excellent at simmering Heats evenly and sears well Handle stays cool to the touch Oven, induction, and dishwasher safe Cons Difficult to clean $189.95 from Amazon $189.95 from Abt $189.95 from Wayfair   
  
 Made In Stainless Clad Frying Pan We love the classic good looks of the Made In Stainless Clad Frying Pan, a 5-ply clad skillet with a brushed stainless steel handle. It will only set you back about half the price of more well-established brands, yet beats or matches them for performance. The only caveat is that you have to purchase it directly from the company's website. Although weighty at over 3 pounds, this skillet heats up relatively quickly. A strip steak came out perfectly browned outside and evenly pink inside. Tomato sauce simmered steadily without stirring. Keep in mind that the bottom of the skillet is only 9 inches in diameter and the height just 1 ¾ inches so you don’t have a ton of room for a one-dish dinner. The Made In is oven safe up to a whopping 800°F so you can easily run it under the broiler to brown off biscuits on a stovetop cobbler. You can go ahead and simmer in it for an hour and still lift the handle without a mitt. Cleaning it up took a bit of effort and some small spots remained. No use and care instructions are included with the skillet. You have to visit the website and dig a bit for complete information. Pros Excellent searing Simmers well Handle stays cool to the touch Oven and dishwasher safe Cons Difficult to clean Doesn't come with care information Buy now at Made In

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Misen Stainless Skillet The Misen Stainless Skillet is made in the U.S.A. of three layers of metal—all-aluminum—sandwiched between stainless steel. While it has all the attributes of highly touted pans from well-known brands, it’s only about half the price. The 12-inch skillet is exceptionally handsome with a commercial look. With its nice wide interior surface, it offers a lot of room for cooking pork chops without crowding and a gently flared side that makes it easy to slip a spatula under those chops for serving. Of all the pans we tested, it’s the heaviest, weighing in at over 3 ½ pounds. This makes it slow to heat up but also results in even cooking for sautéing onions, pan frying burgers, or simmering a sauce. You can use the Misen in the oven up to 500°F which makes it perfect for a Dutch baby pancake. Even after a long simmer on the stovetop, the handle stays cool enough to touch without protection. We found it relatively easy to clean by hand and it is dishwasher safe. Minimal information about using and caring for the skillet comes with it and what there is, is on the packaging. You can learn more about the skillet by visiting the company’s website. Pros Heats evenly Simmers and sears well Oven safe to 800°F ·Dishwasher safe Dishwasher and Induction safe Cons Not widely available Buy now at Misen

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Hestan ProBond Clad Professional Stainless-Steel Skillet While the Hestan ProBond Professional is the priciest skillet we tested, it’s beautifully designed. It has a high angled handle that makes it comfortable to flip vegetables, turn out a large omelet, or pour out sauces in spite of the fact that the pan weighs close to 3 ½ pounds. Even though it’s heavy, the 12.5-inch Hestan is not slow to heat up. On the bottom, there’s plenty of room for browning off beef for a Bolognese. It sears beautifully but was only average at holding sauce at a steady temperature. As it can go into the oven up to 600°F, you can run pan-fried burgers under the broiler to melt on cheese. You’ll never need a pot holder to hold the handle when you cook on the stovetop. The rivets are flush with the side of the skillet on the inside so nothing collects around them and they don’t interfere with cleaning. However, to get the surfaces looking pristine, you’ll need an application of Bar Keepers Friend. Pros Heats evenly and sears well Handle stays cool Oven safe to 600°F Induction and Dishwasher safe Cons Only moderate at keeping a steady simmer Difficult to clean $250.00 from Amazon $250.00 from Abt $149.95 from Sur La Table   
  
 Tramontina Tri-Ply Clad Stainless-Steel Fry Pan with Helper Handle If price is your number one consideration, you can’t go wrong with the Tramontina. It kept sauce simmering at an even temperature and seared a steak beautifully. However, it doesn’t have a perfectly even heating pattern, so you’ll have to be sure to stir your vegetables and rearrange your burgers while you’re cooking. This skillet has wide sloping sides, which make it easy to stir with a wooden spoon, flip with a spatula, and whisk a pan gravy. You’ll find the bottom surface is not as wide as on some skillets so if you’re making flapjacks, fewer will fit in at once. The Tramontina is easy to maneuver thanks to its light weight and it has a comfy handle that stays cool during long stovetop simmers. It’s safe in the oven to a temperature of 500°F and can be placed in the dishwasher. After our tests, we had to spend a considerable amount of time trying to get it clean, and some stains still remained. Pros Simmers well Excellent at searing Handle stays cool to the touch Oven, dishwasher, and induction safe Cons Only moderate at heating evenly Difficult to clean Buy now at Amazon $82.54 from Walmart   
  
 All-Clad D5 Stainless Brushed 5-Ply Bonded Fry Pan Editor's Note All-Clad’s D3, D5, and LTD Cookware is involved in a lawsuit that alleges the brand advertised the cookware as being “dishwasher safe,” but, when cleaned in the dishwasher, it developed sharp edges along the rim in several cases. All-Clad and Groupe SEB deny these allegations, but we recommend hand-washing this cookware. The 12-inch All-Clad D5 Stainless Brushed 5-ply Bonded Fry Pan is similar in design to the popular All-Clad D3. However, it has an aluminum core sandwiched between the stainless-steel surfaces which make it heavier and about a ¼ inch less deep. Because of its increased weight, this model heats up more slowly. In our tests, it seared a steak well but didn’t show a particularly even heat distribution pattern or a hold a steady simmer. When using it you will definitely need to stir regularly. The flared side of the pan makes it easy to toss veggies without a spoon and get around the edge with a whisk or spatula for stirring. This oven-safe skillet includes a handle that stays cool even after long stovetop cooking but a center groove and sharp sides make it uncomfortable to hold. This isn't the most difficult skillet to clean but like most stainless-steel skillets, you will have to work on cleaning it to get it looking spotless. Pros Excellent at searing Handle stays cool Oven safe to 600°F Induction and dishwasher safe Cons Only moderate at keeping a steady simmer Uncomfortable handle Difficult to clean $249.95 from Amazon $249.99 from Wayfair   
  
 All-Clad D3 Stainless 3-Ply Bonded Fry Pan The All-Clad D3 Stainless 3-ply Bonded Fry Pan is one of the best-looking pans out there and continues to perform well. But in our current round of testing, many pans that sell for a lot less bested its cooking performance and gave it a run for the money when it comes to style. At under 2 pounds, this was the lightest pan we tested and it heated up relatively quickly. However, it had trouble maintaining tomato sauce at a constant simmer and onions needed frequent stirring to caramelize evenly. All-Clad is safe in the oven up to 600°F. While the handle is evenly balanced and stays cool when used on the stovetop, it's not particularly comfortable to use because of its center groove and sharp sides. While we have washed this skillet safely in the dishwasher many times, we recommend hand-washing. To get off spatters and get it looking shiny, we had to spend some time scrubbing and polishing. Pros Heats evenly and sears well Handle stays cool Oven safe to 600°F Induction and dishwasher safe Cons Doesn't keep a steady simmer Difficult to clean Uncomfortable handle $249.95 from Amazon $249.99 from Wayfair $301.68 from Walmart

What to Know About Buying Stainless-Steel Skillets Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The simple stainless-still skillet is a kitchen workhorse. All good stainless-steel cookware, like the skillets featured here, have either an aluminum core or a disc of aluminum on the bottom to conduct heat. That’s because stainless steel is a poor conductor of heat and aluminum is an excellent one. Cookware with a core is called clad because it has inner layers of aluminum that are encased or clad in stainless steel. On clad pots and pans, the bottom and sides are more or less equally thick and heat is conducted from the bottom up the side. Disc-bottomed pots and pan have thin stainless-steel sides and sometimes, will scorch at the point where the disc meets the side. Stainless steel is used on the inside and outside of the cookware because it won’t interact with food. In addition, stainless steel makes the cookware less prone to denting, more attractive, and at least in theory, easier to clean. If you have, or are thinking of buying, an induction range or cooktop, stainless-steel pans are a top choice (although not all stainless works with induction, so double-check before purchasing). However, keep in mind that a skillet with a disc bottom will work better than a clad one as the disc’s perfectly flat bottom will make better contact with the glass ceramic surface of the cooktop. One of stainless steel’s advantages is that it can be used over high heat which makes it great for stir-frying and searing foods like steaks and burgers that you want to develop a dark brown crust. However, if you use oil or cook fatty foods that spatter, over medium to high heat, the oil can stick onto the pan, leaving a dark brown or even black residue that can take a significant amount of elbow grease to remove. For searing, one of our best cast iron skillets is a better choice. If you do choose to brown meats or poultry, don’t use a bigger skillet than you need to as the unfilled areas can develop gunky stains that are hard to get off. Plus, heat can lead to a brownish or rainbow-like discoloration on the outside of the skillet. How to Clean a Stainless-Steel Skillet Nothing beats Bar Keepers Friend for cleaning messy skillets. To remove seemingly impossible-to-get clean spots, make a paste with the cleaner and apply it to the skillet surface and let it sit several hours or even overnight. Almost all high-quality stainless-steel skillets have stainless steel handles that are attached with rivets, which keep the handles firmly in place. However, inevitably, residue collects around the rivets and it’s almost impossible to get it off completely. Although stainless-steel skillets can be cleaned in the dishwasher, most manufacturers recommend hand washing as they claim harsh ingredients in dishwasher detergent can leave them with white spots, discoloration, and/or a duller finish. We put all our test skillets through a dishwasher cycle and they came out gleaming, although not all burnt-on stains were removed. Stainless Steel vs. Nonstick Cookware Stainless steel cookware lasts longer than nonstick, which will eventually lose its nonstick properties and need to be replaced. However, unlike stainless steel, nonstick releases food easily and is very easy to clean. The best nonstick pans are also a low-cost investment for someone stocking a starter kitchen. When you’re shopping for nonstick cookware, keep in mind that there are two kinds of nonstick coatings. The first and most widely available types are made with PTFE (Teflon is the brand name for the most popular one); these pans have excellent nonstick properties but can’t be used over high heat. So-called ceramic nonstick finishes aren’t always as nonstick as PTFE coatings but they withstand higher temperatures. More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best Cookware Sets The Best Carbon Steel Pans The Best Works and Stir-Fry Pans The Best Nonstick Pans

A stainless-steel skillet is a go-to kitchen workhorse, capable of cooking almost anything. Searing, braising, frying, sautéing, and making pan sauces—this pan can do it all. And if it’s durable, it should last a lifetime. Our best stainless-steel skillet is the Anolon Tri-Ply Clad Frying Pan. While All-Clad, our second best overall, still makes great skillets.

Because your stainless-steel pan is likely to stick around for a while, it’s reasonable to wonder if it’s worthwhile to splurge on a spendy skillet (or even an entire stainless-steel cookware set). To find out, we chose the best stainless-steel pans from well-known cookware brands at a variety of price points and looked into their properties. While two skillets rose to the top of our ratings, there wasn’t a bad pan in the bunch. If you’re looking to spend even less, our best value is the Cuisinart Chef’s Classic Stainless Skillet with Helper Handle (available at Amazon), which has incredibly even heat distribution.

The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

After our most recent round of testing, the Anolon Tri-Ply Clad Frying Pan with Lid is the best stainless-steel pan you can buy.

Our top pick for a stainless-steel skillet is the Anolon Tri-Ply Clad 12.75-Inch Frying Pan With Lid. First, it aced all our cooking tests, browning evenly and keeping tomato sauce at an absolute constant temperature with no stirring required. Thanks to a high flared side, we found it particularly easy to flip mushrooms by pulling back on the handle the way the pros do and to get around the edge with a whisk to make pan gravy. It should also make it effortless to turn out a frittata.

Of all the skillets we worked with, the Anolon is the deepest, plus it includes a lid. That makes it a great choice for chili, pot roast, or meatballs in tomato sauce. The pan handle stays cool to the touch but you will need a pot holder to lift the lid. We only wish there was a helper handle to make it easier to lift when chock full of hot food.

One of the things we like best about this skillet—especially compared to others on this list—is it’s relatively easy to clean and restore to a like-new condition, even after searing a spattering steak. It can also go from stovetop to the oven—up to 500°F—to brown off that frittata. While burnt-on spatters may need detailed work, this skillet is dishwasher safe, too.

Heats evenly   
  
 Excellent at simmering   
  
 Handle stays cool to the touch   
  
 Easy to clean   
  
 Oven safe   
  
 No helper handle

The Cuisinart Chef’s Classic Stainless Skillet with Helper Handle is our best value pick thanks to its great performance at a reasonable price.

For the money, you can’t beat the Cuisinart Chef’s Classic Stainless Skillet with Helper Handle. It was the only skillet among our test group with a disc bottom and because of that, it was the only one that browned food perfectly evenly.

If you have an electric or induction range or cooktop with a smooth glass ceramic cooking surface, this skillet is an excellent choice as the disc will make good contact with the glass.

With a wide bottom, this pan also provides lots of room for browning off beef cubes for stew or frying eggs. One thing to note is that the sides are straighter than on some skillets, but we were still able to flip mushrooms like a chef and found it exceptionally easy to get around the edge with a whisk to make pan gravy.

You’ll notice that the Cuisinart has a gleaming surface and it cleaned up easily and kept its shine. Unlike other skillets we tested, this pan has a helper handle which is exceptionally convenient when it’s filled with a saucy dish like chicken cacciatore and you need to use two hands to move it from the stove to the countertop or to the table.

While the long skillet handle stays cool enough to use without protection, you will need a pot holder for the small one. You can pop this pan in the oven up to a temperature of 500°F which means it’s a great choice to crisp up a crumb topping on skillet mac ’n cheese. Like many companies, Cuisinart says its pan is dishwasher safe, but suggests hand washing.

Browns perfectly evenly   
  
 Excellent at searing   
  
 Includes helper handle   
  
 Oven and dishwasher safe   
  
 Only moderate at keeping a steady simmer

You’ll be able to depend on the reasonably priced KitchenAid Stainless Steel 5-Ply Clad Fry Pan for excellent performance whether you’re simmering a marinara sauce or searing a sirloin. But keep in mind that this skillet is not as deep as some so you might not be able to make enough sauce or chili for a big crowd.

The KitchenAid, has five layers of ply construction and is oven safe up to a temperature of 500°F which means you can start your salmon off on the stovetop to crisp the skin on the bottom and then transfer it to the oven to finish cooking. Even after a long simmer on the stovetop, the handle stays cool enough to handle without an oven mitt.

This skillet is unreservedly safe for dishwasher cleaning but as on many, we did have to do a lot of scrubbing by hand and weren’t successful at completely removing fatty spatter marks.

We have one big pet peeve about this pan. The handle is made of black stainless steel and is also short and narrow. Although it’s easy to use, the color is much less attractive than shiny stainless steel and the size makes it look out of proportion. If how your cookware looks is a priority, you might want to choose another skillet.

Heats evenly   
  
 Excellent at searing   
  
 Simmers well   
  
 Cool handle   
  
 Oven, induction, and dishwasher safe   
  
 Black stainless-steel handle detracts from appearance   
  
 Hard to get completely clean

For its ability to keep tomato sauce at a perfect simmer and brown onions evenly with minimal stirring, the 12-Inch Le Creuset Stainless Steel Fry Pan rose high in our ratings. Its classic shape with a flared side made it easy to toss mushrooms by pulling back on the handle.

The rounded handle is very comfortable to hold and doesn’t get hot on the stovetop. You can use the Le Creuset in the oven to a temperature of 500°F and place it in the dishwasher to clean. However, we found it stained badly and even after a lot of soaking and scrubbing, we weren’t able to get it looking like new.

Excellent at simmering   
  
 Heats evenly and sears well   
  
 Handle stays cool to the touch   
  
 Oven, induction, and dishwasher safe   
  
 Difficult to clean

We love the classic good looks of the Made In Stainless Clad Frying Pan, a 5-ply clad skillet with a brushed stainless steel handle. It will only set you back about half the price of more well-established brands, yet beats or matches them for performance. The only caveat is that you have to purchase it directly from the company’s website.

Although weighty at over 3 pounds, this skillet heats up relatively quickly. A strip steak came out perfectly browned outside and evenly pink inside. Tomato sauce simmered steadily without stirring. Keep in mind that the bottom of the skillet is only 9 inches in diameter and the height just 1 ¾ inches so you don’t have a ton of room for a one-dish dinner.

The Made In is oven safe up to a whopping 800°F so you can easily run it under the broiler to brown off biscuits on a stovetop cobbler. You can go ahead and simmer in it for an hour and still lift the handle without a mitt.

Cleaning it up took a bit of effort and some small spots remained. No use and care instructions are included with the skillet. You have to visit the website and dig a bit for complete information.

Excellent searing   
  
 Simmers well   
  
 Handle stays cool to the touch   
  
 Oven and dishwasher safe   
  
 Difficult to clean   
  
 Doesn't come with care information

The Misen Stainless Skillet is made in the U.S.A. of three layers of metal—all-aluminum—sandwiched between stainless steel. While it has all the attributes of highly touted pans from well-known brands, it’s only about half the price.

The 12-inch skillet is exceptionally handsome with a commercial look. With its nice wide interior surface, it offers a lot of room for cooking pork chops without crowding and a gently flared side that makes it easy to slip a spatula under those chops for serving. Of all the pans we tested, it’s the heaviest, weighing in at over 3 ½ pounds. This makes it slow to heat up but also results in even cooking for sautéing onions, pan frying burgers, or simmering a sauce.

You can use the Misen in the oven up to 500°F which makes it perfect for a Dutch baby pancake. Even after a long simmer on the stovetop, the handle stays cool enough to touch without protection. We found it relatively easy to clean by hand and it is dishwasher safe.

Minimal information about using and caring for the skillet comes with it and what there is, is on the packaging. You can learn more about the skillet by visiting the company’s website.

Heats evenly   
  
 Simmers and sears well   
  
 Oven safe to 800°F ·Dishwasher safe   
  
 Dishwasher and Induction safe   
  
 Not widely available

While the Hestan ProBond Professional is the priciest skillet we tested, it’s beautifully designed. It has a high angled handle that makes it comfortable to flip vegetables, turn out a large omelet, or pour out sauces in spite of the fact that the pan weighs close to 3 ½ pounds.

Even though it’s heavy, the 12.5-inch Hestan is not slow to heat up. On the bottom, there’s plenty of room for browning off beef for a Bolognese. It sears beautifully but was only average at holding sauce at a steady temperature.

As it can go into the oven up to 600°F, you can run pan-fried burgers under the broiler to melt on cheese. You’ll never need a pot holder to hold the handle when you cook on the stovetop. The rivets are flush with the side of the skillet on the inside so nothing collects around them and they don’t interfere with cleaning. However, to get the surfaces looking pristine, you’ll need an application of Bar Keepers Friend.

Heats evenly and sears well   
  
 Handle stays cool   
  
 Oven safe to 600°F   
  
 Induction and Dishwasher safe   
  
 Only moderate at keeping a steady simmer   
  
 Difficult to clean

If price is your number one consideration, you can’t go wrong with the Tramontina. It kept sauce simmering at an even temperature and seared a steak beautifully. However, it doesn’t have a perfectly even heating pattern, so you’ll have to be sure to stir your vegetables and rearrange your burgers while you’re cooking.

This skillet has wide sloping sides, which make it easy to stir with a wooden spoon, flip with a spatula, and whisk a pan gravy. You’ll find the bottom surface is not as wide as on some skillets so if you’re making flapjacks, fewer will fit in at once.

The Tramontina is easy to maneuver thanks to its light weight and it has a comfy handle that stays cool during long stovetop simmers. It’s safe in the oven to a temperature of 500°F and can be placed in the dishwasher. After our tests, we had to spend a considerable amount of time trying to get it clean, and some stains still remained.

Simmers well   
  
 Excellent at searing   
  
 Handle stays cool to the touch   
  
 Oven, dishwasher, and induction safe   
  
 Only moderate at heating evenly   
  
 Difficult to clean

All-Clad’s D3, D5, and LTD Cookware is involved in a lawsuit that alleges the brand advertised the cookware as being “dishwasher safe,” but, when cleaned in the dishwasher, it developed sharp edges along the rim in several cases. All-Clad and Groupe SEB deny these allegations, but we recommend hand-washing this cookware.

The 12-inch All-Clad D5 Stainless Brushed 5-ply Bonded Fry Pan is similar in design to the popular All-Clad D3. However, it has an aluminum core sandwiched between the stainless-steel surfaces which make it heavier and about a ¼ inch less deep. Because of its increased weight, this model heats up more slowly.

In our tests, it seared a steak well but didn’t show a particularly even heat distribution pattern or a hold a steady simmer. When using it you will definitely need to stir regularly. The flared side of the pan makes it easy to toss veggies without a spoon and get around the edge with a whisk or spatula for stirring.

This oven-safe skillet includes a handle that stays cool even after long stovetop cooking but a center groove and sharp sides make it uncomfortable to hold.

This isn’t the most difficult skillet to clean but like most stainless-steel skillets, you will have to work on cleaning it to get it looking spotless.

Excellent at searing   
  
 Handle stays cool   
  
 Oven safe to 600°F   
  
 Induction and dishwasher safe   
  
 Only moderate at keeping a steady simmer   
  
 Uncomfortable handle   
  
 Difficult to clean

The All-Clad D3 Stainless 3-ply Bonded Fry Pan is one of the best-looking pans out there and continues to perform well. But in our current round of testing, many pans that sell for a lot less bested its cooking performance and gave it a run for the money when it comes to style.

At under 2 pounds, this was the lightest pan we tested and it heated up relatively quickly. However, it had trouble maintaining tomato sauce at a constant simmer and onions needed frequent stirring to caramelize evenly.

All-Clad is safe in the oven up to 600°F. While the handle is evenly balanced and stays cool when used on the stovetop, it’s not particularly comfortable to use because of its center groove and sharp sides.

While we have washed this skillet safely in the dishwasher many times, we recommend hand-washing. To get off spatters and get it looking shiny, we had to spend some time scrubbing and polishing.

Heats evenly and sears well   
  
 Handle stays cool   
  
 Oven safe to 600°F   
  
 Induction and dishwasher safe   
  
 Doesn't keep a steady simmer   
  
 Difficult to clean   
  
 Uncomfortable handle

The simple stainless-still skillet is a kitchen workhorse.

All good stainless-steel cookware, like the skillets featured here, have either an aluminum core or a disc of aluminum on the bottom to conduct heat. That’s because stainless steel is a poor conductor of heat and aluminum is an excellent one.

Cookware with a core is called clad because it has inner layers of aluminum that are encased or clad in stainless steel. On clad pots and pans, the bottom and sides are more or less equally thick and heat is conducted from the bottom up the side. Disc-bottomed pots and pan have thin stainless-steel sides and sometimes, will scorch at the point where the disc meets the side.

Stainless steel is used on the inside and outside of the cookware because it won’t interact with food. In addition, stainless steel makes the cookware less prone to denting, more attractive, and at least in theory, easier to clean.

If you have, or are thinking of buying, an induction range or cooktop, stainless-steel pans are a top choice (although not all stainless works with induction, so double-check before purchasing). However, keep in mind that a skillet with a disc bottom will work better than a clad one as the disc’s perfectly flat bottom will make better contact with the glass ceramic surface of the cooktop.

One of stainless steel’s advantages is that it can be used over high heat which makes it great for stir-frying and searing foods like steaks and burgers that you want to develop a dark brown crust. However, if you use oil or cook fatty foods that spatter, over medium to high heat, the oil can stick onto the pan, leaving a dark brown or even black residue that can take a significant amount of elbow grease to remove.

For searing, one of our best cast iron skillets is a better choice. If you do choose to brown meats or poultry, don’t use a bigger skillet than you need to as the unfilled areas can develop gunky stains that are hard to get off. Plus, heat can lead to a brownish or rainbow-like discoloration on the outside of the skillet.

Nothing beats Bar Keepers Friend for cleaning messy skillets. To remove seemingly impossible-to-get clean spots, make a paste with the cleaner and apply it to the skillet surface and let it sit several hours or even overnight.

Almost all high-quality stainless-steel skillets have stainless steel handles that are attached with rivets, which keep the handles firmly in place. However, inevitably, residue collects around the rivets and it’s almost impossible to get it off completely.

Although stainless-steel skillets can be cleaned in the dishwasher, most manufacturers recommend hand washing as they claim harsh ingredients in dishwasher detergent can leave them with white spots, discoloration, and/or a duller finish. We put all our test skillets through a dishwasher cycle and they came out gleaming, although not all burnt-on stains were removed.

Stainless steel cookware lasts longer than nonstick, which will eventually lose its nonstick properties and need to be replaced. However, unlike stainless steel, nonstick releases food easily and is very easy to clean.

The best nonstick pans are also a low-cost investment for someone stocking a starter kitchen. When you’re shopping for nonstick cookware, keep in mind that there are two kinds of nonstick coatings.

The first and most widely available types are made with PTFE (Teflon is the brand name for the most popular one); these pans have excellent nonstick properties but can’t be used over high heat. So-called ceramic nonstick finishes aren’t always as nonstick as PTFE coatings but they withstand higher temperatures.

Sharon Franke  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Sharon has been testing kitchen equipment for the past 30 years. Before becoming a cooking tools maven, she worked as a professional chef in New York City restaurants for seven years.

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# The Best Winter Boots For Men of 2022

## Warmth

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

The Kamik NationPlus Boot provides great protection against winter elements. However, they are heavy.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Sorel Caribou 1964 Pac Boots are warm, offer good traction and feature removable felt liners.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 These stylish boots will fit in whether you're having a night on the town or hiking in backcountry  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Hailing from Australia, the Blundstone 1461 offers a stylish look and flexible protection.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Muck Boots are known for their ability to keep your feet warm and completely dry. Unfortunately, the Muck Boot Men's Arctic Sport Mid is not a good style for everyday life.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated October 5, 2022

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Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The Kamik NationPlus Boot offered the best combination of warmth, traction, and water-resistance of any of the winter boots we tested.

Best Overall Kamik NationPlus Boot Constructed using water-resistant leather and a seam-sealed, synthetic rubber shell, the Kamik NationPlus is a good-looking boot. Kamik rates these boots to be able to keep your feet warm in temperatures as low as -40 degrees Fahrenheit. I also like that their 11.5-inch tall shaft height makes you feel protected and secure without being too rigid. While they’re not waterproof, the NationPlus Boots offer the best water resistance of any of the boots we found. The only negative for the NationPlus Boot is their heft: they weigh roughly 20% more than the next heaviest set of boots we found, the Sorel Caribou 1964 PAC. Pros Good insulation Comfortable Excellent water resistance Cons Heavy Buy now at Amazon $89.99 from Walmart

Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser A wintertime classic, the Sorel Caribou 1964 PAC boot are the warmest pair of boots we tested for this guide.

Best for Warmth Sorel Men’s 1964 Pac With their tall, 9.25-inch shaft, vulcanized rubber lower, and a fur cuff designed to keep snow from getting into the top of the boot, the Sorel Caribou 1964 PAC are a wintertime classic. These boots keep a lot of heat during wear, ensuring that your toes will stay warm as you dare the winter chill on the way to work. And when treading on ice, we these boots provide adequate traction. Sadly, they aren’t waterproof: the 1964 PAC begin to leak just two minutes and 39 seconds into wearing them. So, they might offer adequate protection from stepping in an occasional shallow puddle, but the longer you wear these boots in snow or slush, the greater the possibility that your feet will get wet. That said, should your feet get soaked, Sorel makes it easy to get dry and moving again, quickly: The thick felt liners of the 1964 PAC can be removed and swapped out for a dry set. Additional sets of boot liners can be purchased online. You should know that, like our Best Overall pick, the 1964 PAC’s bulk keeps them from being the nimblest of boots. They’re fine for tasks like walking and shoveling. However, wearing them while driving a car or climbing a ton of stairs can be a heavy drag. Pros Excellent traction on ice Removable felt liner Good insulation Cons Bulky Water-resistant rather than waterproof Buy now at Sorel Buy now at Amazon $76.40 from Walmart

Sorel Men's Caribou Street Boot Depending on the climate you live in, you might not need a heavy pair of winter boots like our Best Overall pick. If a thick pair of wool socks is enough to keep you warm on your commute, Sorel’s Caribou Street Boots could be for you. Significantly lighter and more nimble than their Sorel Caribou siblings, Jon found them comfortable to wear and, while walking on slippery surfaces, made him feel sure-footed thanks to their adequate traction. These boots retain heat without issue, even more so than our Best Overall pick. However, they failed at waterproofing fairly quickly, and even their laces get waterlogged! Wet feet are cold feet, making these boots less than ideal for cold weather wear. Pros Stylish Excellent insulation Cons Not fully waterproof Buy now at Amazon $134.37 from DICK'S Sporting Goods   
  
 Blundstone 1461 The Blundstone 1461 boots boast an all-leather exterior, Thinsulate insulation, and a shearling (sheepskin) liner and insole. Unlike most other Blundstone boots, which pull on easily, thanks to generous elastic panels in their throat, the Blundstone 1461 lace up. Being able to tightly lace their five-inch shaft provides a good measure of ankle support and protection against lateral movement. The 1461 ranked in the middle of the pack for heat retention and lose a little bit of heat during wear. However, given that they weigh 2.8 pounds per pair (compared to the 4.4 pounds of a set of Kamik NationPlus) we felt that they offer a pretty good mass-to-insulation ratio. As much as we enjoyed these boots, it’s impossible to overlook the fact that the 1461s leak just seconds into being used in slushy weather. Pros Stylish Comfortable Cons Moderate insulation Buy now at Amazon $269.95 from Zappos   
  
 Muck Boot Men's Arctic Sport Mid Muck boots are legendary for their ability to keep your feet warm and dry. The Arctic Sports Mid certainly live up to this reputation, with a fleece-lined neoprene “bootie” made of nylon surrounded by a shell of various types of insulating foam. The result is an extremely waterproof, warm boot that breezes through any winter task, though they are a bear to get on and off regularly and the style isn’t great for daily life. Fit-wise, the Arctic Sport Mid are true-to-size, but they trade some comfort for durability and ruggedness, with a design that even Muck calls “aggressive.” There are no laces here (you just slip your foot in and pull the boot up), though there is a stretchy binding that wraps around your calf to keep snow out and warmth in. It’s an effective solution, but it’s tight enough that it can definitely rub your leg raw on a hike if you don’t have tall enough socks. Pros Completely waterproof Neoprene fleece lining True-to-size Cons Tight on calves Not stylish Buy now at Muck Boots $128.69 from Amazon $180.00 from Walmart   
  
 Muck Boot Men's Apex Mid Zip As their name suggests, the Muck Apex Mid Zip do not have laces. Instead, they employ a waterproof zipper that runs up the middle of the boot, closing a waterproof membrane around your foot. The zipper makes getting the boots on and off very easy compared to traditional winter boots. The Muck Apex Mid Zip short, with a shaft that barely reaches above the ankle. This makes them more suited to urban environments, but less capable in deep water and snow; they stay dry in about four inches of water or slush, but anything deeper and you’re likely to get your feet quite wet. You should know that these boots are designed to keep your feet warm in temperatures as low as 18 degrees Fahrenheit. If you live in a region where it gets colder, you’ll want to consider a different pair of boots. Pros Easy to get off Waterproof zipper Cons Not for harsh winters Buy now at Muck Boots Buy now at Amazon $104.99 from Tractor Supply $150.00 from Walmart   
  
 The North Face Men's Chilkat IV As the North Face Chilkat Nylon’s name suggests, its upper is primarily made up of nylon, with a waterproof membrane, thick rubber soles, and a fleece inner lining. In our tests, the Chilkat proved particularly adept at keeping out mud, water, snow, and everything in between. If you live somewhere that winter means rain and slush and some frigid temperature, this is a solid boot. But if you need something to handle more extreme snow, ice, and frigid cold, our top picks will handle the cold, snow, and rain better than these. Pros Affordable Durable Cons Not for extreme temperatures $114.95 from Zappos   
  
 Ugg Men's Seton TL The Ugg Seton Chukka Boot boasts a thick rubber sole and a removable wool lining that Ugg claims is meant to resemble “authentic” shearling. These boots are warm, though they’re not particularly waterproof. Water splashes in and past the tongue fairly easily in the slush, though these may handle light snow and rain just fine. Comfort-wise, the boots are a bit stiff even after several miles of walking. They should break in slightly better over time (though Chukka-style boots don’t always loosen up). Lacing them up to get them on and off is more of a chore than with the other boots we found and they still feel fairly clunky to walk around in. Pros Thick rubber sole Removable wool lining Stylish Cons Not completely waterproof Stiff Buy now at Amazon $256.00 from Walmart

What You Should Know About Buying Winter Boots A great pair of insulated boots should be versatile, capable of helping you track through deep snow on a hike through the backwoods, or of keeping your feet warm as you walk your dog around the sidewalks of your neighborhood.  
Warmth You’ll want to match the temperature range of the boots you pick with how cold it gets where you live. If the boots you wear are too warm, your feet will sweat. This can lead to them feeling cold and getting blisters. If they’re not warm enough, your feet will, not surprisingly, be cold.  
You should know that there’s no oversight for measuring the temperature rating of boots: every manufacturer uses their own means of testing temperature range. A large part of this is due to the fact that there are so many different types of boot insulation materials out there:

Synthetic Insulation: some synthetic insulations, like 3M’s Thinsulate, are practically household words. Others, such as Primaloft, Optiwarm, Heatseeker, and Zylet, not to mention the proprietary insulation used by outdoor brands like Keen and Columbia, might not be known as well. However, they’re all designed to do the same job: keeping your feet warm. No matter the kind of synthetic insulation in your boots, most work in fundamentally the same manner. The insulation, made up of artificial fibers, creates an insulative layer, designed to trap your body heat inside of the boot.  
Natural Insulation: Natural insulative materials such as felt, shearling (the tanned hide wool of a yearling sheep), and wool (the fibrous layer of hair shorn from a sheep) work in much the same manner as synthetic insulators do. When used to line a boot, it will help you to retain your body heat and keep your feet warm.

Breathability and Waterproofing Breathability and waterproofing play just as important a role in keeping your feet warm as a boot’s temperature range does. If your boots aren’t able to get rid of the moisture inside of your boot, such as sweat, the boot’s insulation will become damp and, in some cases won’t be able to keep you as warm as it would if it was dry. The same goes for keeping water out: if your boots aren’t waterproof or at least water-resistant, water from puddles, slush, and melting snow will get into the boot, lowering the temperature inside of it, making you feel uncomfortable.  
Materials such as Gore-Tex and other membrane fabrics allow water vapor from inside of your boot to escape, but won’t allow liquids to get in. Rubber has been used to waterproof boots for years. It may not allow water vapor to escape a boot, but there are few materials better for keeping the elements out.  
If you decide to buy boots other than the ones we recommend, take the time to research the materials used in them to keep your feet dry before pulling the trigger on a purchase.  
Fit A well-fitted pair of winter boots should be tight at the heel, to keep the boot from moving around as you walk. If the boot has laces, they should be able to be tied tightly enough to provide additional support to your ankle, but not so tightly that it cuts off blood circulation to your feet. A loose boot provides no ankle support on uneven or slippery terrain, which can lead to injuries. That the boot is too loose can also lead to the person wearing it developing hotspots or blisters.  
You’ll want the boot’s toe box to provide an air gap between the boot’s interior and your toes, allowing for blood circulation. As you walk, the air gap will warm, thanks to the body heat you generate, adding to the boot’s overall insulation.  
Finding a pair of winter boots that fit well can be difficult. As such, you may have to try on multiple pairs to find a boot that works for you. This is easy to do if you plan on buying them from a brick-and-mortar store. If you’re shopping online, it can be a lot more difficult. Many retailers, including Amazon, let you try on boots and return them as long as you haven’t worn them outside. When taking a new pair of winter boots for a spin, be sure to wear the sort of socks that you plan on using them with, as the thickness of the sock can have a significant impact on their fit. A thick pair of rag wool socks, for example, will take up nearly a half-size in your boot. More Articles You Might Enjoy

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Unfortunately, unlike the winter boots for women that we found, not one boot in this guide proved to be 100% waterproof. Nonetheless, we feel comfortable recommending the Kamik NationPlus Boot (available at Amazon) as our Best Overall pick. They’re warm, sturdy, and proved to be head and shoulders above the rest of the boots we researched when it comes to keeping water outside, where it belongs.

If you’re interested in maximum warmth, the Sorel Caribou 1964 PAC (available at Amazon) boots are the way to go. While they’re merely water-resistant, they offer remarkable heat retention in the most frigid winter conditions.

The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

The Kamik NationPlus Boot offered the best combination of warmth, traction, and water-resistance of any of the winter boots we tested.

Constructed using water-resistant leather and a seam-sealed, synthetic rubber shell, the Kamik NationPlus is a good-looking boot. Kamik rates these boots to be able to keep your feet warm in temperatures as low as -40 degrees Fahrenheit. I also like that their 11.5-inch tall shaft height makes you feel protected and secure without being too rigid.

While they’re not waterproof, the NationPlus Boots offer the best water resistance of any of the boots we found.

The only negative for the NationPlus Boot is their heft: they weigh roughly 20% more than the next heaviest set of boots we found, the Sorel Caribou 1964 PAC.

Good insulation   
  
 Comfortable   
  
 Excellent water resistance   
  
 Heavy

A wintertime classic, the Sorel Caribou 1964 PAC boot are the warmest pair of boots we tested for this guide.

With their tall, 9.25-inch shaft, vulcanized rubber lower, and a fur cuff designed to keep snow from getting into the top of the boot, the Sorel Caribou 1964 PAC are a wintertime classic.

These boots keep a lot of heat during wear, ensuring that your toes will stay warm as you dare the winter chill on the way to work. And when treading on ice, we these boots provide adequate traction.

Sadly, they aren’t waterproof: the 1964 PAC begin to leak just two minutes and 39 seconds into wearing them. So, they might offer adequate protection from stepping in an occasional shallow puddle, but the longer you wear these boots in snow or slush, the greater the possibility that your feet will get wet. That said, should your feet get soaked, Sorel makes it easy to get dry and moving again, quickly: The thick felt liners of the 1964 PAC can be removed and swapped out for a dry set. Additional sets of boot liners can be purchased online.

You should know that, like our Best Overall pick, the 1964 PAC’s bulk keeps them from being the nimblest of boots. They’re fine for tasks like walking and shoveling. However, wearing them while driving a car or climbing a ton of stairs can be a heavy drag.

Excellent traction on ice   
  
 Removable felt liner   
  
 Good insulation   
  
 Bulky   
  
 Water-resistant rather than waterproof

Depending on the climate you live in, you might not need a heavy pair of winter boots like our Best Overall pick. If a thick pair of wool socks is enough to keep you warm on your commute, Sorel’s Caribou Street Boots could be for you. Significantly lighter and more nimble than their Sorel Caribou siblings, Jon found them comfortable to wear and, while walking on slippery surfaces, made him feel sure-footed thanks to their adequate traction.

These boots retain heat without issue, even more so than our Best Overall pick. However, they failed at waterproofing fairly quickly, and even their laces get waterlogged! Wet feet are cold feet, making these boots less than ideal for cold weather wear.

Stylish   
  
 Excellent insulation   
  
 Not fully waterproof

The Blundstone 1461 boots boast an all-leather exterior, Thinsulate insulation, and a shearling (sheepskin) liner and insole. Unlike most other Blundstone boots, which pull on easily, thanks to generous elastic panels in their throat, the Blundstone 1461 lace up. Being able to tightly lace their five-inch shaft provides a good measure of ankle support and protection against lateral movement.

The 1461 ranked in the middle of the pack for heat retention and lose a little bit of heat during wear. However, given that they weigh 2.8 pounds per pair (compared to the 4.4 pounds of a set of Kamik NationPlus) we felt that they offer a pretty good mass-to-insulation ratio.

As much as we enjoyed these boots, it’s impossible to overlook the fact that the 1461s leak just seconds into being used in slushy weather.

Stylish   
  
 Comfortable   
  
 Moderate insulation

Muck boots are legendary for their ability to keep your feet warm and dry. The Arctic Sports Mid certainly live up to this reputation, with a fleece-lined neoprene “bootie” made of nylon surrounded by a shell of various types of insulating foam. The result is an extremely waterproof, warm boot that breezes through any winter task, though they are a bear to get on and off regularly and the style isn’t great for daily life.

Fit-wise, the Arctic Sport Mid are true-to-size, but they trade some comfort for durability and ruggedness, with a design that even Muck calls “aggressive.” There are no laces here (you just slip your foot in and pull the boot up), though there is a stretchy binding that wraps around your calf to keep snow out and warmth in. It’s an effective solution, but it’s tight enough that it can definitely rub your leg raw on a hike if you don’t have tall enough socks.

Completely waterproof   
  
 Neoprene fleece lining   
  
 True-to-size   
  
 Tight on calves   
  
 Not stylish

As their name suggests, the Muck Apex Mid Zip do not have laces. Instead, they employ a waterproof zipper that runs up the middle of the boot, closing a waterproof membrane around your foot. The zipper makes getting the boots on and off very easy compared to traditional winter boots.

The Muck Apex Mid Zip short, with a shaft that barely reaches above the ankle. This makes them more suited to urban environments, but less capable in deep water and snow; they stay dry in about four inches of water or slush, but anything deeper and you’re likely to get your feet quite wet. You should know that these boots are designed to keep your feet warm in temperatures as low as 18 degrees Fahrenheit. If you live in a region where it gets colder, you’ll want to consider a different pair of boots.

Easy to get off   
  
 Waterproof zipper   
  
 Not for harsh winters

As the North Face Chilkat Nylon’s name suggests, its upper is primarily made up of nylon, with a waterproof membrane, thick rubber soles, and a fleece inner lining. In our tests, the Chilkat proved particularly adept at keeping out mud, water, snow, and everything in between.

If you live somewhere that winter means rain and slush and some frigid temperature, this is a solid boot. But if you need something to handle more extreme snow, ice, and frigid cold, our top picks will handle the cold, snow, and rain better than these.

Affordable   
  
 Durable   
  
 Not for extreme temperatures

The Ugg Seton Chukka Boot boasts a thick rubber sole and a removable wool lining that Ugg claims is meant to resemble “authentic” shearling. These boots are warm, though they’re not particularly waterproof. Water splashes in and past the tongue fairly easily in the slush, though these may handle light snow and rain just fine.

Comfort-wise, the boots are a bit stiff even after several miles of walking. They should break in slightly better over time (though Chukka-style boots don’t always loosen up). Lacing them up to get them on and off is more of a chore than with the other boots we found and they still feel fairly clunky to walk around in.

Thick rubber sole   
  
 Removable wool lining   
  
 Stylish   
  
 Not completely waterproof   
  
 Stiff

A great pair of insulated boots should be versatile, capable of helping you track through deep snow on a hike through the backwoods, or of keeping your feet warm as you walk your dog around the sidewalks of your neighborhood.

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Breathability and waterproofing play just as important a role in keeping your feet warm as a boot’s temperature range does. If your boots aren’t able to get rid of the moisture inside of your boot, such as sweat, the boot’s insulation will become damp and, in some cases won’t be able to keep you as warm as it would if it was dry. The same goes for keeping water out: if your boots aren’t waterproof or at least water-resistant, water from puddles, slush, and melting snow will get into the boot, lowering the temperature inside of it, making you feel uncomfortable.

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If you decide to buy boots other than the ones we recommend, take the time to research the materials used in them to keep your feet dry before pulling the trigger on a purchase.

A well-fitted pair of winter boots should be tight at the heel, to keep the boot from moving around as you walk. If the boot has laces, they should be able to be tied tightly enough to provide additional support to your ankle, but not so tightly that it cuts off blood circulation to your feet. A loose boot provides no ankle support on uneven or slippery terrain, which can lead to injuries. That the boot is too loose can also lead to the person wearing it developing hotspots or blisters.

You’ll want the boot’s toe box to provide an air gap between the boot’s interior and your toes, allowing for blood circulation. As you walk, the air gap will warm, thanks to the body heat you generate, adding to the boot’s overall insulation.

Finding a pair of winter boots that fit well can be difficult. As such, you may have to try on multiple pairs to find a boot that works for you. This is easy to do if you plan on buying them from a brick-and-mortar store. If you’re shopping online, it can be a lot more difficult. Many retailers, including Amazon, let you try on boots and return them as long as you haven’t worn them outside.

When taking a new pair of winter boots for a spin, be sure to wear the sort of socks that you plan on using them with, as the thickness of the sock can have a significant impact on their fit. A thick pair of rag wool socks, for example, will take up nearly a half-size in your boot.

Jonathan Chan  
   
  
  
 Senior Manager of Lab Operations

Jonathan Chan currently serves as the Lab Manager at Reviewed. If you clean with it, it’s likely that Jon oversees its testing. Since joining the Reviewed in 2012, Jon has helped launch the company’s efforts in reviewing laptops, vacuums, and outdoor gear. He thinks he’s a pretty big deal. In the pursuit of data, he’s plunged his hands into freezing cold water, consented to be literally dragged through the mud, and watched paint dry. Jon demands you have a nice day.

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TJ Donegan  
   
  
  
 Executive Editor

TJ is the Executive Editor of Reviewed.com. He is a Massachusetts native and has covered electronics, cameras, TVs, smartphones, parenting, and more for Reviewed. He is from the self-styled “Cranberry Capitol of the World,” which is, in fact, a real thing.

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# The Best Secured Credit Cards of 2022

## Learn more about the Discover it Secured

Recommendations are independently chosen by Reviewed’s editors. Purchases made through the links below may earn us and our publishing partners a commission.

Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

While most secured cards stake their value only on accepting those with poor credit, this card does that and offers great rewards with no annual fee.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 If you need to recover from bad credit, this card can help put you on the right track. A security deposit is required, but it can be refunded.  
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 Get quickly approved with this secured card that can build or fix your credit. Before applying, be ready to pay a deposit and become a DCU member.  
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 You don't even need a bank account to apply for this credit card, but you do have to put up with an annual fee and minimum deposit.  
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 A secured card with benefits and rewards is not easy to find, making this card ideal for members of the Navy Federal Credit Union.  
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Updated January 14, 2022

If you want to build credit but you’re having trouble qualifying for a credit card, a secured card could be a solution to your problem. Unlike prepaid or debit cards, secured cards give you access to a credit line, and payments are typically reported to the credit bureaus, which could help improve your credit score. Secured cards require a deposit upfront, but after proving you can manage credit with responsible on-time payments, you may be able to get your deposit back. Application requirements, interest rates, terms, and conditions for secured cards can vary. If you’re looking for a card without a credit check, the OpenSky® Secured Visa® Credit Card is an option that doesn’t require one. If you’re looking for a secured card with a rewards program, the Discover it® Secured Credit Card offers 2% cash back on up to $1,000 spent at gas stations and restaurants per quarter and will match all the cash back earned the first year.

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That’s not all, though—we have other options for you to consider on this list. Here are the six best secured credit cards we evaluated, ranked in order:

Discover it Secured Credit Card Capital One Platinum Secured Credit Card DCU Visa Platinum Secured Card OpenSky Secured Visa Credit Card Navy Federal Credit Union® nRewards® Secured Credit Card Citi® Secured Mastercard®

Things to Know About Secured Credit Cards Unlike prepaid and debit cards, secured cards can help you build a credit history. People who apply for secured credit cards generally fall into two categories: Consumers who are new to credit, such as students or people who’ve recently moved to the U.S., and consumers looking to rebuild credit after a financial setback. Before applying for one of these cards, you should understand how they work:

Secured credit cards require a cash security deposit, which is typically refundable when you upgrade to an unsecured card or close the account in good standing. The deposit protects the issuer in case you fall behind on payments, but it’s also usually equal to your credit limit. If you max out the card and fail to pay it off, the issuer can take your deposit and zero out the unpaid balance. As you use the card, your issuer reports your account activity to the major credit bureaus. This can help you build a good credit history and develop credit scores, which are largely based on payment history and your credit utilization ratio. That’s the amount of credit you’re using divided by the amount of credit you have available. To improve your score, try to make monthly payments on time and aim for a utilization ratio around 30% or less. Paying down your balance each month will help, but so will having a higher credit line. For example, if you have a $200 balance on a card with a $500 limit, then your utilization ratio is 40%. But the same balance on a card with a $1,000 limit reduces your utilization ratio to 20%.

How We Evaluated Secured Credit Cards We searched for secured cards that limit extra costs (fees and interest rates), help you build credit with responsible use, and come with flexible credit limits. And while rewards take a back seat here, they’re still a nice addition—so we gave them some attention.

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When selecting a secured card, you should always read through the cardmember agreement and ask questions. Check the APR, which is a cost the issuer charges when you don’t pay off the balance every month. While some credit cards offer 0% APR, this is typically not the case with secured cards—though if you build up your score, one could be in your future. Also consider any fees, which may be extra burdensome if you’ve already parted with cash for your deposit and have a low credit limit.

Credit: Reviewed / Naidin Concul-Ticas

Best Overall Discover it Secured Among the best secured credit cards, this one earns the top position on our list because it offers plenty of consumer-friendly features: a path to a security deposit refund, credit-building tools, a solid rewards program, no annual fee, and no late fee when you miss your first payment. How the deposit works: You can make a security deposit of $200 to $2,500. Discover automatically reviews your account every month, starting at eight months, and may refund your security deposit if you’ve shown responsible use. You can also get your deposit back if you pay your balance in full and close the account. Other important features: With this rewards card, you earn 2% cash back at gas stations and restaurants on up to $1,000 in purchases each quarter, and you earn unlimited 1% cash back on all other purchases. Plus, the issuer will match all the cash back you earn in the first year. Discover also provides free access to your FICO credit scores, which can help you understand your overall credit health. Fees and APR: There’s no annual fee, and cardholders get a free pass on their first late payment (thereafter, late payments incur a fee). The card also comes with a low variable APR and charges a balance transfer fee and cash advance fee. Learn more about the Discover it Secured Pros No annual fee Good for bad or no credit High reward rate Cons Security deposit required Some spending limits on rewards

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Credit: Reviewed / Sarah Hagman

Best Value Capital One Platinum Secured Credit Card The Capital One Platinum Secured is our runner-up because you can grow your credit line without putting down extra money—a major win for people who don’t have the cash on hand for a large deposit—and it has no annual fee. How the deposit works: Based on your credit, Capital One will assign you a minimum security deposit: $49, $99, or $200 (or put down more, if you choose). You’ll get a credit line of at least $200 once you pay the initial deposit, which means you may qualify to pay a $49 deposit for a credit line of $200. In as little as six months, Capital One may grant you an even higher amount without requiring an additional deposit.  Capital One may decide to refund your deposit as a statement credit, or you can ask for the deposit back if you close the account in good standing. Other important features: Like many cards for bad credit, this one comes with no rewards program—but if chasing rewards will cause you to spend more, then it’s best to get a card without them. Capital One also has its own credit-tracking program, CreditWise, which is free for everyone (even people without a Capital One card). Fees and APR: The variable APR is on the higher side, but can be avoided if you don’t carry a balance. There’s also a cash advance fee and late payment fee, but no annual fee. Learn more about the Capital One Platinum Secured Pros No annual fee Good for bad or no credit No foreign transaction fee Cons No rewards Security deposit required

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DCU Visa Platinum Secured Credit Card This card has the lowest APR of all the cards on our list and only one fee to speak of, so it stands to save you the most on costs. How the deposit works: You’ll use your DCU savings account to put down at least $500 to open the card—and there’s no upper limit on the size of your deposit, as long as you qualify for the credit line. While that puts the card out of reach for people who can’t afford a large deposit, it can be a good option if you have a healthy savings account. To get the deposit back, you’ll need to pay off the balance and close the account. You can also apply for an unsecured credit card if you’ve established healthy credit. Other important features: This card does not offer rewards, and you’ll need to join the credit union to open the account. Although DCU’s membership eligibility requirements are exceptionally flexible, this could be a deal-breaker for some. Fees and APR: The card comes with a low variable APR, and there’s no annual fee, balance transfer fee, cash advance fee, or foreign transaction fee. However, making a late payment may trigger a penalty APR and a late payment fee. Learn more about the DCU Visa Platinum Secured Card Pros No annual fee Good for bad or no credit Cons Membership exclusivity No rewards Security deposit required

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OpenSky Secured Visa Credit Card While this card comes with an unimpressive fee structure and account terms, it offers one truly helpful benefit, especially if you’re rebuilding credit after a setback. OpenSky won’t pull your credit during the application process or ask that you have a bank account, which are routine requirements for other issuers.    How the deposit works: Your deposit can range from $200 to $3,000, subject to approval. The deposit is refundable if you decide to pay off the balance and close the account. Other important features: There’s no rewards program, and if you’re looking to upgrade at some point, you’re out of luck here. OpenSky won’t change your account to unsecured, but it does say 99% of its cardholders who started with no credit score built a history after six months of responsible use. Fees and APR: This is the only card on our list with an annual fee: It’s $35 and counts against your credit limit. There’s also a cash advance fee, foreign transaction fee, and late payment fee. Learn more about the OpenSky Secured Visa Credit Card Pros No bank account required Good for bad or no credit Cons Annual fee No rewards Security deposit required   
  
  
 Navy Federal Credit Union® nRewards® Secured Credit Card This card has everything you want when building credit—primarily, a solid rewards program, free access to your FICO score, a cell phone protection plan, and a dearth of extra costs. How the deposit works: You’ll use your NFCU savings account for your deposit, which can range from $200 to $5,000. After six months, Navy Federal Credit Union reviews your account to see if you’re eligible for an upgraded cashRewards unsecured card. You can also get the deposit back if you decide to pay off the balance and close the account. Other important features: You earn one point per dollar spent on all purchases through the rewards program, and the cell phone plan provides supplemental protection when you pay your bill with this card. Despite all its perks, this card sits lower on our list because you must join the credit union to apply. Unlike DCU, membership is strictly limited to service members of the armed forces, veterans, and family members of these groups. Fees and APR: The card comes with a low APR, and there are no annual fees, balance transfer fees, foreign transaction fees, or cash advance fees. Learn more about the Navy Federal nRewards Secured Credit Card Pros No annual fee High reward rate Good for bad or no credit Cons Membership exclusivity Security deposit required   
  
  
 Citi Secured Mastercard Forget the bells and whistles here: The Citi Secured card is a no-frills option that provides just the basics. You can make purchases, build credit, check your free FICO credit scores—and that’s pretty much it. How the deposit works: Put down a deposit, between $200 and $2,500, as your credit limit. You can get the deposit back if you pay off the balance and close the account. Other important features: None. But you might find something great in the simplicity; for example, the lack of a rewards program can stifle your temptation to spend. Fees and APR: This card’s APR is on the lower side, and though it comes with an assortment of fees, they’re clearly stated and can be avoided. There’s a balance transfer fee, cash advance fee, and foreign transaction fee. Making a late payment will also trigger a late payment fee and a penalty APR. Learn more about the Citi Secured Mastercard Pros No annual fee Gives free access to your FICO Score Good for bad or no credit Cons Security deposit required No rewards

Please note: The offers mentioned above are subject to change at any time and some may no longer be available. Reviewed has partnered with CardRatings for our coverage of credit card products. Reviewed and CardRatings may receive a commission from card issuers. Bottom Line Though secured cards are usually a stopgap for people who don’t qualify for an unsecured card, they’re a good tool for building credit. Getting one with a low APR and limited fees will help you save money in the process. Some issuers will review and upgrade your account automatically if you’ve shown you can use a secured card responsibly. But you can also monitor your own credit and consider applying for an unsecured card. You may need a good to excellent score to qualify, which is a score of around 670 or higher. Before closing your secured credit card and opening a new unsecured card, consider the potential consequences to your credit. Closing an account lowers the overall age of your credit history, which can cause your scores to temporarily drop. Then, your score can get dinged again when you apply for new credit. However, your credit scores can mend over the next few months if you make on-time payments and keep your balances low. Common Credit Card Terms

Balance transfer: A process that lets you move debt from one credit card to another. This can help you save money and simplify payments, though you may have to pay a balance transfer fee and a special APR on these transactions. Cash advance: A short-term cash loan against your credit card. You can usually withdraw the money at a bank or ATM up to a certain limit. Although you access cash in a pinch, you may have to pay a cash advance fee and a special APR on these transactions. Credit limit: The maximum amount you can charge to your credit card. Once you hit the limit, you need to pay down some or all of the balance before the issuer replenishes your credit line. Late payment: A payment that’s made after the due date or is less than the minimum payment required. The card issuer may charge you a late fee and could report the late payment to the credit bureaus. A large part of your credit scores is based on payment history, so it’s important to always make on-time payments.

How Does Credit Card Interest Work?

Despite the term “annual percentage rate,” credit card issuers calculate interest daily. The daily periodic rate is determined by dividing your APR by 365 days, which is then applied to your average daily balance. Crunch this number by adding up the total you carry each and every day of the billing cycle, and then dividing that by the number of days in the billing cycle. Let’s say your card’s APR is 16%, and this month you carried an average daily balance of $2,000. The issuer first calculates the daily periodic rate (0.16 divided by 365). That rate (0.00043) is applied to your average balance (0.00043 x $2,000), which brings us to 0.87. Over the course of the 30-day billing cycle (0.87 x 30), you’ll pay $26.30 in interest. If crunching numbers isn’t really your thing, some issuers include tools that calculate how much interest you’ll owe based on your monthly payment. Petal, for example, shares this information in a mobile app for its two credit cards. Remember: You won’t be charged interest if you pay off your balance in full and on time each billing cycle. We get that life happens. So if on occasion that’s not possible, consider paying more than the minimum amount to lessen the interest you’ll pay over time, or make more than one payment during the billing cycle to lower your average balance.

Easy Steps to Build Your Credit History

Make at least the minimum payment on time. Timely payments are the biggest factor that contribute to your FICO score, accounting for 35%. Set a calendar alert so that you don’t have another task on your mental to-do list, or set up automatic payments to take the stress away altogether. It’s like a personal assistant—without the price tag. Be mindful of your credit utilization. This percentage is how much of a balance you carry compared to your available lines of credit. Experts recommend keeping it at less than 30%, meaning if your credit limit is $6,000, have no more than $1,800 as a balance. Keep tabs on your credit reports and credit score. Your credit card issuer may provide monthly reporting, or there are other ways to check your score for free. One in four credit reports have mistakes that can negatively impact your credit score. Be on the lookout for wrong addresses, outdated information, and high balances that may be a sign of identity theft. Don’t have a credit card? You may still have a credit score, and there are ways to build your history even if you don’t have one in your wallet.

How to Build Credit Without a Credit Card

Revolving credit isn’t the only factor that impacts your score. Have student or car loans, or another type of installment loan? The lender likely reports your payments to the major credit bureaus, which impacts your score. Consider taking out a credit-builder loan with a small bank or credit union. This type of installment loan will add to your credit mix—one factor that affects scores—and making on-time payments gives it a boost, too. Even though your credit score can affect your utilities, your utility payments are not reported to credit bureaus. We don’t make the rules! There are some services, such as LevelCredit and RentTrack, that will report your utility and rent payments to the credit bureau to give you credit for your timeliness. There are other tools, like Experian Boost, that may make sense for you. It taps your phone and utility payments—and even your Netflix subscription—to nudge your score a bit. According to the credit bureau, users who sign up for the service see an average jump of 13 points in their FICO scores.

What Is a Good APR for a Credit Card?

Credit card annual percentage rates range from 13% to 25%, with the national average in January 2022 around 16%. Credit cards marketed for applicants with bad credit tend to be on the higher side, as do credit cards with rewards programs. Before you apply for a credit card, you can see this range in the cardmember agreement. You won’t know the rate until you’re approved, as it’s determined by the issuer based on your creditworthiness. The higher your credit score, the lower the rate you can expect. Remember that with a variable rate, an issuer can change the interest it charges at any time—and, per your cardmember agreement, it may not have to notify you. An issuer may charge a different APR for purchases, balance transfers, and cash advances. It may even offer an introductory rate that includes zero interest for a period of 12 to 18 (or 21) months. Lastly, a penalty APR may kick in if you’re late for a payment, exceed your credit limit, or break other terms and conditions laid out by the issuer. We’ll say it till we’re blue in the face: Pay off your balance each month, and you won’t have to think about interest.

How Many Credit Cards Should You Have?

We hate to break it to you, but there’s no one-size-fits-all answer here. The right number for you depends on what you can responsibly manage. Does having a piece of shiny plastic an arm’s length away often encourage you to spend money you don’t have? You may want to think twice before applying for more credit. Carrying a balance you can’t afford contributes to interest charges, and in the long run costs you more money. If you’re financially responsible and stick to making purchases that you can pay off, there may be some upsides to adding another card to your arsenal. For instance, if you’re a jet-setter without a card that rewards you for hitting the road, a travel card may make sense for you. There are a few other things to consider before opening a new account, like adding a different payment processing network, or taking note of any annual fees.

Other Things to Know About Credit Cards

Long introductory period APR rates are only a short-term incentive. Potentially high APR rates snap into effect after the card’s intro period ends, which could cost you a lot in interest if you’ve left your balance unpaid. It’s really important—especially when getting a card for a big purchase—to keep an eye on your finances, and keep an eye on the calendar. APR rates and credit limits vary based on your individual credit. Credit limits and interest rates for each card are determined based on each cardholder’s personal situation, so we did not take that information into account when evaluating this card. Remember to pay your bill in full every month, so you will not be charged interest. Banks have final say on who they accept for a credit card. These recommendations were put together with the assumption that applicants would have average credit or above. That being said, banks decide who they will issue cards to using criteria including, but not always limited to, an individual’s credit score when evaluating each applicant. During the application process, issuers often ask for information such as Social Security numbers. At Reviewed, we’re fans of one particular unsecured card that’s marketed for applicants with low or fair credit. In addition to perks like cash back and no annual fees, Petal also accepts tax identification numbers when U.S. residents living in the states or U.S. military locations apply.

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The Best First Credit Cards The Best Credit Cards with No Annual Fee How to check your credit score for free Important differences between credit and debit cards

If you want to build credit but you’re having trouble qualifying for a credit card, a secured card could be a solution to your problem. Unlike prepaid or debit cards, secured cards give you access to a credit line, and payments are typically reported to the credit bureaus, which could help improve your credit score.

Secured cards require a deposit upfront, but after proving you can manage credit with responsible on-time payments, you may be able to get your deposit back. Application requirements, interest rates, terms, and conditions for secured cards can vary.

If you’re looking for a card without a credit check, the OpenSky® Secured Visa® Credit Card is an option that doesn’t require one. If you’re looking for a secured card with a rewards program, the Discover it® Secured Credit Card offers 2% cash back on up to $1,000 spent at gas stations and restaurants per quarter and will match all the cash back earned the first year.

That’s not all, though—we have other options for you to consider on this list. Here are the six best secured credit cards we evaluated, ranked in order:

Unlike prepaid and debit cards, secured cards can help you build a credit history. People who apply for secured credit cards generally fall into two categories: Consumers who are new to credit, such as students or people who’ve recently moved to the U.S., and consumers looking to rebuild credit after a financial setback. Before applying for one of these cards, you should understand how they work:

Secured credit cards require a cash security deposit, which is typically refundable when you upgrade to an unsecured card or close the account in good standing.

The deposit protects the issuer in case you fall behind on payments, but it’s also usually equal to your credit limit. If you max out the card and fail to pay it off, the issuer can take your deposit and zero out the unpaid balance.

As you use the card, your issuer reports your account activity to the major credit bureaus. This can help you build a good credit history and develop credit scores, which are largely based on payment history and your credit utilization ratio. That’s the amount of credit you’re using divided by the amount of credit you have available.

To improve your score, try to make monthly payments on time and aim for a utilization ratio around 30% or less. Paying down your balance each month will help, but so will having a higher credit line. For example, if you have a $200 balance on a card with a $500 limit, then your utilization ratio is 40%. But the same balance on a card with a $1,000 limit reduces your utilization ratio to 20%.

We searched for secured cards that limit extra costs (fees and interest rates), help you build credit with responsible use, and come with flexible credit limits. And while rewards take a back seat here, they’re still a nice addition—so we gave them some attention.

When selecting a secured card, you should always read through the cardmember agreement and ask questions. Check the APR, which is a cost the issuer charges when you don’t pay off the balance every month. While some credit cards offer 0% APR, this is typically not the case with secured cards—though if you build up your score, one could be in your future. Also consider any fees, which may be extra burdensome if you’ve already parted with cash for your deposit and have a low credit limit.

Among the best secured credit cards, this one earns the top position on our list because it offers plenty of consumer-friendly features: a path to a security deposit refund, credit-building tools, a solid rewards program, no annual fee, and no late fee when you miss your first payment.

How the deposit works: You can make a security deposit of $200 to $2,500. Discover automatically reviews your account every month, starting at eight months, and may refund your security deposit if you’ve shown responsible use. You can also get your deposit back if you pay your balance in full and close the account.

Other important features: With this rewards card, you earn 2% cash back at gas stations and restaurants on up to $1,000 in purchases each quarter, and you earn unlimited 1% cash back on all other purchases. Plus, the issuer will match all the cash back you earn in the first year. Discover also provides free access to your FICO credit scores, which can help you understand your overall credit health.

Fees and APR: There’s no annual fee, and cardholders get a free pass on their first late payment (thereafter, late payments incur a fee). The card also comes with a low variable APR and charges a balance transfer fee and cash advance fee.

No annual fee   
  
 Good for bad or no credit   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Security deposit required   
  
 Some spending limits on rewards

The Capital One Platinum Secured is our runner-up because you can grow your credit line without putting down extra money—a major win for people who don’t have the cash on hand for a large deposit—and it has no annual fee.

How the deposit works: Based on your credit, Capital One will assign you a minimum security deposit: $49, $99, or $200 (or put down more, if you choose). You’ll get a credit line of at least $200 once you pay the initial deposit, which means you may qualify to pay a $49 deposit for a credit line of $200. In as little as six months, Capital One may grant you an even higher amount without requiring an additional deposit.

Capital One may decide to refund your deposit as a statement credit, or you can ask for the deposit back if you close the account in good standing.

Other important features: Like many cards for bad credit, this one comes with no rewards program—but if chasing rewards will cause you to spend more, then it’s best to get a card without them. Capital One also has its own credit-tracking program, CreditWise, which is free for everyone (even people without a Capital One card).

Fees and APR: The variable APR is on the higher side, but can be avoided if you don’t carry a balance. There’s also a cash advance fee and late payment fee, but no annual fee.

No annual fee   
  
 Good for bad or no credit   
  
 No foreign transaction fee   
  
 No rewards   
  
 Security deposit required

This card has the lowest APR of all the cards on our list and only one fee to speak of, so it stands to save you the most on costs.

How the deposit works: You’ll use your DCU savings account to put down at least $500 to open the card—and there’s no upper limit on the size of your deposit, as long as you qualify for the credit line. While that puts the card out of reach for people who can’t afford a large deposit, it can be a good option if you have a healthy savings account.

To get the deposit back, you’ll need to pay off the balance and close the account. You can also apply for an unsecured credit card if you’ve established healthy credit.

Other important features: This card does not offer rewards, and you’ll need to join the credit union to open the account. Although DCU’s membership eligibility requirements are exceptionally flexible, this could be a deal-breaker for some.

Fees and APR: The card comes with a low variable APR, and there’s no annual fee, balance transfer fee, cash advance fee, or foreign transaction fee. However, making a late payment may trigger a penalty APR and a late payment fee.

No annual fee   
  
 Good for bad or no credit   
  
 Membership exclusivity   
  
 No rewards   
  
 Security deposit required

While this card comes with an unimpressive fee structure and account terms, it offers one truly helpful benefit, especially if you’re rebuilding credit after a setback. OpenSky won’t pull your credit during the application process or ask that you have a bank account, which are routine requirements for other issuers.

How the deposit works: Your deposit can range from $200 to $3,000, subject to approval. The deposit is refundable if you decide to pay off the balance and close the account.

Other important features: There’s no rewards program, and if you’re looking to upgrade at some point, you’re out of luck here. OpenSky won’t change your account to unsecured, but it does say 99% of its cardholders who started with no credit score built a history after six months of responsible use.

Fees and APR: This is the only card on our list with an annual fee: It’s $35 and counts against your credit limit. There’s also a cash advance fee, foreign transaction fee, and late payment fee.

No bank account required   
  
 Good for bad or no credit   
  
 Annual fee   
  
 No rewards   
  
 Security deposit required

This card has everything you want when building credit—primarily, a solid rewards program, free access to your FICO score, a cell phone protection plan, and a dearth of extra costs.

How the deposit works: You’ll use your NFCU savings account for your deposit, which can range from $200 to $5,000. After six months, Navy Federal Credit Union reviews your account to see if you’re eligible for an upgraded cashRewards unsecured card. You can also get the deposit back if you decide to pay off the balance and close the account.

Other important features: You earn one point per dollar spent on all purchases through the rewards program, and the cell phone plan provides supplemental protection when you pay your bill with this card.

Despite all its perks, this card sits lower on our list because you must join the credit union to apply. Unlike DCU, membership is strictly limited to service members of the armed forces, veterans, and family members of these groups.

Fees and APR: The card comes with a low APR, and there are no annual fees, balance transfer fees, foreign transaction fees, or cash advance fees.

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Good for bad or no credit   
  
 Membership exclusivity   
  
 Security deposit required

Forget the bells and whistles here: The Citi Secured card is a no-frills option that provides just the basics. You can make purchases, build credit, check your free FICO credit scores—and that’s pretty much it.

How the deposit works: Put down a deposit, between $200 and $2,500, as your credit limit. You can get the deposit back if you pay off the balance and close the account.

Other important features: None. But you might find something great in the simplicity; for example, the lack of a rewards program can stifle your temptation to spend.

Fees and APR: This card’s APR is on the lower side, and though it comes with an assortment of fees, they’re clearly stated and can be avoided. There’s a balance transfer fee, cash advance fee, and foreign transaction fee. Making a late payment will also trigger a late payment fee and a penalty APR.

No annual fee   
  
 Gives free access to your FICO Score   
  
 Good for bad or no credit   
  
 Security deposit required   
  
 No rewards

Please note: The offers mentioned above are subject to change at any time and some may no longer be available.

Reviewed has partnered with CardRatings for our coverage of credit card products. Reviewed and CardRatings may receive a commission from card issuers.

Though secured cards are usually a stopgap for people who don’t qualify for an unsecured card, they’re a good tool for building credit. Getting one with a low APR and limited fees will help you save money in the process.

Some issuers will review and upgrade your account automatically if you’ve shown you can use a secured card responsibly. But you can also monitor your own credit and consider applying for an unsecured card. You may need a good to excellent score to qualify, which is a score of around 670 or higher.

Before closing your secured credit card and opening a new unsecured card, consider the potential consequences to your credit. Closing an account lowers the overall age of your credit history, which can cause your scores to temporarily drop. Then, your score can get dinged again when you apply for new credit. However, your credit scores can mend over the next few months if you make on-time payments and keep your balances low.

Balance transfer: A process that lets you move debt from one credit card to another. This can help you save money and simplify payments, though you may have to pay a balance transfer fee and a special APR on these transactions.

Cash advance: A short-term cash loan against your credit card. You can usually withdraw the money at a bank or ATM up to a certain limit. Although you access cash in a pinch, you may have to pay a cash advance fee and a special APR on these transactions.

Credit limit: The maximum amount you can charge to your credit card. Once you hit the limit, you need to pay down some or all of the balance before the issuer replenishes your credit line.

Late payment: A payment that’s made after the due date or is less than the minimum payment required. The card issuer may charge you a late fee and could report the late payment to the credit bureaus. A large part of your credit scores is based on payment history, so it’s important to always make on-time payments.

Despite the term “annual percentage rate,” credit card issuers calculate interest daily. The daily periodic rate is determined by dividing your APR by 365 days, which is then applied to your average daily balance. Crunch this number by adding up the total you carry each and every day of the billing cycle, and then dividing that by the number of days in the billing cycle.

Let’s say your card’s APR is 16%, and this month you carried an average daily balance of $2,000. The issuer first calculates the daily periodic rate (0.16 divided by 365). That rate (0.00043) is applied to your average balance (0.00043 x $2,000), which brings us to 0.87. Over the course of the 30-day billing cycle (0.87 x 30), you’ll pay $26.30 in interest.

If crunching numbers isn’t really your thing, some issuers include tools that calculate how much interest you’ll owe based on your monthly payment. Petal, for example, shares this information in a mobile app for its two credit cards.

Remember: You won’t be charged interest if you pay off your balance in full and on time each billing cycle. We get that life happens. So if on occasion that’s not possible, consider paying more than the minimum amount to lessen the interest you’ll pay over time, or make more than one payment during the billing cycle to lower your average balance.

Make at least the minimum payment on time. Timely payments are the biggest factor that contribute to your FICO score, accounting for 35%. Set a calendar alert so that you don’t have another task on your mental to-do list, or set up automatic payments to take the stress away altogether. It’s like a personal assistant—without the price tag.

Be mindful of your credit utilization. This percentage is how much of a balance you carry compared to your available lines of credit. Experts recommend keeping it at less than 30%, meaning if your credit limit is $6,000, have no more than $1,800 as a balance.

Keep tabs on your credit reports and credit score. Your credit card issuer may provide monthly reporting, or there are other ways to check your score for free. One in four credit reports have mistakes that can negatively impact your credit score. Be on the lookout for wrong addresses, outdated information, and high balances that may be a sign of identity theft.

Don’t have a credit card? You may still have a credit score, and there are ways to build your history even if you don’t have one in your wallet.

Revolving credit isn’t the only factor that impacts your score. Have student or car loans, or another type of installment loan? The lender likely reports your payments to the major credit bureaus, which impacts your score.

Consider taking out a credit-builder loan with a small bank or credit union. This type of installment loan will add to your credit mix—one factor that affects scores—and making on-time payments gives it a boost, too.

Even though your credit score can affect your utilities, your utility payments are not reported to credit bureaus. We don’t make the rules! There are some services, such as LevelCredit and RentTrack, that will report your utility and rent payments to the credit bureau to give you credit for your timeliness.

There are other tools, like Experian Boost, that may make sense for you. It taps your phone and utility payments—and even your Netflix subscription—to nudge your score a bit. According to the credit bureau, users who sign up for the service see an average jump of 13 points in their FICO scores.

Credit card annual percentage rates range from 13% to 25%, with the national average in January 2022 around 16%. Credit cards marketed for applicants with bad credit tend to be on the higher side, as do credit cards with rewards programs.

Before you apply for a credit card, you can see this range in the cardmember agreement. You won’t know the rate until you’re approved, as it’s determined by the issuer based on your creditworthiness. The higher your credit score, the lower the rate you can expect. Remember that with a variable rate, an issuer can change the interest it charges at any time—and, per your cardmember agreement, it may not have to notify you.

An issuer may charge a different APR for purchases, balance transfers, and cash advances. It may even offer an introductory rate that includes zero interest for a period of 12 to 18 (or 21) months. Lastly, a penalty APR may kick in if you’re late for a payment, exceed your credit limit, or break other terms and conditions laid out by the issuer.

We’ll say it till we’re blue in the face: Pay off your balance each month, and you won’t have to think about interest.

We hate to break it to you, but there’s no one-size-fits-all answer here. The right number for you depends on what you can responsibly manage.

Does having a piece of shiny plastic an arm’s length away often encourage you to spend money you don’t have? You may want to think twice before applying for more credit. Carrying a balance you can’t afford contributes to interest charges, and in the long run costs you more money.

If you’re financially responsible and stick to making purchases that you can pay off, there may be some upsides to adding another card to your arsenal. For instance, if you’re a jet-setter without a card that rewards you for hitting the road, a travel card may make sense for you.

There are a few other things to consider before opening a new account, like adding a different payment processing network, or taking note of any annual fees.

Long introductory period APR rates are only a short-term incentive. Potentially high APR rates snap into effect after the card’s intro period ends, which could cost you a lot in interest if you’ve left your balance unpaid. It’s really important—especially when getting a card for a big purchase—to keep an eye on your finances, and keep an eye on the calendar.

APR rates and credit limits vary based on your individual credit. Credit limits and interest rates for each card are determined based on each cardholder’s personal situation, so we did not take that information into account when evaluating this card. Remember to pay your bill in full every month, so you will not be charged interest.

Banks have final say on who they accept for a credit card. These recommendations were put together with the assumption that applicants would have average credit or above. That being said, banks decide who they will issue cards to using criteria including, but not always limited to, an individual’s credit score when evaluating each applicant.

During the application process, issuers often ask for information such as Social Security numbers. At Reviewed, we’re fans of one particular unsecured card that’s marketed for applicants with low or fair credit. In addition to perks like cash back and no annual fees, Petal also accepts tax identification numbers when U.S. residents living in the states or U.S. military locations apply.

Kim Porter  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Kim Porter has written about personal finance topics for U.S. News & World Report, Reviewed, Credit Karma, AARP Magazine, Bankrate, and more. When she’s not writing, you can find her training for her next race, reading, or planning her next big trip.

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Our team is here for one purpose: to help you buy the best stuff and love what you own. Our writers, editors, and lab technicians obsess over the products we cover to make sure you're confident and satisfied. Have a different opinion about something we recommend? Email us and we'll compare notes.  
  
  
  
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# The Best Incontinence Underwear for Women of 2022

## The Tester

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

Speax underwear are the best you can buy for light leakage, thanks to their comfortable fit, quality construction, and stylish look.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 For heavy leakage, you can’t go wrong with the Always Discreet. Their maximum absorbency made them stand out from other disposable options.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Knix is a great brand to try if you’re looking for lightly absorbent incontinence panties that come in a variety of sizes and styles.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Amazon Basic's Incontinence Underwear is a decent option for anyone looking to prioritize absorbency over fit or style.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Wearever reusable underpants aren’t a good choice, due to their poor absorbency and unflattering design.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated September 15, 2022

If you’re someone coping with incontinence—a.k.a. an overactive bladder—you may be familiar with the quest for protective underwear that’s functional yet stylish. Incontinence is common among people with female genitalia, especially post-pregnancy and childbirth, and the right pair of panties can help get you through your daily routine with minimal discomfort. Similar to period underwear, incontinence underwear is designed to absorb leaks and wick moisture away from your skin to keep you feeling comfortable while experiencing some uncomfortable symptoms. We tested both reusable and single-use incontinence products from brands like Knix, Wearever, and Depend, but ultimately determined that the best incontinence underwear for women is Thinx Speax (available at Thinx), a stylish reusable option that is especially good for light leak protection. Should you need a pair for maximum protection against bladder leakage, the Always Discreet (available at Amazon), a highly absorbent single-use style, is the way to go. Credit: Reviewed / Tim Renzi We named Speax the best overall for their style and comfort. Best Overall Thinx Speax Hiphugger Thinx Speax incontinence underwear is one of the highest quality pairs we tested and is far from the image you may have of “adult diapers.” The reusable Speax panties are ultra comfortable, thanks to their soft nylon-spandex blend and high quality stitching. We didn’t notice any fading, fraying, or other signs of wear after three wash/dry cycles during testing, and one of our testers who continued using Speax regularly is impressed with how well they’ve held up after nearly six months of occasional use. Not that we’re surprised: They’re from the makers of Thinx, the same company that makes the best period underwear we’ve tested. In addition to its quality construction, the Speax underwear, which we reviewed in the hiphugger style, is also stylish for a garment that’s designed to be utilitarian. The seamless, inconspicuous design eliminates any worries you might have about visible panty lines or unsightly bunching. The various cuts—bikini, high-waist, French cut, thong, and hiphugger—are available in women’s sizes XS to 3X and a number of colors and patterns. Because they can absorb up to 8 teaspoons of fluid, these underpants work well for those dealing with mild incontinence. But if you require a more absorbent pair, read on. Pros Comfortable and inconspicuous High quality construction Washable and reusable Cons Only suitable for mild incontinence Buy now at Thinx

ADVERTISEMENT

Credit: Reviewed / Tim Renzi The Always Discreet is a highly absorbent pair best for heavy leakage.

Best for High Absorbency Always Discreet Maximum Protection Underwear Those experiencing heavy incontinence will want to try Always’ Discreet, a disposable, single-use, pull-up underwear that’s highly absorbent. We found that the Always Discreet was able to absorb a full cup of water during our tests while leaving little to no dampness on the underlying towel placed to absorb overflow. This result makes them our number one pick for heavy leakage. Unfortunately, a design that’s built to absorb more liquid means a sacrifice or two in other areas, namely style and comfort. According to our testers, these panties, which we tested in the “maximum protection” style, are not so discreet, as they leave a visible panty line and even crinkle slightly when you walk. According to one tester, “They were fine under sundresses, but wearing them to work out under leggings was not cute!” However, our testers were able to forgive these negatives because the underpants earned such high marks for absorbency. And the Always Discreet is one of the most attractive and comfortable single-use panties (for what that’s worth). It still makes you feel like you’re wearing regular underwear, even if each pair is designed to be thrown away after a day of use. The Always Discreet comes in sizes S/M to XXL and in a limited color selection, including white, black, and pale pink. The ones we tested are lightly scented for odor control, and our testers didn’t find the scent overwhelming or unpleasant. A fragrance-free version is also available. Pros Highly absorbent Comfortable fit Cons Noticeable panty line Crinkles slightly as you walk Buy now at Amazon $49.99 from Walmart

ADVERTISEMENT

Other Incontinence Underwear We Tested Credit: Reviewed / Tim Renzi We tested a variety of reusable and disposable options to find the best. Knix Super Leakproof Bikini For a dependable, reasonably priced pair of reusable incontinence underwear that look and feel great, try a pair from Knix. This underwear brand makes its styles for either period or urine absorption in a couple of absorbencies. For incontinence, we tried the “super” version. Despite the claim, the Knix are best suited for those dealing with light leakage. These stylish panties, which our testers tried in a bikini style, fit comfortably and didn’t leave a panty line like some other options on our list. They held up well over time and showed minimal wear throughout multiple washes, and our testers didn’t experience any staining or residual odor with these panties. While these panties didn’t fit our testers quite as the Speax, they’ll save you about $7 a pair and are still a great option for a reusable, lightly absorbent pair of panties. They come in sizes XS to XXXXL, one of the most inclusive size ranges we tested, and a variety of colors and cuts from thongs to boyshorts. Pros Durable Available in a variety of styles Inclusive range of sizes Cons Only suitable for light leakage Buy now at Knix

Amazon Basics Women's Protective Underwear Amazon Basics' disposable incontinence underwear is highly absorbent, soaking up almost the full cup of water with minimal overflow. They’re just fine if you are looking for effectiveness but aren’t concerned with comfort. Neither of our testers found the fit to be ideal, and one thought the construction wasn’t great: "Too big in the butt area," she says. "Of all the disposables, they have the largest pad." Additionally, we found the material quality only average. One of our testers found that if they pulled too hard on the underwear, the seams ripped. And because of the large pad, Amazon Basics' underwear left an obvious panty line. They come in sizes S to XXL and only one color, purple. Pros Better than average absorbency Cons Ill-fitting Poor construction Buy now at Amazon

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Wearever Cotton Comfort Panty Wearever’s reusable underpants were some of the least absorbent we tested. When we poured a tablespoon of water on them, the water formed a small puddle before eventually being absorbed by the underwear. And when we poured a cup of water on them, most of it pooled in the crotch and spilled over the sides, and the water that was absorbed soaked all the way through to the other side of the panties, leaving them feeling damp through and through. Our testers also found the Wearevers to be the ugliest pair they tried. "These are absolutely hideous," says one tester of the mid-rise style. "The waistband was so high that I was actually able to fold them over my workout pants as they came up to above my belly button. I felt really gross and unattractive in these." These panties come in a few mid-rise to full-cut styles and are available in the largest size range we tested, sizes S to 8X. Pros Inclusive size range from S to 8X Cons Unflattering fit Poor absorbency Buy now at Amazon $36.99 from Walmart   
  
 Depend Fit-Flex Underwear The Depend Fit-Flex disposable panties absorb a decent amount of liquid—roughly two-thirds of a cup during our tests—but they’re not comfortable or well-fitting. One of our testers says they feel particularly saggy around the butt and leave a visible panty line. That said, the construction of these underpants, particularly the seams, is more durable than some other disposable options. They come in sizes XS to XXL and one basic, high-waisted, full-coverage bikini style. Pros Absorbent Durable Full-coverage Cons Saggy fit Visible panty line Uncomfortable Buy now at Amazon $13.99 from Target $13.72 from Walmart

ADVERTISEMENT

Depend Silhouette Underwear The disposable Depend Silhouette absorbed most of the cup of water but worked best when the water was poured slowly. When poured quickly, about half a cup overflowed, leaving the pants feeling quite damp—not a good sign for managing more severe bladder control issues. While the pad itself is slimmer than most disposables, the underwear leaves a noticeably visible panty line and makes an annoying crinkling sound as you walk. Additionally, one of our testers ripped a few pairs as she was pulling them on and said they aren’t as well-constructed as some other options. They come in sizes S to XL and three colors—pink, black, and berry. Pros None that we could find Cons Below average absorbency Leave a visible panty line Poor construction Buy now at Amazon $13.99 from Target $13.60 from Walmart

How We Tested Incontinence Underwear Credit: Reviewed / Tim Renzi We put the underwear through pour and wear tests to evaluate their efficiency and comfort. The Tester I’m Esther Bell, and as Reviewed’s health and fitness writer, I evaluate products that aim to improve your fitness and overall health, from workout gear to personal care products. In the past, I’ve personally tested the best fitness trackers and the best exercise bikes. For this particular review, I consolidated the results of our lab tests and wear tests to offer incontinence solutions you can trust.

ADVERTISEMENT

The Tests Credit: Reviewed / Tim Renzi We poured one tablespoon and one cup of water on the underwear to evaluate their absorbencies. We chose some of the most popular pairs of incontinence products including disposable offerings from drugstore staples like Always and Depend and reusable products from period underwear brands Thinx and Knix. Once we made our selections, we tested them for absorbency and durability in our lab and had testers wear each pair for two days to rate them for comfort and style. Before trying on any underwear, we tested each panty’s absorbency with water in Reviewed’s labs. We performed two tests: On each pair, we spilled one tablespoon (the amount of leakage one might experience with mild incontinence) and one cup (about the average amount of urine one passes each bathroom visit) and evaluated how much liquid was absorbed and how much, if any, seeped through onto the towel placed below. Then, the underwear went on to our wear testers, both women who experience minor stress incontinence as a result of having given birth. The testers were sent several pairs of the disposable underwear so they could test each for a few days, and they washed and re-wore the non-disposable pairs. All were worn during occasions when the testers expected they might experience leakage, such as for workouts, long car rides, and hikes. We then totaled up the score for absorbency, comfort, fit, and quality to land on these picks. What is Incontinence? Incontinence, or bladder control issues, occurs when the muscles of the lower abdomen don’t work as they should to hold urine in, resulting in leakage. Both men and women may experience incontinence, though it’s more common for those with female genitalia and most often happens after pregnancy and childbirth, during or after menopause, and with age. Symptoms of incontinence can happen to anyone at any age, and are more common than you realize. More than 25 million Americans experience temporary or chronic urinary incontinence that ranges from mild moisture output to frequent wetting on a daily basis, and one in four women experience incontinence in their lives, according to Mayo Clinic. What You Should Know About Buying Incontinence Underwear Credit: Reviewed / Tim Renzi You’ll want to take your individual needs into account when buying incontinence underwear. The most important factor to consider before buying incontinence underwear is the absorbency level you require. People with incontinence can experience leakage ranging from a few teaspoons to a full cup depending on the type of incontinence they have. Incontinence underwear can also be disposable or reusable. Reusable incontinence underwear is designed to be machine-washable and hold up over time, cutting down on storage space and waste. They’re often made with a washable pad tucked inside the gusset that absorbs leaks and can help keep your skin dry. However, reusable incontinence underwear tends to hold less liquid than disposable options, so it usually isn’t the right choice for those with heavy incontinence. The thicker pads in single-use underwear can often hold greater amounts of liquid, making it the better choice for more severe incontinence. “Most women who have given birth have experienced some leakage, and the non-disposables can help with that issue,” says one of our testers. “[But] if you’re truly incontinent, the reusable ones are not going to be helpful at all.” The right pair of absorbent underwear can be a lifesaver for those experiencing mild to moderate incontinence. However, if you’re dealing with sudden or severe incontinence, be sure to talk to your doctor about possible causes and treatments. More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best Period Underwear The Best Underwear for Women I hated working out on my period—until I tried Thinx activewear I never felt confident in underwear—until I tried this gender-inclusive brand

If you’re someone coping with incontinence—a.k.a. an overactive bladder—you may be familiar with the quest for protective underwear that’s functional yet stylish. Incontinence is common among people with female genitalia, especially post-pregnancy and childbirth, and the right pair of panties can help get you through your daily routine with minimal discomfort. Similar to period underwear, incontinence underwear is designed to absorb leaks and wick moisture away from your skin to keep you feeling comfortable while experiencing some uncomfortable symptoms.

We tested both reusable and single-use incontinence products from brands like Knix, Wearever, and Depend, but ultimately determined that the best incontinence underwear for women is Thinx Speax (available at Thinx), a stylish reusable option that is especially good for light leak protection. Should you need a pair for maximum protection against bladder leakage, the Always Discreet (available at Amazon), a highly absorbent single-use style, is the way to go.

We named Speax the best overall for their style and comfort.

Thinx Speax incontinence underwear is one of the highest quality pairs we tested and is far from the image you may have of “adult diapers.” The reusable Speax panties are ultra comfortable, thanks to their soft nylon-spandex blend and high quality stitching. We didn’t notice any fading, fraying, or other signs of wear after three wash/dry cycles during testing, and one of our testers who continued using Speax regularly is impressed with how well they’ve held up after nearly six months of occasional use. Not that we’re surprised: They’re from the makers of Thinx, the same company that makes the best period underwear we’ve tested.

In addition to its quality construction, the Speax underwear, which we reviewed in the hiphugger style, is also stylish for a garment that’s designed to be utilitarian. The seamless, inconspicuous design eliminates any worries you might have about visible panty lines or unsightly bunching. The various cuts—bikini, high-waist, French cut, thong, and hiphugger—are available in women’s sizes XS to 3X and a number of colors and patterns.

Because they can absorb up to 8 teaspoons of fluid, these underpants work well for those dealing with mild incontinence. But if you require a more absorbent pair, read on.

Comfortable and inconspicuous   
  
 High quality construction   
  
 Washable and reusable   
  
 Only suitable for mild incontinence

The Always Discreet is a highly absorbent pair best for heavy leakage.

Those experiencing heavy incontinence will want to try Always’ Discreet, a disposable, single-use, pull-up underwear that’s highly absorbent. We found that the Always Discreet was able to absorb a full cup of water during our tests while leaving little to no dampness on the underlying towel placed to absorb overflow. This result makes them our number one pick for heavy leakage.

Unfortunately, a design that’s built to absorb more liquid means a sacrifice or two in other areas, namely style and comfort. According to our testers, these panties, which we tested in the “maximum protection” style, are not so discreet, as they leave a visible panty line and even crinkle slightly when you walk. According to one tester, “They were fine under sundresses, but wearing them to work out under leggings was not cute!”

However, our testers were able to forgive these negatives because the underpants earned such high marks for absorbency. And the Always Discreet is one of the most attractive and comfortable single-use panties (for what that’s worth). It still makes you feel like you’re wearing regular underwear, even if each pair is designed to be thrown away after a day of use.

The Always Discreet comes in sizes S/M to XXL and in a limited color selection, including white, black, and pale pink. The ones we tested are lightly scented for odor control, and our testers didn’t find the scent overwhelming or unpleasant. A fragrance-free version is also available.

Highly absorbent   
  
 Comfortable fit   
  
 Noticeable panty line   
  
 Crinkles slightly as you walk

We tested a variety of reusable and disposable options to find the best.

For a dependable, reasonably priced pair of reusable incontinence underwear that look and feel great, try a pair from Knix. This underwear brand makes its styles for either period or urine absorption in a couple of absorbencies. For incontinence, we tried the “super” version. Despite the claim, the Knix are best suited for those dealing with light leakage. These stylish panties, which our testers tried in a bikini style, fit comfortably and didn’t leave a panty line like some other options on our list. They held up well over time and showed minimal wear throughout multiple washes, and our testers didn’t experience any staining or residual odor with these panties.

While these panties didn’t fit our testers quite as the Speax, they’ll save you about $7 a pair and are still a great option for a reusable, lightly absorbent pair of panties. They come in sizes XS to XXXXL, one of the most inclusive size ranges we tested, and a variety of colors and cuts from thongs to boyshorts.

Durable   
  
 Available in a variety of styles   
  
 Inclusive range of sizes   
  
 Only suitable for light leakage

Amazon Basics’ disposable incontinence underwear is highly absorbent, soaking up almost the full cup of water with minimal overflow. They’re just fine if you are looking for effectiveness but aren’t concerned with comfort. Neither of our testers found the fit to be ideal, and one thought the construction wasn’t great: “Too big in the butt area,” she says. “Of all the disposables, they have the largest pad.”

Additionally, we found the material quality only average. One of our testers found that if they pulled too hard on the underwear, the seams ripped. And because of the large pad, Amazon Basics’ underwear left an obvious panty line.

They come in sizes S to XXL and only one color, purple.

Better than average absorbency   
  
 Ill-fitting   
  
 Poor construction

Wearever’s reusable underpants were some of the least absorbent we tested. When we poured a tablespoon of water on them, the water formed a small puddle before eventually being absorbed by the underwear. And when we poured a cup of water on them, most of it pooled in the crotch and spilled over the sides, and the water that was absorbed soaked all the way through to the other side of the panties, leaving them feeling damp through and through.

Our testers also found the Wearevers to be the ugliest pair they tried. “These are absolutely hideous,” says one tester of the mid-rise style. “The waistband was so high that I was actually able to fold them over my workout pants as they came up to above my belly button. I felt really gross and unattractive in these.”

These panties come in a few mid-rise to full-cut styles and are available in the largest size range we tested, sizes S to 8X.

Inclusive size range from S to 8X   
  
 Unflattering fit   
  
 Poor absorbency

The Depend Fit-Flex disposable panties absorb a decent amount of liquid—roughly two-thirds of a cup during our tests—but they’re not comfortable or well-fitting. One of our testers says they feel particularly saggy around the butt and leave a visible panty line. That said, the construction of these underpants, particularly the seams, is more durable than some other disposable options.

They come in sizes XS to XXL and one basic, high-waisted, full-coverage bikini style.

Absorbent   
  
 Durable   
  
 Full-coverage   
  
 Saggy fit   
  
 Visible panty line   
  
 Uncomfortable

The disposable Depend Silhouette absorbed most of the cup of water but worked best when the water was poured slowly. When poured quickly, about half a cup overflowed, leaving the pants feeling quite damp—not a good sign for managing more severe bladder control issues.

While the pad itself is slimmer than most disposables, the underwear leaves a noticeably visible panty line and makes an annoying crinkling sound as you walk. Additionally, one of our testers ripped a few pairs as she was pulling them on and said they aren’t as well-constructed as some other options.

They come in sizes S to XL and three colors—pink, black, and berry.

None that we could find   
  
 Below average absorbency   
  
 Leave a visible panty line   
  
 Poor construction

We put the underwear through pour and wear tests to evaluate their efficiency and comfort.

I’m Esther Bell, and as Reviewed’s health and fitness writer, I evaluate products that aim to improve your fitness and overall health, from workout gear to personal care products. In the past, I’ve personally tested the best fitness trackers and the best exercise bikes. For this particular review, I consolidated the results of our lab tests and wear tests to offer incontinence solutions you can trust.

We poured one tablespoon and one cup of water on the underwear to evaluate their absorbencies.

We chose some of the most popular pairs of incontinence products including disposable offerings from drugstore staples like Always and Depend and reusable products from period underwear brands Thinx and Knix. Once we made our selections, we tested them for absorbency and durability in our lab and had testers wear each pair for two days to rate them for comfort and style.

Before trying on any underwear, we tested each panty’s absorbency with water in Reviewed’s labs. We performed two tests: On each pair, we spilled one tablespoon (the amount of leakage one might experience with mild incontinence) and one cup (about the average amount of urine one passes each bathroom visit) and evaluated how much liquid was absorbed and how much, if any, seeped through onto the towel placed below.

Then, the underwear went on to our wear testers, both women who experience minor stress incontinence as a result of having given birth. The testers were sent several pairs of the disposable underwear so they could test each for a few days, and they washed and re-wore the non-disposable pairs. All were worn during occasions when the testers expected they might experience leakage, such as for workouts, long car rides, and hikes. We then totaled up the score for absorbency, comfort, fit, and quality to land on these picks.

Incontinence, or bladder control issues, occurs when the muscles of the lower abdomen don’t work as they should to hold urine in, resulting in leakage. Both men and women may experience incontinence, though it’s more common for those with female genitalia and most often happens after pregnancy and childbirth, during or after menopause, and with age.

Symptoms of incontinence can happen to anyone at any age, and are more common than you realize. More than 25 million Americans experience temporary or chronic urinary incontinence that ranges from mild moisture output to frequent wetting on a daily basis, and one in four women experience incontinence in their lives, according to Mayo Clinic.

You’ll want to take your individual needs into account when buying incontinence underwear.

The most important factor to consider before buying incontinence underwear is the absorbency level you require. People with incontinence can experience leakage ranging from a few teaspoons to a full cup depending on the type of incontinence they have.

Incontinence underwear can also be disposable or reusable. Reusable incontinence underwear is designed to be machine-washable and hold up over time, cutting down on storage space and waste. They’re often made with a washable pad tucked inside the gusset that absorbs leaks and can help keep your skin dry. However, reusable incontinence underwear tends to hold less liquid than disposable options, so it usually isn’t the right choice for those with heavy incontinence. The thicker pads in single-use underwear can often hold greater amounts of liquid, making it the better choice for more severe incontinence.

“Most women who have given birth have experienced some leakage, and the non-disposables can help with that issue,” says one of our testers. “[But] if you’re truly incontinent, the reusable ones are not going to be helpful at all.”

The right pair of absorbent underwear can be a lifesaver for those experiencing mild to moderate incontinence. However, if you’re dealing with sudden or severe incontinence, be sure to talk to your doctor about possible causes and treatments.

Esther Bell  
   
  
  
 Staff Writer, Health and Fitness

Esther is a writer at Reviewed covering all things health and fitness.

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# The Best Electric Snow Shovels of 2022

## The Testers

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

A quality, lightweight, corded electric snow shovel that can clear easily down the pavement, even if it struggles a bit in deeper snow.  
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 A solid electric shovel for those homeowners specifically looking for a battery-powered option that can chew through different kinds of snow.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Rugged construction and good battery life make this a solid, cordless option  
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 Light and easy to store but short on battery life, and it doesn't feel sturdy.  
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 A light and maneuverable electric shovel with a cord to avoid battery life worries. Not the best build quality we've seen.  
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Updated October 21, 2022

Winter is a magical time, filled with sledding, ice skating, and snowball fights. It’s also filled with shoveling, which can be strenuous, time-consuming, and frequently ends in a sore back. When a manual shovel is too difficult, an electric snow shovel may help. Electric snow shovels, also called power shovels or handheld snowblowers, combine the maneuverability of a traditional snow shovel with the throwing mechanics of a snowblower. While they aren’t perfect and are still a good amount of work to use, they are usually easier on your body than traditional shoveling. After rounds of testing, we’re confident the best electric snow shovel is the Greenworks 2600802 (available at Amazon for $99.99). It’s a quality, well-balanced machine that eats away at the slush at the end of the driveway and clears down the pavement, all for a good price.

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For the best battery-powered, cordless snow shovel, the Snapper 1687919 (available at Amazon) is our pick because it can chew through both deep and heavy snow, with a battery that will last. However, there are plenty of great electric snow shovels in our guide to choose from. Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar The Greenworks Corded Snow Shovel is our pick for the best electric snow shovel. Best Overall Greenworks 2600802 12-Inch, 8-Amp Corded Snow Shovel The corded Greenworks electric snow shovel is easy and comfortable to handle. It has enough weight, however, to clear down to the pavement with only one pass. Heavy snow is no problem either; when testing, there was no noticeable power drop when it came into contact with heavier or packed snow. In deeper snow, the Greenworks snow shovel struggles a bit. It clears OK, but it needs multiple passes held off the ground to do it. The shovel’s mouth is not very tall, so if the snow is taller than that, it gets clogged. This is a problem with all electric shovels, but the corded models we tested, like this one, seems to struggle the most with it. All in all, this is one of the higher quality corded electric shovels, and would be great for any homeowner who decides they need one. Pros Lightweight Clears down to pavement Cons Struggles in deeper snow $99.99 from Amazon $99.99 from Tractor Supply $143.00 from Walmart

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Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar If you're looking for a cordless electric model, the Snapper Cordless Electric Snow Blower performs very well.

Best Cordless Snapper 1687919 82-Volt 12-inch Cordless Electric Snow Blower The Snapper 82-volt electric shovel is a fantastic battery-powered option. Like all of the battery-powered shovels, it’s heavy and a bit unwieldy, but its weight actually helps it clear all the way to the asphalt in one pass. It is powerful enough to chew through heavier or packed snow, including the slush at the end of the driveway, though while testing we noticed an audible drop in power when the density of the snow increased. In deep, powdery snow, this shovel really shines. In the 16-inch storm that we tested during, the Snapper cleared about 75% of the depth in one pass, and then cleared the rest in a second pass. I didn’t have to hold it up off the ground for as long as some of the corded shovels, which might take three to five passes to clear 16 inches. This said, the weight certainly did make for a more labor-intensive experience than some of the smaller shovels. I used it for about 20 minutes, and the battery showed no signs of wilting. In our battery test, the Snapper’s battery lasted the longest, making it almost an hour and 10 minutes before it finally died. For most homes, the battery should have plenty of working time to get the job done. This is a high-quality, durable electric shovel that can handle most of what you throw at it. If you’re specifically looking for a battery-powered option, this is the one that we recommend. Pros Clears down to the pavement Works well in deep, powdery snow Cons Weight $290.80 from Amazon $290.80 from Lowe’s $412.91 from Walmart

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Other Electric Snow Shovels We Tested Greenworks Pro 80V 12 inch Cordless Snow Shovel We got about 45 minutes of run time out of the Greenworks Pro, which is plenty to clear a typical driveway. As with most electric snow shovels, this isn’t for deep snowfalls, but it easily handled six inches of simulated sloppy snow. The Greenworks Pro weighs in at a hefty 15 pounds. Fortunately, that weight is well distributed. The large battery balances the power head as long as you have the adjustable top handle in the right spot. Even with good balance, that weight might become a problem after a long shoveling session. The build quality of the Greenworks is also excellent. The whole product feels sturdy, and the top handle has some padding for comfort. This is a relatively pricey product, but if you want rugged construction and a solid run time without the hassle of a cord, the Greenworks Pro is an excellent choice. Pros Rugged construction Comfortable handle Good battery life Cons Heavy battery $299.99 from Amazon $279.99 from Tractor Supply $299.99 from Walmart

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Snow Joe 24V-SS13 24-Volt iON+ 13-Inch 4-Ah Cordless Snow Shovel At 13 pounds the Snow Joe is one of the lighter cordless snow shovels we’ve tested, and you won’t have to drag an extension cord behind you. If you’re buying an electric shovel to keep the snow clearing effort to a minimum, these are major benefits. The lightness comes in part from the small battery. This has a downside as battery life clocked in at a modest 22 minutes. If you’re short on storage space, the Snow Joe 24V-SS13 has some attractive space-saving features. The handle breaks down into two short sections, and the top handle is removable. When the warm weather returns this means it will pack down small if you don’t have a shed or garage for storage. The build quality on the Snow Joe isn’t great. The handle joints were hard to assemble with awkward alignment of bolt holes. The top handle was made from relatively thin plastic, and part of the handle came loose during testing. If you have a small area to clear, lack storage space, and want a lighter product, this would work for you, just don’t expect too much in terms of performance and toughness. Pros Light weight Easy storage Cons Limited battery life Low build quality $144.99 from Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $144.99 from Best Buy $144.99 from Walmart

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Snow Joe 323E 13-Inch 10-Amp Electric Snow Shovel The snow flinging impeller of the corded Snow Joe electric snow shovel 323E is identical to that of the cordless Snow Joe 24V-SS13. The weight was slightly lower than the cordless version as it lacked the battery, but you’ll have to pull an extension cord behind you. The handling and performance of the Snow Joe 323E and its cordless cousin were almost identical. The major advantage of the corded version is that short battery life won’t limit how much snow you can clear. As the designs are so similar, the Snow Joe 323E has the build quality issues of the Snow Joe 24V-SS13, and is best for light snow clearing. Pros Light weight Cord for consistent power supply Cons Low build quality $83.89 from Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $83.89 from Lowe's $83.89 from Walmart   
  
 Toro 38361 Power Shovel, 12-Inch, 7.5-Amp This was the lowest amperage corded shovel that we tested, and it performed like it. The amount of torque that it generates is noticeably less than the other electric shovels, both in the distance it can throw and in how much it can scoop at a time. Even in the smaller snowstorm, it took several passes to clear each area. This said, unlike some of the other snow shovels, it is able to get down to the pavement, though it takes some effort to do so. In deeper snow, the lower torque is even more noticeable. The snow kept clogging the spinner, so I had to keep pulling it out of the snow, letting it clear itself, and then trying again. This made for a frustrating and time-consuming user experience. Pros Lightweight Cons Underpowered for heavy or deep snow Takes effort to clear to pavement Buy now at Home Depot $149.99 from Tractor Supply $193.00 from Walmart   
  
 Earthwise SN70010 Snow Thrower, 10-Inch, 9-Amp The Earthwise electric snow shovel is the smallest corded shovel that we tested, which is both a pro and a con. In heavier or packed snow, even a few inches deep, it simply doesn’t have the weight to cut through and clear. Multiple passes weren’t enough to get all the way down the pavement. When it came time to test the plow slush at the end of the driveway, it really struggled. However, it did surprisingly well in deep, fluffy snow. Because of its light weight, it was easy to hold up off the ground to remove the snow layer by layer. It still wasn’t able to get all the way to the pavement or do an effective job with the plow slush. Pros Lightweight Works OK in fluffy snow Cons Doesn't clear down to pavement Doesn't clear heavy or packed snow well Buy now at Amazon

How We Tested Electric Snow Shovels Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar We tested electric snow shovels after two storms, which included six inches of heavy, wet snow, and 16 inches of light, powdery snow. The Testers Hi, I’m Jean Levasseur. I’m a former conveyor mechanic, current property manager, hobbyist woodworker, and writing instructor at a local university. I come from a family of tool-users—my grandfather was a carpenter, my father owned an excavation company, and my mother was a mechanic. Between growing up working for my family’s businesses and then moving onto my own projects, I’ve used most tools you’ve heard of and quite a few that you haven’t. Dave Ellerby, our Chief Scientist, also tested snow shovels at the Reviewed lab. The Tests Like with our regular snow shovel tests, we wanted to come as close to real-world conditions as we could. Fortunately, winter cooperated and we were able to test most of the electric snow shovels through two storms. The first was about six inches of heavy, wet snow. The second was around 16 inches of light, powdery snow. This gave us a good sense of how each shovel handles different snow conditions. We were able to test most of the shovels in three main areas \* An asphalt driveway \* Walkways with brick pavers, stone and grass. \* A deck, porch and stairs. These gave a good sense of performance on different surfaces, the ease of lifting up stairs, and the challenges clearing a space while only throwing snow forwards. For some products, we used an artificial snow mix for testing. This uses a super absorbent polymer that picks up close to a thousand times its weight in water, forming dense, wet pellets. The high water content makes this an excellent substitute for heavy, wet snow when the real thing isn’t available. Wet snow is the worst case scenario for electric snow shovels, so the artificial snow is a tough test. What to Know When Buying an Electric Snow Shovel Do Electric Snow Shovels Work? Yes, they’ll save you the work of throwing snow, but they’re not a perfect solution. They’re heavier than manual shovels, not ideal for deep snow, and forward snow throwing can limit their use in some spaces. Before you buy, think carefully about your own abilities to wield these sometimes awkward machines, your typical snow conditions, and where you’ll be clearing snow. Do Electric Snow Shovels Make Snow Clearance Easier? Electric snow shovels avoid the need to lift shovel loads of snow but come with their own physical challenges: \* They’re pretty heavy, those we tested weighed in at 13 to 26 pounds compared to only 4 pounds for our best regular snow shovel. \* They don’t have wheels and rest on the ground. You’ll need to push them through the snow, and they work best on smooth ground. \* To keep them running, you hold down a trigger grip and a second safety switch, so you’ll need good grip strength. If you’re up to some light shoveling, and not usually faced with heavy snow, a traditional snow shovel may still be a better solution, particularly if it has an ergonomic design to reduce bending. A snow blower or thrower avoids the need for lifting. The lighter-weight models come in at around 30 pounds and rest on wheels. You won’t have to carry their weight, but the lighter models aren’t self propelled, so you’ll need to push them along. They may have adjustable handles to make this easier. Self propelled snow blowers take the work out of pushing, but the extra motor means they can weigh in at over 150 pounds. To use these with the minimum of effort, you’ll need a storage space that’s easy to access. The take-home message is that snow removal is hard work. Different products can alleviate the effort involved, but each type has limitations you’ll need to consider. Corded vs. Battery The first decision that you’ll have to make when buying an electric snow shovel is whether to get a battery-powered snow shovel or a corded snow shovel. Corded electric snow shovels require an extension cord. Depending on your yard and driveway, this can be a significant hassle. You have to have an easily accessible exterior outlet, no obstructions to get caught on, and you have to manage a cord in the snow. You also have to keep track of where the cord is and not run it over with the shovel, which I almost did several times. And when calculating cost, you need to consider the price of an extension cord long enough to meet your needs if you don’t already own one. With a corded model you don’t have to worry about how long clearing snow takes you, the power level of the corded shovels was more consistent than with a battery and the good corded models are also more consistent when dealing with heavy slush. Battery-powered snow shovels are heavier than the corded ones, which makes them harder and more tiring to maneuver. They also experience a bit of a power drop when they encounter heavier snow. You also have to remember to charge the shovel’s battery before a storm, and consider that it may run out of power before you finish. Finally, the battery-powered models are more expensive than their corded counterparts. The biggest pro to battery-powered shovels: They can go wherever you need them. You’re not tethered to the house, and you don’t have to climb through the snow to get to your outlet, nor do you have to worry about running over your cord. Those we tested also seemed to do better in the deeper, fluffier snow. I use a lot of tools for a lot of different tasks at my home, and this situation is actually one of the few where I recommend the corded version over battery for outside. The lighter weight, improved power, and significantly lower cost seem well-worth the inconvenience of having to manage an extension cord. Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar Electric snow shovels can be powered by a battery (left) or use cords that plug into electric outlets (right). What Electric Snow Shovels Are Good For Electric shovels are at their best with a few to six inches of snow on the ground and a wide open, large area to throw the snow. It’s easy to push them along the ground to clear the snow. Because the shovels can only throw straight, you have to plan out your shoveling paths, but as long as you have areas for the snow to go, they can be helpful in clearing small driveways, decks, and walkways. They also make clearing the plow slush at the end of the driveway much easier. While they don’t all do a great job with this, the top performers chewed through it and saved me a lot of backache. What Electric Snow Shovels Aren’t So Good For The number one drawback of the electric snow shovel is that the throwing direction, height, and distance is not adjustable. The electric shovel throws perfectly straight, however far it throws. This lack of control can be managed with some planning and awkward angles, but only if you have enough room. If you’re in the city or only have a couple of feet right next to the driveway to put the snow, an electric shovel simply won’t work. You’ll be throwing snow into your neighbor’s driveway. This lack of direction control also makes clearing the snow from decks and stairs challenging. The second drawback is that electric snow shovels are not great in deep snow. Once the snow gets deeper than the opening of the electric shovelit can no longer throw the snow. So, you have to pick it up to do layers at a time. The Bottom Line Electric snow shovels can be less physically taxing than regular shovels. But not by as much as you’d think, and they didn’t seem to be significantly faster either. What’s more, if precision in where you put the snow is important, then an electric snow shovel is probably going to be more of a hassle than it’s worth. For most homeowners, if a snowblower is in your budget, even a small electric one, get one of those. They’re easier to use, require little-to-no lifting, and you have better control over where the snow goes.

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The Best Snow Shovels The Best Winter Boots for Women The Best Leaf Blowers The Best String Trimmers

Winter is a magical time, filled with sledding, ice skating, and snowball fights. It’s also filled with shoveling, which can be strenuous, time-consuming, and frequently ends in a sore back.

When a manual shovel is too difficult, an electric snow shovel may help. Electric snow shovels, also called power shovels or handheld snowblowers, combine the maneuverability of a traditional snow shovel with the throwing mechanics of a snowblower.

While they aren’t perfect and are still a good amount of work to use, they are usually easier on your body than traditional shoveling.

After rounds of testing, we’re confident the best electric snow shovel is the Greenworks 2600802 (available at Amazon for $99.99). It’s a quality, well-balanced machine that eats away at the slush at the end of the driveway and clears down the pavement, all for a good price.

For the best battery-powered, cordless snow shovel, the Snapper 1687919 (available at Amazon) is our pick because it can chew through both deep and heavy snow, with a battery that will last. However, there are plenty of great electric snow shovels in our guide to choose from.

The Greenworks Corded Snow Shovel is our pick for the best electric snow shovel.

The corded Greenworks electric snow shovel is easy and comfortable to handle. It has enough weight, however, to clear down to the pavement with only one pass. Heavy snow is no problem either; when testing, there was no noticeable power drop when it came into contact with heavier or packed snow.

In deeper snow, the Greenworks snow shovel struggles a bit. It clears OK, but it needs multiple passes held off the ground to do it. The shovel’s mouth is not very tall, so if the snow is taller than that, it gets clogged. This is a problem with all electric shovels, but the corded models we tested, like this one, seems to struggle the most with it.

All in all, this is one of the higher quality corded electric shovels, and would be great for any homeowner who decides they need one.

Lightweight   
  
 Clears down to pavement   
  
 Struggles in deeper snow

If you’re looking for a cordless electric model, the Snapper Cordless Electric Snow Blower performs very well.

The Snapper 82-volt electric shovel is a fantastic battery-powered option. Like all of the battery-powered shovels, it’s heavy and a bit unwieldy, but its weight actually helps it clear all the way to the asphalt in one pass. It is powerful enough to chew through heavier or packed snow, including the slush at the end of the driveway, though while testing we noticed an audible drop in power when the density of the snow increased.

In deep, powdery snow, this shovel really shines. In the 16-inch storm that we tested during, the Snapper cleared about 75% of the depth in one pass, and then cleared the rest in a second pass. I didn’t have to hold it up off the ground for as long as some of the corded shovels, which might take three to five passes to clear 16 inches. This said, the weight certainly did make for a more labor-intensive experience than some of the smaller shovels.

I used it for about 20 minutes, and the battery showed no signs of wilting. In our battery test, the Snapper’s battery lasted the longest, making it almost an hour and 10 minutes before it finally died. For most homes, the battery should have plenty of working time to get the job done.

This is a high-quality, durable electric shovel that can handle most of what you throw at it. If you’re specifically looking for a battery-powered option, this is the one that we recommend.

Clears down to the pavement   
  
 Works well in deep, powdery snow   
  
 Weight

We got about 45 minutes of run time out of the Greenworks Pro, which is plenty to clear a typical driveway. As with most electric snow shovels, this isn’t for deep snowfalls, but it easily handled six inches of simulated sloppy snow.

The Greenworks Pro weighs in at a hefty 15 pounds. Fortunately, that weight is well distributed. The large battery balances the power head as long as you have the adjustable top handle in the right spot. Even with good balance, that weight might become a problem after a long shoveling session.

The build quality of the Greenworks is also excellent. The whole product feels sturdy, and the top handle has some padding for comfort.

This is a relatively pricey product, but if you want rugged construction and a solid run time without the hassle of a cord, the Greenworks Pro is an excellent choice.

Rugged construction   
  
 Comfortable handle   
  
 Good battery life   
  
 Heavy battery

At 13 pounds the Snow Joe is one of the lighter cordless snow shovels we’ve tested, and you won’t have to drag an extension cord behind you. If you’re buying an electric shovel to keep the snow clearing effort to a minimum, these are major benefits.

The lightness comes in part from the small battery. This has a downside as battery life clocked in at a modest 22 minutes.

If you’re short on storage space, the Snow Joe 24V-SS13 has some attractive space-saving features. The handle breaks down into two short sections, and the top handle is removable. When the warm weather returns this means it will pack down small if you don’t have a shed or garage for storage.

The build quality on the Snow Joe isn’t great. The handle joints were hard to assemble with awkward alignment of bolt holes. The top handle was made from relatively thin plastic, and part of the handle came loose during testing.

If you have a small area to clear, lack storage space, and want a lighter product, this would work for you, just don’t expect too much in terms of performance and toughness.

Light weight   
  
 Easy storage   
  
 Limited battery life   
  
 Low build quality

The snow flinging impeller of the corded Snow Joe electric snow shovel 323E is identical to that of the cordless Snow Joe 24V-SS13. The weight was slightly lower than the cordless version as it lacked the battery, but you’ll have to pull an extension cord behind you. The handling and performance of the Snow Joe 323E and its cordless cousin were almost identical.

The major advantage of the corded version is that short battery life won’t limit how much snow you can clear.

As the designs are so similar, the Snow Joe 323E has the build quality issues of the Snow Joe 24V-SS13, and is best for light snow clearing.

Light weight   
  
 Cord for consistent power supply   
  
 Low build quality

This was the lowest amperage corded shovel that we tested, and it performed like it. The amount of torque that it generates is noticeably less than the other electric shovels, both in the distance it can throw and in how much it can scoop at a time. Even in the smaller snowstorm, it took several passes to clear each area. This said, unlike some of the other snow shovels, it is able to get down to the pavement, though it takes some effort to do so.

In deeper snow, the lower torque is even more noticeable. The snow kept clogging the spinner, so I had to keep pulling it out of the snow, letting it clear itself, and then trying again. This made for a frustrating and time-consuming user experience.

Lightweight   
  
 Underpowered for heavy or deep snow   
  
 Takes effort to clear to pavement

The Earthwise electric snow shovel is the smallest corded shovel that we tested, which is both a pro and a con. In heavier or packed snow, even a few inches deep, it simply doesn’t have the weight to cut through and clear. Multiple passes weren’t enough to get all the way down the pavement. When it came time to test the plow slush at the end of the driveway, it really struggled.

However, it did surprisingly well in deep, fluffy snow. Because of its light weight, it was easy to hold up off the ground to remove the snow layer by layer. It still wasn’t able to get all the way to the pavement or do an effective job with the plow slush.

Lightweight   
  
 Works OK in fluffy snow   
  
 Doesn't clear down to pavement   
  
 Doesn't clear heavy or packed snow well

We tested electric snow shovels after two storms, which included six inches of heavy, wet snow, and 16 inches of light, powdery snow.

Hi, I’m Jean Levasseur. I’m a former conveyor mechanic, current property manager, hobbyist woodworker, and writing instructor at a local university. I come from a family of tool-users—my grandfather was a carpenter, my father owned an excavation company, and my mother was a mechanic. Between growing up working for my family’s businesses and then moving onto my own projects, I’ve used most tools you’ve heard of and quite a few that you haven’t. Dave Ellerby, our Chief Scientist, also tested snow shovels at the Reviewed lab.

Like with our regular snow shovel tests, we wanted to come as close to real-world conditions as we could. Fortunately, winter cooperated and we were able to test most of the electric snow shovels through two storms.

The first was about six inches of heavy, wet snow. The second was around 16 inches of light, powdery snow. This gave us a good sense of how each shovel handles different snow conditions.

We were able to test most of the shovels in three main areas \* An asphalt driveway \* Walkways with brick pavers, stone and grass. \* A deck, porch and stairs.

These gave a good sense of performance on different surfaces, the ease of lifting up stairs, and the challenges clearing a space while only throwing snow forwards.

For some products, we used an artificial snow mix for testing. This uses a super absorbent polymer that picks up close to a thousand times its weight in water, forming dense, wet pellets. The high water content makes this an excellent substitute for heavy, wet snow when the real thing isn’t available. Wet snow is the worst case scenario for electric snow shovels, so the artificial snow is a tough test.

Yes, they’ll save you the work of throwing snow, but they’re not a perfect solution.

They’re heavier than manual shovels, not ideal for deep snow, and forward snow throwing can limit their use in some spaces.

Before you buy, think carefully about your own abilities to wield these sometimes awkward machines, your typical snow conditions, and where you’ll be clearing snow.

Electric snow shovels avoid the need to lift shovel loads of snow but come with their own physical challenges: \* They’re pretty heavy, those we tested weighed in at 13 to 26 pounds compared to only 4 pounds for our best regular snow shovel. \* They don’t have wheels and rest on the ground. You’ll need to push them through the snow, and they work best on smooth ground. \* To keep them running, you hold down a trigger grip and a second safety switch, so you’ll need good grip strength.

If you’re up to some light shoveling, and not usually faced with heavy snow, a traditional snow shovel may still be a better solution, particularly if it has an ergonomic design to reduce bending.

A snow blower or thrower avoids the need for lifting. The lighter-weight models come in at around 30 pounds and rest on wheels. You won’t have to carry their weight, but the lighter models aren’t self propelled, so you’ll need to push them along. They may have adjustable handles to make this easier.

Self propelled snow blowers take the work out of pushing, but the extra motor means they can weigh in at over 150 pounds. To use these with the minimum of effort, you’ll need a storage space that’s easy to access.

The take-home message is that snow removal is hard work. Different products can alleviate the effort involved, but each type has limitations you’ll need to consider.

The first decision that you’ll have to make when buying an electric snow shovel is whether to get a battery-powered snow shovel or a corded snow shovel.

Corded electric snow shovels require an extension cord. Depending on your yard and driveway, this can be a significant hassle. You have to have an easily accessible exterior outlet, no obstructions to get caught on, and you have to manage a cord in the snow.

You also have to keep track of where the cord is and not run it over with the shovel, which I almost did several times. And when calculating cost, you need to consider the price of an extension cord long enough to meet your needs if you don’t already own one.

With a corded model you don’t have to worry about how long clearing snow takes you, the power level of the corded shovels was more consistent than with a battery and the good corded models are also more consistent when dealing with heavy slush.

Battery-powered snow shovels are heavier than the corded ones, which makes them harder and more tiring to maneuver. They also experience a bit of a power drop when they encounter heavier snow.

You also have to remember to charge the shovel’s battery before a storm, and consider that it may run out of power before you finish. Finally, the battery-powered models are more expensive than their corded counterparts.

The biggest pro to battery-powered shovels: They can go wherever you need them. You’re not tethered to the house, and you don’t have to climb through the snow to get to your outlet, nor do you have to worry about running over your cord. Those we tested also seemed to do better in the deeper, fluffier snow.

I use a lot of tools for a lot of different tasks at my home, and this situation is actually one of the few where I recommend the corded version over battery for outside. The lighter weight, improved power, and significantly lower cost seem well-worth the inconvenience of having to manage an extension cord.

Electric snow shovels can be powered by a battery (left) or use cords that plug into electric outlets (right).

Electric shovels are at their best with a few to six inches of snow on the ground and a wide open, large area to throw the snow. It’s easy to push them along the ground to clear the snow. Because the shovels can only throw straight, you have to plan out your shoveling paths, but as long as you have areas for the snow to go, they can be helpful in clearing small driveways, decks, and walkways.

They also make clearing the plow slush at the end of the driveway much easier. While they don’t all do a great job with this, the top performers chewed through it and saved me a lot of backache.

The number one drawback of the electric snow shovel is that the throwing direction, height, and distance is not adjustable. The electric shovel throws perfectly straight, however far it throws. This lack of control can be managed with some planning and awkward angles, but only if you have enough room.

If you’re in the city or only have a couple of feet right next to the driveway to put the snow, an electric shovel simply won’t work. You’ll be throwing snow into your neighbor’s driveway. This lack of direction control also makes clearing the snow from decks and stairs challenging.

The second drawback is that electric snow shovels are not great in deep snow. Once the snow gets deeper than the opening of the electric shovelit can no longer throw the snow. So, you have to pick it up to do layers at a time.

Electric snow shovels can be less physically taxing than regular shovels. But not by as much as you’d think, and they didn’t seem to be significantly faster either.

What’s more, if precision in where you put the snow is important, then an electric snow shovel is probably going to be more of a hassle than it’s worth.

For most homeowners, if a snowblower is in your budget, even a small electric one, get one of those. They’re easier to use, require little-to-no lifting, and you have better control over where the snow goes.

Jean Levasseur  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Jean Levasseur became a professional writer over a decade-long career in marketing, public relations, and technical writing. After leaving that career to stay home to care for his twin boys, Jean has continued to write in a variety of freelance roles, as well as teaching academic writing at a local university. When he’s not reviewing tools or chasing toddlers around the house, he’s also an avid fiction writer and a growing woodworker.

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David Ellerby  
   
  
  
 Chief Scientist

Dave Ellerby is Reviewed’s Chief Scientist, and has a Ph.D. from the University of Leeds and a B.Sc. from the University of Manchester.

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# The Best Paint by Number Kits of 2022

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

Great for any age, this paint by number kit is said to be very detailed and has great labeling, making it a high quality paint by numbers kit.  
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 This paint by number from Ledgebay offers 21 different pictures to choose from, the purchase of extra paint and an easel to work on your artwork.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Create your very own Van Gogh with the paint by number kit from Banlana, and take in the masterpiece that is Starry Night.   
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 The magic cat adult paint by numbers from Komking is a great paint by number, bound to help you scratch your creative itch.  
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 Seen on Shark Tank, Pink Picasso’s paint by numbers are a beautiful gift for any creative person in your life.   
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Updated October 22, 2022

For creative people, using our hands can be helpful in distracting ourselves from the pressures of daily life. Paint-by-number kits for adults are a perfect way to decompress, even if you don’t love painting. Paint-by-numbers are also a great gift for any craft lover. They’ll be sure to love having something new to try, even if they’re not a fine artist. There are lots of different paint-by-numbers out there, but not all are of equal caliber. We researched thousands of customer reviews in order to set you up with the best paint by number kits for a fun, relaxing activity on those less-than-ideal days.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Texture of Dreams Personalized Paint by Numbers Kit With lots of sizes to choose from, the Texture of Dreams painting kit allows you to paint your hearts desire because you can upload photos to paint your own custom paint by number. Great for any age, this paint-by-number kit is said to be very detailed and has great labeling—making it a high quality paint-by-numbers kit. Included in the kit is a framed canvas, plenty of paint, and three brushes of different sizes as well as instructions on how to get your best painting and a cheat sheet in case there are some missing numbers on your canvas. Reviews mention that it’s best to work color by color because the paints dry out after opening. The included brushes also aren’t great for small details so you may want to invest in a couple of extra brushes. If people have had issues with this paint-by-number, customer service has been quick to respond and remedy the issue giving Texture of Dreams high marks. A great way to memorialize a pet or show your loved ones your artistic ability, this paint-by-numbers kit is a great personalized option. Pros Personalized Great customer service Cons Brushes aren’t great Some places might be missing numbers Buy now at Amazon

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Ledgebay Paint by Number This paint-by-number kit from Ledgebay offers 21 different pictures to choose from, either framed or unframed and even offers the purchase of extra paint colors and a little easel to work on your artwork. Made from licensed artwork, the artists responsible for your entertainment make commissions on all sales so you can paint knowing that you’re supporting other people’s creativity. Included with the aforementioned are four decent quality paint brushes, a rolled canvas so you don’t have to worry about creases, the initial set of acrylic paint, a small photo of the finished painting for reference, and an 11-by-17-inch printout to look at for reference. Said to be easy to follow due to being well-marked, this paint-by-number shouldn’t require a magnifying glass and would be great for people of any age looking to make a beautiful painting. Pros Canvas is rolled Lots of options Cons None that we could find Buy now at Amazon   
  
 BANLANA Starry Night Adult Paint by Number Kit Create your very own Van Gogh with this painting set from Banlana, and take in the Starry Night masterpiece. Including more brushes than other sets, this kit comes with six premium painting brushes, one set of acrylic paints, instructions, and a reference card for easy painting. Numbers that are shown more often actually include more paint, so you should have adequate paint, but the option for extra paint is available so you can paint without worrying about running out. This is a favorite among those who have done a lot of paint-by-numbers, and the quality of the canvas is said to be very nice. It’s worth noting that this print in particular might be a little harder than others, because the elongated parts can be harder to keep track of due to limited numbering. But with time and care, you’re sure to love the process as well as the outcome. Pros Plenty of paint Good quality canvas Lots of brushes Cons None that we could find Buy now at Amazon

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Komking Magic Cat Paint by Numbers The magic cat adult paint-by-numbers from Komking is another great paint-by-number, bound to help you scratch your creative itch. Included is a pre-printed textured art canvas, a set of acrylic paints, and a three-piece brush set for painting. The included canvas comes folded so it might have some minor creases, but this doesn’t sound like an issue for most people. The included brushes aren’t great, so you might want to invest in different brushes, but they’ll hold up long enough to complete the painting. The details in this paint-by-number are said to be intricate and may be hard to follow, so we would recommend keeping this paint-by-number to adults. The acrylic paints included are said to have good coverage but lighter areas will need two coats to look their best, and once finished you’ll have an awesome art piece that you’re sure to have enjoyed painting. Pros Cool image Looks great when finished Cons Brushes aren’t good Might have creases Buy now at Amazon

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Pink Picasso Kits Botanical Floral DIY Canvas Paint by Numbers Pink Picasso’s paint-by-numbers are a great gift for any creative person in your life. This paint-by-numbers canvas comes rolled, so there’s no worrying about creases and does come with brushes included, but they’re said to be mediocre. Said to be relaxing and less difficult than some others, this paint-by-number might require a little extra time due to the thin paint viscosity so plan to take some time on your painting. Despite that, the bright colors are sure to grab the attention of your guests and you’ll be proud of your beautiful masterpiece. While some have voiced worries about not having enough paint to finish, there are no actual reports of this. So, we wouldn’t go so far as to say that this is a con, but it might detract from the relaxation in your process. Pros Nice images Rolled canvas Cons Paint is quite thin Brushes are mediocre Buy now at Amazon

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 Great customer service   
  
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Canvas is rolled   
  
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 None that we could find

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Nice images   
  
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 Brushes are mediocre   
  
  
 Ceara Perez-Murphy  
   
  
  
 Staff Writer, Search

Ceara Perez-Murphy is a staff writer at Reviewed.

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# The Best Dishwashers of 2022

## How to Use a Dishwasher

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

This high-end Bosch dishwasher can remove tough stains and get all of your dishes (including plasticware) completely dry.  
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 The G 5266 blows most other dishwashers out of the water. If your budget can accommodate its premium price, it's one of the best models you can buy.   
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 The Beko DUT25401X is that it pairs an excellent, energy-efficient performance with an incredibly low price tag—a great value.  
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 This Bosch is one of the best dishwashers we've ever tested. It gets dishes clean and dry, quickly, and is ADA-compliant.   
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 This feature-filled, high-performing dishwasher comes in a Tuscan stainless steel finish that is sure to elicit jealously from your neighbors.  
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Updated September 1, 2022

Here at the Reviewed test labs, we’ve been testing dishwashers for close to 15 years, so we know what separates the best dishwashers from the mediocre ones—and which dishwashers you should avoid. In general, the best dishwashers are full-size, energy efficient, quiet), provide great stain removal, drying ability, and have flexible racks and/or third racks. And these days, the best-rated dishwashers will most likely connect to Wi-Fi or a smart home assistant. After bringing the best-rated dishwashers on the market into our lab for testing and challenging them with thousands of dirty dishes, food-stained pots and pans, and tough, crusted casseroles, we’ve determined the best full-size dishwashers excel at everything.

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The best dishwasher we’ve tested is the Bosch SHPM88Z75N (available at Best Buy for $1,499.99), which offers excellent, reliable cleaning, can remove really difficult stains, and will 100% dry your dishes. If you want an excellent value that still offers perfect cleaning, check out the Beko DUT25401, which we can’t rave about enough. Credit: Reviewed / Jonathan Chan As far as dishwashers go, the Bosch SNPM88Z75N is an impressive specimen. Best Overall Bosch SHPM88Z75N Finishes: Stainless steel Cycles: Heavy, Auto, Delicate, Normal, Speed 60, Rinse Special features: Stainless steel tub, extra dry option, sanitize option, CrystalDry technology, adjustable upper rack The Bosch 800 Series SHPM88Z75N (2019) has a sound rating of 40 dBA, making it one of the quietest dishwashers we tested. This dishwasher does an amazing job removing some of our more difficult stains, but we did find occasional redeposit on other dishes. This top-rated dishwasher’s major selling point is its CrystalDry feature using zeolite crystals, which completely dried all of the dishes—even the notoriously hard-to-dry plastic containers. Pros Dries plastics Stellar stain removal Quiet operation Cons Nothing significant that we could find $1,499.99 from Best Buy $1,499.00 from Abt Buy now at Home Depot

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Credit: Reviewed / Jonathan Chan The top-facing controls are intuitive and responsive.

Best Upgrade Miele G 5266 SCVi SFP Finishes: Stainless steel Cycles: Normal, Quick, Pots, Rinse Special features: Stainless steel tub, third-rack, AutoOpen drying, ExtraClean & ExtraDry The Miele G 5266 SCVi SF is a great high-end option among best-rated dishwashers. It has a sleek design, featuring a pocket handle, top controls, a stainless steel tub, and adjustable upper and third racks. When it comes to cleaning performance, this Miele delivered nearly spotless dishes with no redeposit. On top of its impressive cleaning, its Normal cycle is a full 30 minutes faster than average, creating a much quicker turnaround without losing any cleaning power. There’s not a lot to dislike about the G 5266, other than its premium price. If you like its look and have the money to spend, it won’t let you down. Pros Impressive cleaning power Third rack and adjustable upper rack Cons Nothing significant that we could find $1,649.00 from Abt

Credit: Reviewed / Jonathan Chan The Beko DUT25401X dishwasher features convenient racks that flip down for larger kitchen utensils.

Best Value Beko DUT25401X Finishes: Fingerprint-free stainless steel, black, white Cycles: Heavy+, Normal, Quick & Shine, Express, Rinse & Hold Special features: Height adjustable upper rack, stainless steel tub, ProSmart Inverter motor, soil sensor, SilentTech The best thing about the Beko DUT25401X is that it pairs an excellent, energy-efficient performance with an incredibly low price tag, giving you a pretty powerful bang for your buck. During our testing of its normal cycle and quick wash, the DUT25401X hit slightly above average and slightly below average, respectively, with its stain removal prowess, but when it came to this dishwasher’s heavy cycle, it knocked out food stains like Ali in the ring, with a near perfect score. It also dries dishes like a champ at the end of the normal cycle, with every plate and glass coming out bone dry. When it comes to water and energy efficiency, the DUT25401X uses far less of each than average, across its three cycles. In fact, Energy Star gives it its official certification and rates it one of its Most Efficient 2021 models. From a usability standpoint, we love the upper rack of the Beko DUT25401X, which features different tines for multiple dishes and offers an angled height adjustment. There are also two height-adjustable shelves/wine racks and a mini third rack, which is attached. Unfortunately, the front-control panel leaves us wanting more and takes some effort to push down and make your desired cycle selections. Pros Excellent performance One of the highest-value dishwashers for its price Cons Hard-to-push control panel $519.00 from Appliances Connection

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Other Dishwashers We Tested Bosch SGX78B55UC Finishes: Stainless steel Cycles: Heavy, Normal, Auto, Delicate, Express Special features: ADA compliant, CrystalDry technology, third rack, Wi-Fi enabled, AquaStop Plus If you’re looking for a one of the best dishwashers with strong cleaning power, the ability to dry dishes every time, and ADA accessibility features, set your sights on the Bosch 800 Series SGX78B55UC/13. In our lab testing, we found that this Bosch scrubs out stains with the best of them, within relatively short cycle times. It also improves upon the brand’s already excellent CrystalDry dish drying technology using zeolite, and it was able to get every dish perfectly dry on every cycle. When it comes to features, the SGX78B55UC/13 comes fully loaded, with a third rack, adjustable upper rack, and foldable tines in its lower rack, in addition to Bosch’s suite of smart features. What’s more is this model is ADA-compliant, which means it has enhanced accessibility features—it’s also a bit smaller physically, so keep that in mind if your cabinetry is designed for a standard-sized dishwasher. Pros Excellent cleaning power Gets dishes dry Tons of features Cons Minor issues with redeposit $1,349.99 from Best Buy $1,349.00 from Abt Buy now at Home Depot

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Samsung DW80R9950UT Finishes: Fingerprint-resistant stainless steel, black stainless steel, navy steel, Tuscan steel Cycles: Auto, Normal, Heavy, Delicate, Express 60, Rinse Only, Self Clean Special features: Flexible third rack, Wi-Fi connectivity, AutoRelease door, stainless steel tub, top controls The Samsung DW80R9950UT dishwasher has it all. With a third rack deep enough to hold ladles and whisks (in addition to all of your silverware), adjustable tines that will make fitting even the most awkwardly-shaped dishes a breeze, a futuristic-looking top-control panel, and a fingerprint-resistant stainless steel finish, this dishwasher has enough features to please even the pickiest of users. Even better, the Samsung DW80R9950UT talks the talk and walks the walk with its cleaning performance. The Normal, Quick, and Heavy cycles were all able to remove more than 97% of our test food stains. The Heavy cycle clocks in at about 2.5 hours, so you won't have to do too much waiting around; some Heavy cycles on other dishwashers take as long as four hours to finish. This dishwasher also has minimal redeposit and near-perfect dish drying. Pros Short cycles Third rack Fingerprint-resistant stainless steel finish Cons None that we could find $4,558.94 from Samsung $1,169.99 from Best Buy $1,169.00 from Abt $1,168.00 from Home Depot

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Bosch SHPM65Z55N Finish: Stainless steel, black, white Cycles: Heavy, Auto, Normal, Speed60, and Rinse Special features: Flexible third rack, EasyGlide rack system, adjustable tines and rack positions, quiet operation The top-rated Bosch 500 series SHPM65Z55N dishwasher is still on the pricier end of what the market dictates, but you’re getting an extraordinary value. With its quiet operation, adjustable tines, and third rack, you’ll be able to wash many different sizes and types of dishes without worrying about loud noise. The dishwasher cycles are a bit on the longer side (the Quick cycle clocks in at about an hour), but the cleaning results are worth it. This dishwasher removed nearly all of the stains from our test dishes during the Heavy cycle, which is a rare feat. Additionally, the Auto Air function that opens the dishwasher door after a cycle has ended to expedite dish drying is pretty effective; almost every test dish in the Normal and Quick cycles came out bone dry. Pros Quiet Great cleaning ability Gets dishes dry Cons None that we could find $1,099.99 from Best Buy $1,099.00 from Abt Buy now at Home Depot   
  
 KitchenAid KDPM804KBS Finishes: Stainless steel, black stainless steel Cycles: ProWash, Normal, Express Wash, Tough, Rinse Only Special features: Third rack, leak-detection, stainless steel tub The KitchenAid KDTM404KPS is tailor-made for big families. This full-size dishwasher can hold up to 16 place settings, about two more than average. Part of the reason it can hold so many plates is because of the unique third rack, which has a deep divot that can hold small bowls, cups, and mugs. The third rack even has rotating spray jets to ensure everything gets clean. When it comes to cleaning performance, our testing shows that the Normal and Tough cycles do an excellent job removing stains. And, if we’re complaining, the Express cycle is slow compared to the competition, but that’s NBD in our book. Pros Third rack Adjustable tines Lots of features Cons Cleaning power was low for its price Buy now at Home Depot   
  
 Hisense HUI6220XCUS Finishes: Stainless steel Cycles: Auto, Intense, Normal, Quick, Rinse Special features: Adjustable upper rack The no-frills Hisense HUI6220XCUS dishwasher that is sold exclusively at Lowe’s offers exemplary performance at a budget-friendly price. It has a 15-minute Quick cycle—one of the fastest Quick cycles we’ve ever tested—for fast turn over, and a Sanitize cycle for baby bottles and plastic toys that can get gross. While it doesn’t have features like bottle jets or a third rack, it does offer high-powered cleaning capabilities. It is also good for families. Problems exhibited by the HUI6220XCUS are minor: unintuitive press-and-hold top controls and a cutlery basket that attracts food redeposit. Still, at its price it’s hard to score a better value deal. Pros Strong cleaning for its price point 15-minute Quick cycle Good value Cons Very few extra features Slightly unintuitive controls Minor issues with redeposit Buy now at Lowe's   
  
 Café CDT875M5NS5 Finishes: Platinum glass Cycles: Pots, Normal, Express, China, Auto Special features: Wi-Fi, third rack, Ultra Wash & Dry Plus, stainless steel tub The GE Café CDT875M5NS5 is a gorgeous upmarket appliance that dazzles with its platinum glass finish. Its cleaning quality was excellent overall, but we did see some inconsistencies where certain stains just weren’t getting cleaned well. While the rest of this full-size dishwasher’s performance and its expansive feature set still makes the CDT875M5NS5 a good pick for anyone whose budget isn’t broken by its price tag, at this price point the level of competition is very high: Most of the dishwashers listed above have even better performance at a lower price (though they might not look quite so sleek). Pros High-end aesthetics Third rack, bottle jets, and smart features Cons Inconsistent cleaning Not the best value at its current price $1,709.99 from Best Buy $1,709.00 from Abt $1,709.00 from Home Depot   
  
 Sharp SDW6757ES Finishes: Stainless steel Cycles: Auto, Heavy Duty, Normal, Delicate, Express Wash, and Rinse Only Special features: Third rack, Power Wash zone, top control, adjustable middle rack, interior light, stainless steel tub The Sharp SDW6757ES dishwasher offers its first-ever dishwasher released in the U.S., and has truly wowed us with its freshman effort. Its heavy duty cycle performs best, getting our test dishes 99.6% clean, with the normal and quick wash cycles not far behind. Got some super dirty dishes? Use the Power Wash function, which engages a sprayer with additional power. In terms of user experience, we love the smooth-glide rails, which feel sturdy and are easier than most to use, and the interior light that helps us load and unload dishes. In fact, each feels delightfully high-end. You can also raise or lower the middle rack to let you better accommodate taller items: Raising the middle rack allows taller items to be stored below, and lowering it can help you fit in taller glassware on the middle rack. The biggest thing we don’t like? Its price, which is too high for what you get. Pros Third rack Tons of extras Cons Expensive Middling cleaning power $899.99 from AJ Madison   
  
 Bosch 100 Series SHEM3AY52N Finishes: Black, white, stainless steel Cycles: 1 Hour US, Auto US, Delicate/Economy Wash US, Power Scrub Plus US, Regular US, Rinse & Hold US Special features: Stainless steel tub The Bosch SHEM3AY52N is proof that you can’t really go wrong with any dishwasher series from Bosch. Aside from its stainless steel interior, there aren’t any flashy features in this 100 Series model. But its low price tag and its cleaning performance more than makes up for it. While its food-stain-fighting power can’t beat out its 800 Series cousin, it comes close, getting dishes 97.7% clean. For the nice price, you will sacrifice a third-rack, Wi-Fi, and a high-end design aesthetic, but if those things don’t matter to you, this is a seriously good value. Pros Great cleaning performance Great features Cons Too expensive for what it offers Confusing controls Buy now at Abt Electronics $549.99 from Best Buy Buy now at Home Depot   
  
 Whirlpool WDT750SAKZ Finishes: White, black, fingerprint-resistant stainless steel, black stainless Cycles: Sensor, Heavy, Normal, Quick Wash, Soak & Clean Special features: Adjustable upper rack, third rack, leak detection, sensor cycle, stainless steel tub We love the Whirlpool WDT750SAKZ dishwasher's smooth, modern exterior, which has no features aside from its handle. Its upper rack can be adjusted vertically to provide more room for bulkier items, and it does have a standard third rack. When it comes to cleaning performance, this Whirlpool dishwasher handles stains with ease, even our dried spinach test, which is super hard to dominate. The only catch is that cycle times tend to run long. Pros Decent cleaning Good price for what it offers Third rack Cons Not many extra features Cycles run much longer than average $768.99 from Best Buy $765.00 from Abt $848.00 from Home Depot

How We Tested Dishwashers And Why You Can Trust Us When it comes to rating the best dishwashers, we do all the dirty work—pun intended. First, our editors research the best brands and models on the market to get an idea of what’s special, what’s different, and which dishwashers have a reputation for cleaning well. Then, because we want you to trust our judgment, we bring in the best-rated dishwashers we’ve seen to Reviewed’s Cambridge-based labs for hands’-on and scientific testing. Yes—we do have a chief scientist on staff! Testing dishwashers is obviously a dirty job filled with cheese-crusted casserole pans and spinach puree painted plates, but we are happy to do it. When testing, we assess each dishwasher on the three major factors—performance, features, and user experience. We test each dishwasher’s three main dishwasher cycles: quick, heavy, and normal by baking nasty food and beverage stains on 15 to 20 dishes that are then loaded into the dishwasher per the manufacturer’s loading directions. At the end of each cycle, we manually determine how much stain has been removed from each dish. Ideally, each dish is 100% clean, but that level of cleaning perfection can be harder to achieve in real life. We also look at redeposit, which is when water jets remove bits of food from one dish that get stuck on a second dish. We also look at a dishwasher’s ability to dry dishes and how it gets this job done. Customers expect their dishes to be dry, so we penalize the dishwasher every time a dish comes out wet. While all of the features in the world can’t make a bad dishwasher better, they can really add the finishing touch to a model that does a killer cleaning job.

What You Should Know Before Buying A Dishwasher Maybe it’s been 10 years since you last bought a dishwasher—or maybe this is your first go-around. Either way, it’s likely you have questions, and we can help you answer them.  
How to Use a Dishwasher Full-size dishwashers typically have the capacity to hold 14 to 16 place settings. Loading a dishwasher can be an art, and it’s been the reason behind many post-meal arguments. Here are the basics: Plates and serving dishes on the bottom rack, glasses and bowls on the top rack, and, if you have one, serving spoons, spatulas, and other larger utensils on the third rack. If there’s one rule to go by, don’t overload your dishwasher. If there are too many dishes crammed in, the water from the spray arm won’t be able to reach, and consequently, clean all the dishes. How to Clean a Dishwasher Cleaning your dishwasher is easy and only requires two ingredients: white vinegar and baking soda. Basically, drop a cup of white vinegar into the dishwasher and run it on its heavy cycle. When done, sprinkle the bottom of the dishwasher tub with baking soda and let it sit overnight. Then run an empty cycle again. Your dishwasher filter is another (gross) matter entirely. When it comes to how to clean a dishwasher filter, you’ll need dish soap and a scrub brush. Twist the filter out of the bottom of the dishwasher’s tub, scrub it under the tap with the soap and brush, and rinse it clean. When it comes to when to clean a dishwasher filter—that’s weekly. How to Install a Dishwasher Depending on how and from where you buy a dishwasher, its installation will vary. You may just want to call in a professional to take care of it. Consider if you have basic plumbing and electrical skills or would rather hire one, because set-up has to adhere to state requirements. If you still want to drive the DIY highway, then here are the basics on how to install a dishwasher. How Long Do Dishwashers Last? According to the International Association of Certified Home Inspectors, the average dishwasher lasts about nine years; this InterNACHI chart on standard estimated life expectancies for all types of home products is incredibly helpful. While we lab test dishwashers for cleaning performance and quality of build, we don’t test for life expectancy or any kind of operational duration. How long a dishwasher will last will vary by brand and even by model. How Much Does a Dishwasher Cost? The average price range for dishwashers spans about a $1,000 difference from the least expensive to the most. At the low end, you can find models that are just over $500 for value brands like Hotpoint and Amana. Midrange models start in the mid-$600s and run through about $1,000 with GE, Frigidaire, and Whirlpool, and even some Bosch 100 and 300 series dishwashers. Over the $1,000 mark, you’ll be getting a dishwasher loaded with special features and finishes, from brands like Bosch, Cafe, Samsung, Frigidaire Pro, and GE Profile. Over $1,600, and you’re in luxury territory with dishwashers from Miele, Fisher & Paykel, Bertazzoni, and Viking. Does a Dishwasher’s Size Matter? In short: No.  All built-in dishwashers that require installation are either 24 or 18 inches wide, and connect directly to the water intake in your kitchen. Measure the width of your space before buying. If you want one that’s going to sit perfectly flush with your cabinetry—like in a home design magazine—you’ll also need to grab a tape measure and determine your available depth. Double-check all measurements before purchasing. However, this means that it’s super easy to shop for a built-in dishwasher online, because you can guarantee it’ll fit the space you already have open in your kitchen. How Much Water Does a Dishwasher Use? Dishwashers use far less water than you would by hand-washing your dishes. Surprising, right?! Reviewed’s lab operations manager Jonathan Chan says, “The amount of water a dishwasher uses varies greatly on type and cycle selected. Normal cycles on compact models can use as little as 2.5 gallons, but larger entry-level models can use up to 5 gallons.” For example, in our test labs, we measure the amount of water and energy used per fast, normal, and heavy wash cycle. We assume 208 cycles per year (4 per week), of which 25% are fast, 50% are normal, and 25% are heavy. Based on these cycle counts and the per cycle numbers, we can determine approximate annual water use. The Best Overall winner, the Bosch SHPM88Z75N, uses 1,093 gallons per year—the third highest of our top 12 dishwashers, and our Best Value winner, the Beko DUT25401X has an annual water use of 731 gallons—the third lowest of the 12. Interestingly, our upgrade pick, the Miele G 5266 SCVi uses the least amount of gallons, at 626. Is the Dishwasher You Want to Buy Energy Efficient? If you’re environmentally- or money-conscious, the prospect of using less water and energy may be appealing to you. The best resource is Energy Star, which offers a searchable database of all dishwashers and their efficiency ratings. More Articles You May Enjoy

A dishwasher is the easiest appliance to buy online—here’s why Here’s how to load a dishwasher, according to the pros The Best Countertop Dishwashers Your dishwasher is gross—here’s how to clean it

Here at the Reviewed test labs, we’ve been testing dishwashers for close to 15 years, so we know what separates the best dishwashers from the mediocre ones—and which dishwashers you should avoid.

In general, the best dishwashers are full-size, energy efficient, quiet), provide great stain removal, drying ability, and have flexible racks and/or third racks. And these days, the best-rated dishwashers will most likely connect to Wi-Fi or a smart home assistant.

After bringing the best-rated dishwashers on the market into our lab for testing and challenging them with thousands of dirty dishes, food-stained pots and pans, and tough, crusted casseroles, we’ve determined the best full-size dishwashers excel at everything.

The best dishwasher we’ve tested is the Bosch SHPM88Z75N (available at Best Buy for $1,499.99), which offers excellent, reliable cleaning, can remove really difficult stains, and will 100% dry your dishes. If you want an excellent value that still offers perfect cleaning, check out the Beko DUT25401, which we can’t rave about enough.

As far as dishwashers go, the Bosch SNPM88Z75N is an impressive specimen.

Finishes: Stainless steel Cycles: Heavy, Auto, Delicate, Normal, Speed 60, Rinse Special features: Stainless steel tub, extra dry option, sanitize option, CrystalDry technology, adjustable upper rack

The Bosch 800 Series SHPM88Z75N (2019) has a sound rating of 40 dBA, making it one of the quietest dishwashers we tested. This dishwasher does an amazing job removing some of our more difficult stains, but we did find occasional redeposit on other dishes.

This top-rated dishwasher’s major selling point is its CrystalDry feature using zeolite crystals, which completely dried all of the dishes—even the notoriously hard-to-dry plastic containers.

Dries plastics   
  
 Stellar stain removal   
  
 Quiet operation   
  
 Nothing significant that we could find

The top-facing controls are intuitive and responsive.

Finishes: Stainless steel Cycles: Normal, Quick, Pots, Rinse Special features: Stainless steel tub, third-rack, AutoOpen drying, ExtraClean & ExtraDry

The Miele G 5266 SCVi SF is a great high-end option among best-rated dishwashers. It has a sleek design, featuring a pocket handle, top controls, a stainless steel tub, and adjustable upper and third racks.

When it comes to cleaning performance, this Miele delivered nearly spotless dishes with no redeposit. On top of its impressive cleaning, its Normal cycle is a full 30 minutes faster than average, creating a much quicker turnaround without losing any cleaning power.

There’s not a lot to dislike about the G 5266, other than its premium price. If you like its look and have the money to spend, it won’t let you down.

Impressive cleaning power   
  
 Third rack and adjustable upper rack   
  
 Nothing significant that we could find

The Beko DUT25401X dishwasher features convenient racks that flip down for larger kitchen utensils.

Finishes: Fingerprint-free stainless steel, black, white Cycles: Heavy+, Normal, Quick & Shine, Express, Rinse & Hold Special features: Height adjustable upper rack, stainless steel tub, ProSmart Inverter motor, soil sensor, SilentTech

The best thing about the Beko DUT25401X is that it pairs an excellent, energy-efficient performance with an incredibly low price tag, giving you a pretty powerful bang for your buck.

During our testing of its normal cycle and quick wash, the DUT25401X hit slightly above average and slightly below average, respectively, with its stain removal prowess, but when it came to this dishwasher’s heavy cycle, it knocked out food stains like Ali in the ring, with a near perfect score. It also dries dishes like a champ at the end of the normal cycle, with every plate and glass coming out bone dry.

When it comes to water and energy efficiency, the DUT25401X uses far less of each than average, across its three cycles. In fact, Energy Star gives it its official certification and rates it one of its Most Efficient 2021 models.

From a usability standpoint, we love the upper rack of the Beko DUT25401X, which features different tines for multiple dishes and offers an angled height adjustment. There are also two height-adjustable shelves/wine racks and a mini third rack, which is attached.

Unfortunately, the front-control panel leaves us wanting more and takes some effort to push down and make your desired cycle selections.

Excellent performance   
  
 One of the highest-value dishwashers for its price   
  
 Hard-to-push control panel

Finishes: Stainless steel Cycles: Heavy, Normal, Auto, Delicate, Express Special features: ADA compliant, CrystalDry technology, third rack, Wi-Fi enabled, AquaStop Plus

If you’re looking for a one of the best dishwashers with strong cleaning power, the ability to dry dishes every time, and ADA accessibility features, set your sights on the Bosch 800 Series SGX78B55UC/13.

In our lab testing, we found that this Bosch scrubs out stains with the best of them, within relatively short cycle times. It also improves upon the brand’s already excellent CrystalDry dish drying technology using zeolite, and it was able to get every dish perfectly dry on every cycle.

When it comes to features, the SGX78B55UC/13 comes fully loaded, with a third rack, adjustable upper rack, and foldable tines in its lower rack, in addition to Bosch’s suite of smart features.

What’s more is this model is ADA-compliant, which means it has enhanced accessibility features—it’s also a bit smaller physically, so keep that in mind if your cabinetry is designed for a standard-sized dishwasher.

Excellent cleaning power   
  
 Gets dishes dry   
  
 Tons of features   
  
 Minor issues with redeposit

Finishes: Fingerprint-resistant stainless steel, black stainless steel, navy steel, Tuscan steel Cycles: Auto, Normal, Heavy, Delicate, Express 60, Rinse Only, Self Clean Special features: Flexible third rack, Wi-Fi connectivity, AutoRelease door, stainless steel tub, top controls

The Samsung DW80R9950UT dishwasher has it all. With a third rack deep enough to hold ladles and whisks (in addition to all of your silverware), adjustable tines that will make fitting even the most awkwardly-shaped dishes a breeze, a futuristic-looking top-control panel, and a fingerprint-resistant stainless steel finish, this dishwasher has enough features to please even the pickiest of users.

Even better, the Samsung DW80R9950UT talks the talk and walks the walk with its cleaning performance.

The Normal, Quick, and Heavy cycles were all able to remove more than 97% of our test food stains. The Heavy cycle clocks in at about 2.5 hours, so you won’t have to do too much waiting around; some Heavy cycles on other dishwashers take as long as four hours to finish.

This dishwasher also has minimal redeposit and near-perfect dish drying.

Short cycles   
  
 Third rack   
  
 Fingerprint-resistant stainless steel finish   
  
 None that we could find

Finish: Stainless steel, black, white Cycles: Heavy, Auto, Normal, Speed60, and Rinse Special features: Flexible third rack, EasyGlide rack system, adjustable tines and rack positions, quiet operation

The top-rated Bosch 500 series SHPM65Z55N dishwasher is still on the pricier end of what the market dictates, but you’re getting an extraordinary value.

With its quiet operation, adjustable tines, and third rack, you’ll be able to wash many different sizes and types of dishes without worrying about loud noise.

The dishwasher cycles are a bit on the longer side (the Quick cycle clocks in at about an hour), but the cleaning results are worth it. This dishwasher removed nearly all of the stains from our test dishes during the Heavy cycle, which is a rare feat.

Additionally, the Auto Air function that opens the dishwasher door after a cycle has ended to expedite dish drying is pretty effective; almost every test dish in the Normal and Quick cycles came out bone dry.

Quiet   
  
 Great cleaning ability   
  
 Gets dishes dry   
  
 None that we could find

Finishes: Stainless steel, black stainless steel Cycles: ProWash, Normal, Express Wash, Tough, Rinse Only Special features: Third rack, leak-detection, stainless steel tub

The KitchenAid KDTM404KPS is tailor-made for big families. This full-size dishwasher can hold up to 16 place settings, about two more than average.

Part of the reason it can hold so many plates is because of the unique third rack, which has a deep divot that can hold small bowls, cups, and mugs. The third rack even has rotating spray jets to ensure everything gets clean.

When it comes to cleaning performance, our testing shows that the Normal and Tough cycles do an excellent job removing stains.

And, if we’re complaining, the Express cycle is slow compared to the competition, but that’s NBD in our book.

Third rack   
  
 Adjustable tines   
  
 Lots of features   
  
 Cleaning power was low for its price

Finishes: Stainless steel Cycles: Auto, Intense, Normal, Quick, Rinse Special features: Adjustable upper rack

The no-frills Hisense HUI6220XCUS dishwasher that is sold exclusively at Lowe’s offers exemplary performance at a budget-friendly price.

It has a 15-minute Quick cycle—one of the fastest Quick cycles we’ve ever tested—for fast turn over, and a Sanitize cycle for baby bottles and plastic toys that can get gross. While it doesn’t have features like bottle jets or a third rack, it does offer high-powered cleaning capabilities. It is also good for families.

Problems exhibited by the HUI6220XCUS are minor: unintuitive press-and-hold top controls and a cutlery basket that attracts food redeposit. Still, at its price it’s hard to score a better value deal.

Strong cleaning for its price point   
  
 15-minute Quick cycle   
  
 Good value   
  
 Very few extra features   
  
 Slightly unintuitive controls   
  
 Minor issues with redeposit

Finishes: Platinum glass Cycles: Pots, Normal, Express, China, Auto Special features: Wi-Fi, third rack, Ultra Wash & Dry Plus, stainless steel tub

The GE Café CDT875M5NS5 is a gorgeous upmarket appliance that dazzles with its platinum glass finish.

Its cleaning quality was excellent overall, but we did see some inconsistencies where certain stains just weren’t getting cleaned well.

While the rest of this full-size dishwasher’s performance and its expansive feature set still makes the CDT875M5NS5 a good pick for anyone whose budget isn’t broken by its price tag, at this price point the level of competition is very high: Most of the dishwashers listed above have even better performance at a lower price (though they might not look quite so sleek).

High-end aesthetics   
  
 Third rack, bottle jets, and smart features   
  
 Inconsistent cleaning   
  
 Not the best value at its current price

Finishes: Stainless steel Cycles: Auto, Heavy Duty, Normal, Delicate, Express Wash, and Rinse Only Special features: Third rack, Power Wash zone, top control, adjustable middle rack, interior light, stainless steel tub

The Sharp SDW6757ES dishwasher offers its first-ever dishwasher released in the U.S., and has truly wowed us with its freshman effort.

Its heavy duty cycle performs best, getting our test dishes 99.6% clean, with the normal and quick wash cycles not far behind. Got some super dirty dishes? Use the Power Wash function, which engages a sprayer with additional power.

In terms of user experience, we love the smooth-glide rails, which feel sturdy and are easier than most to use, and the interior light that helps us load and unload dishes. In fact, each feels delightfully high-end.

You can also raise or lower the middle rack to let you better accommodate taller items: Raising the middle rack allows taller items to be stored below, and lowering it can help you fit in taller glassware on the middle rack.

The biggest thing we don’t like? Its price, which is too high for what you get.

Third rack   
  
 Tons of extras   
  
 Expensive   
  
 Middling cleaning power

Finishes: Black, white, stainless steel Cycles: 1 Hour US, Auto US, Delicate/Economy Wash US, Power Scrub Plus US, Regular US, Rinse & Hold US Special features: Stainless steel tub

The Bosch SHEM3AY52N is proof that you can’t really go wrong with any dishwasher series from Bosch.

Aside from its stainless steel interior, there aren’t any flashy features in this 100 Series model. But its low price tag and its cleaning performance more than makes up for it. While its food-stain-fighting power can’t beat out its 800 Series cousin, it comes close, getting dishes 97.7% clean.

For the nice price, you will sacrifice a third-rack, Wi-Fi, and a high-end design aesthetic, but if those things don’t matter to you, this is a seriously good value.

Great cleaning performance   
  
 Great features   
  
 Too expensive for what it offers   
  
 Confusing controls

Finishes: White, black, fingerprint-resistant stainless steel, black stainless Cycles: Sensor, Heavy, Normal, Quick Wash, Soak & Clean Special features: Adjustable upper rack, third rack, leak detection, sensor cycle, stainless steel tub

We love the Whirlpool WDT750SAKZ dishwasher’s smooth, modern exterior, which has no features aside from its handle.

Its upper rack can be adjusted vertically to provide more room for bulkier items, and it does have a standard third rack.

When it comes to cleaning performance, this Whirlpool dishwasher handles stains with ease, even our dried spinach test, which is super hard to dominate. The only catch is that cycle times tend to run long.

Decent cleaning   
  
 Good price for what it offers   
  
 Third rack   
  
 Not many extra features   
  
 Cycles run much longer than average

When it comes to rating the best dishwashers, we do all the dirty work—pun intended. First, our editors research the best brands and models on the market to get an idea of what’s special, what’s different, and which dishwashers have a reputation for cleaning well.

Then, because we want you to trust our judgment, we bring in the best-rated dishwashers we’ve seen to Reviewed’s Cambridge-based labs for hands’-on and scientific testing. Yes—we do have a chief scientist on staff!

Testing dishwashers is obviously a dirty job filled with cheese-crusted casserole pans and spinach puree painted plates, but we are happy to do it. When testing, we assess each dishwasher on the three major factors—performance, features, and user experience.

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We also look at a dishwasher’s ability to dry dishes and how it gets this job done. Customers expect their dishes to be dry, so we penalize the dishwasher every time a dish comes out wet.

While all of the features in the world can’t make a bad dishwasher better, they can really add the finishing touch to a model that does a killer cleaning job.

Maybe it’s been 10 years since you last bought a dishwasher—or maybe this is your first go-around. Either way, it’s likely you have questions, and we can help you answer them.

Full-size dishwashers typically have the capacity to hold 14 to 16 place settings. Loading a dishwasher can be an art, and it’s been the reason behind many post-meal arguments.

Here are the basics: Plates and serving dishes on the bottom rack, glasses and bowls on the top rack, and, if you have one, serving spoons, spatulas, and other larger utensils on the third rack.

If there’s one rule to go by, don’t overload your dishwasher. If there are too many dishes crammed in, the water from the spray arm won’t be able to reach, and consequently, clean all the dishes.

Cleaning your dishwasher is easy and only requires two ingredients: white vinegar and baking soda. Basically, drop a cup of white vinegar into the dishwasher and run it on its heavy cycle. When done, sprinkle the bottom of the dishwasher tub with baking soda and let it sit overnight. Then run an empty cycle again.

Your dishwasher filter is another (gross) matter entirely. When it comes to how to clean a dishwasher filter, you’ll need dish soap and a scrub brush. Twist the filter out of the bottom of the dishwasher’s tub, scrub it under the tap with the soap and brush, and rinse it clean. When it comes to when to clean a dishwasher filter—that’s weekly.

Depending on how and from where you buy a dishwasher, its installation will vary. You may just want to call in a professional to take care of it. Consider if you have basic plumbing and electrical skills or would rather hire one, because set-up has to adhere to state requirements.

If you still want to drive the DIY highway, then here are the basics on how to install a dishwasher.

According to the International Association of Certified Home Inspectors, the average dishwasher lasts about nine years; this InterNACHI chart on standard estimated life expectancies for all types of home products is incredibly helpful.

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The average price range for dishwashers spans about a $1,000 difference from the least expensive to the most.

At the low end, you can find models that are just over $500 for value brands like Hotpoint and Amana. Midrange models start in the mid-$600s and run through about $1,000 with GE, Frigidaire, and Whirlpool, and even some Bosch 100 and 300 series dishwashers.

Over the $1,000 mark, you’ll be getting a dishwasher loaded with special features and finishes, from brands like Bosch, Cafe, Samsung, Frigidaire Pro, and GE Profile. Over $1,600, and you’re in luxury territory with dishwashers from Miele, Fisher & Paykel, Bertazzoni, and Viking.

In short: No.

All built-in dishwashers that require installation are either 24 or 18 inches wide, and connect directly to the water intake in your kitchen. Measure the width of your space before buying.

If you want one that’s going to sit perfectly flush with your cabinetry—like in a home design magazine—you’ll also need to grab a tape measure and determine your available depth. Double-check all measurements before purchasing.

However, this means that it’s super easy to shop for a built-in dishwasher online, because you can guarantee it’ll fit the space you already have open in your kitchen.

Dishwashers use far less water than you would by hand-washing your dishes. Surprising, right?!

Reviewed’s lab operations manager Jonathan Chan says, “The amount of water a dishwasher uses varies greatly on type and cycle selected. Normal cycles on compact models can use as little as 2.5 gallons, but larger entry-level models can use up to 5 gallons.”

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If you’re environmentally- or money-conscious, the prospect of using less water and energy may be appealing to you. The best resource is Energy Star, which offers a searchable database of all dishwashers and their efficiency ratings.

Leigh Harrington  
   
  
  
 Managing Editor, Home

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Jonathan Chan  
   
  
  
 Senior Manager of Lab Operations

Jonathan Chan currently serves as the Lab Manager at Reviewed. If you clean with it, it’s likely that Jon oversees its testing. Since joining the Reviewed in 2012, Jon has helped launch the company’s efforts in reviewing laptops, vacuums, and outdoor gear. He thinks he’s a pretty big deal. In the pursuit of data, he’s plunged his hands into freezing cold water, consented to be literally dragged through the mud, and watched paint dry. Jon demands you have a nice day.

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Julia MacDougall  
   
  
  
 Senior Scientist

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# The Best Baby Food Makers of 2022

## Do you need a baby food maker?

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A solid choice, with a compact footprint and modern design. It performed well with some food, but squash proved a challenge.  
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 While not an all-in-one food maker, this easy-to-use blender will puree your food and includes a helpful freezer tray and storage accessories.  
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 Compact and stylish, this maker steams and purees in minutes just by pressing one button. However, the steaming instructions can be confusing.  
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 This maker lets you add food, press a button, then walk away while it seamlessly goes from steaming to blending. But it results in a watery puree.   
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 A ridge around the lid makes it tough to clean. So why the honorable mention? It mades luscious spinach puree in 30 seconds where 2 of the the top 3 contenders failed.  
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Updated September 20, 2022

While there’s nothing wrong with store-bought baby food, it’s hard to ignore the advantages of homemade baby food. It’s also hard to ignore how intimidating this can seem. Cooking up batches of your own baby food can seem like a frustrating, time-consuming experience, but the truth is that the right gear can make a huge difference. In the over-saturated market of baby essentials, it can be difficult to find the food maker that’s right for your family. To help you decide, we spent days researching and testing the most popular models, pureeing up six different fruits and vegetables any growing baby would love. While there were plenty of great options, the Beaba Babycook 4-in-1 (available at Amazon) is our clear favorite. A convenient space-saver, it can steam cook and puree with ease. For a less expensive option, the NutriBullet Baby (available at Amazon) doesn’t offer steaming capabilities, but its ease of use and included storage containers earned it our pick for best value.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Credit: Beaba The Beaba is an all-in-one steamer and blender that makes consistently smooth purees.

Best Overall Beaba Babycook The Beaba Babycook 4-in-1 is a compact all-in-one option that both steams and purees your food. It features a straightforward design that makes it very easy to use and was by far the quietest of the bunch when it came to the blending portion of the food making. It steams in minutes, and with a touch of a button, creates smooth and creamy purees in under one minute. You’re able to easily control the amount of water that goes into making your purees, which is a nice plus. You don’t need to figure out how much time to use, either—just add the correct amount of water, press the steam button, and it figures it out for you and alerts you when it’s done. The Beaba is very easy to clean and most of the parts are dishwasher safe, although I will say that the biggest con for me is that you can’t see inside the water tank, which makes it pretty impossible to check if there’s mold or bacteria growing inside. You can clean this out with a white vinegar descaling method, but still: I would feel more comfortable if I could get a glimpse inside. I found the manual to be almost too vague, although with a close look I was able to figure everything out pretty quickly. And while the steam basket isn’t quite as large as some other models, it makes a sufficient amount of food. I also love the aesthetics here: the Babycook is offered in a few different colors, like a rose gold model with gold touches that look surprisingly chic for a baby food blender. All in all, it makes excellent purees and doesn’t compromise on style, so it was hard to beat. Pros Very easy to use Compact and has a sleek look Purees are consistently smooth Cons You can’t see the water reservoir Difficult to clean The manual is vague Buy now at Amazon $154.95 from Macy’s $154.95 from Walmart

Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The Baby Bullet produces smooth purees and is reasonably priced.

Best Value NutriBullet Baby The Nutribullet Baby is not an all-in-one food maker: it doesn’t steam cooky, it just purees it. That said, it’s still a terrific value thanks to all of the parts and pieces. It’s just a blender, but it also comes with a freezer tray with a lid, six storage cups, a short cup, and a recipe book. The compact design makes for easy storage, doesn’t take up a lot of counter space, and the extra BPA-free containers are very helpful when it comes to putting away the food you just made. Using it is very simple: you put the blender bowl on the power base, press down, and it blends. It’s fairly easy to clean and blends quickly. The purees from the Nutribullet certainly weren’t bad, but they weren’t very consistent: some were perfectly smooth, while others had some chunks of food in them, especially at the bottom under the blades due to the shape of the bowl. It holds a decent amount of food, the manual and recipe book were very helpful, and the containers made it easy to pack everything up. Pros Includes a lot of storage containers Creates consistently smooth purees Very easy to use Cons Food gets stuck under the blades Difficult to clean Slightly noisy Doesn’t steam Buy now at Amazon $69.99 from Target Buy now at Home Depot $59.99 from Newegg

Qooc 4-in-1 Mini Baby Food Maker At first glance, the QOOC 4-in-1 Food Maker is remarkably similar to the Beaba Babycook, and that’s actually not an incorrect way to describe it. Compact and featuring a stylish, minimalist design, the QOOC shares many of the same features as the Beaba (for about $20 cheaper). It steams and purees in minutes, and works with just one button. It comes with a separate tiny “pitcher” to measure out the amount of water you need. One of the best things about this one is that the water reservoir has a large opening that not only makes it easy to see inside, but also makes it easier to clean. The instructions were a bit confusing, though: for example, while the food guide inside says to steam fruits for 15 minutes, the button on the front shows that you should steam fruits for 20 minutes. It left me feeling slightly lost on what to do, so I just guessed. Still, the QOOC makes impressively smooth purees. Although, in some cases, they were actually a little soup-like, which wasn’t exactly what I was going for. With some great features and its small size, the QOOC is a great model, as long as you’re okay with figuring out steam times on your own. Pros Easy to use Works quickly Large opening of water reservoir Consistent smooth purees Cons Instructions are inconsistent Some purees came out a too runny Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Baby Brezza Glass One Step Baby Food Maker Featuring a large glass bowl, the Baby Brezza One Step Glass Food Maker is clearly one of the more sturdy and durable options on the market. It’s a bit on the heavier side, but is still pretty compact for the size of the bowl, and has little suction cups on the bottom so that it won’t budge on the counter. Perhaps the best selling feature of the Baby Brezza is its Steam&Blend option, which allows you to add your food and press one button, then walk away while it seamlessly goes from steaming to blending. I was the most excited about this, but to be honest, was left disappointed: I found that a lot of the steamed water collected in the bowl with the food, so when it was blended, the puree was super watered down, sometimes (like with the blueberries) to the point where it was barely edible. You can choose not to use the Steam&Blend option (when I did this, purees were much better) and try carefully straining the excess liquid out of the food, but this is difficult without a steamer basket. Plus, that’s kind of the selling point of this, so it’s frustrating that it doesn’t work that well. I also noticed that water was getting into some parts of the bowl that I couldn’t clean, no matter how hard I tried, and that made me worry about mold in the future. It was quite loud when blending, something I definitely wouldn’t do during naptime. Still, it’s worth pointing out that the digital interface is a really nice touch and it’s super intuitive to use. Pros Durable Easy to use Digital interface Cons Puree results are watery Difficult to clean No steamer basket Buy now at Amazon $199.99 from Target $199.99 from Bed Bath & Beyond $199.99 from Walmart   
  
 Sage Spoonfuls Sage Baby Puree and Blend The Sage Spoonfuls Sage Baby Puree and Blend stands out: it’s a stainless-steel immersion blender that comes with a batch bowl. It doesn’t steam food and is more of a hands-on option since you have to hold the immersion blender down. So, if you were thinking of making food while also holding your baby, you probably wouldn’t be able to accomplish that with this option. There are still plenty of pros, though: the immersion blender worked just as well as the other blenders on this list in making smooth purees, if not better in some cases. Since it’s not a system at all, it’s smaller and easier to store, and doesn’t have to sit out on your counter. It’s easy to clean because there are so few pieces. It’s also very versatile: this is basically just an immersion blender, so you can use it for anything else, not just baby food. As for the cons? Aside from the fact that it requires two hands to use, the blender bowl is rather small and won’t hold too much food (although it’s worth noting you can use any bowl with this). Basically, there are no special features or add-ons to this one, it’s very straightforward. Pros Very easy to store Immersion blender can be used for anything, not just baby food Easy to clean Cons Need two hands to operate Blender bowl is quite small It doesn’t steam Buy now at Amazon $49.99 from Target $44.27 from Walmart

What You Should Know About Baby Food Makers Do you need a baby food maker? Many new parents question whether they really need a baby food maker or not, and the answer truly depends on your lifestyle. If you know that you’ll be making most, if not all, of your baby’s food, then yes, a baby food maker may be worth investing in. If you know that you won’t be making most of their food, then you might want to skip this purchase and opt for just using the blender or food processor you already own instead. The benefits of a baby food maker There are plenty of advantages to using a baby food maker. Making your own baby food can save you money in the long run, it can be the healthier option compared to some jarred baby foods, and it allows you to know exactly what is in your baby’s food. Combination baby food makers that steam and blend your food make both cooking and cleaning easier and more convenient than using a separate blender and steamer. What to look for when buying a baby food maker A baby food maker should make cooking baby food more convenient, so look for a machine that is easy to clean, doesn’t come with complicated instructions, and doesn’t take up too much space in your kitchen. You should also read reviews and select the baby food maker that does the best job at quickly and effortlessly pureeing even the toughest foods out there. How long you’ll use it: You’ll likely use a baby food maker once your baby is six months old and up until your baby is about 12-13 months old, at which point they’ll probably stop eating purees. More Articles You Might Enjoy

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While there’s nothing wrong with store-bought baby food, it’s hard to ignore the advantages of homemade baby food. It’s also hard to ignore how intimidating this can seem. Cooking up batches of your own baby food can seem like a frustrating, time-consuming experience, but the truth is that the right gear can make a huge difference. In the over-saturated market of baby essentials, it can be difficult to find the food maker that’s right for your family. To help you decide, we spent days researching and testing the most popular models, pureeing up six different fruits and vegetables any growing baby would love.

While there were plenty of great options, the Beaba Babycook 4-in-1 (available at Amazon) is our clear favorite. A convenient space-saver, it can steam cook and puree with ease. For a less expensive option, the NutriBullet Baby (available at Amazon) doesn’t offer steaming capabilities, but its ease of use and included storage containers earned it our pick for best value.

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The Beaba is an all-in-one steamer and blender that makes consistently smooth purees.

The Beaba Babycook 4-in-1 is a compact all-in-one option that both steams and purees your food. It features a straightforward design that makes it very easy to use and was by far the quietest of the bunch when it came to the blending portion of the food making. It steams in minutes, and with a touch of a button, creates smooth and creamy purees in under one minute. You’re able to easily control the amount of water that goes into making your purees, which is a nice plus. You don’t need to figure out how much time to use, either—just add the correct amount of water, press the steam button, and it figures it out for you and alerts you when it’s done.

The Beaba is very easy to clean and most of the parts are dishwasher safe, although I will say that the biggest con for me is that you can’t see inside the water tank, which makes it pretty impossible to check if there’s mold or bacteria growing inside. You can clean this out with a white vinegar descaling method, but still: I would feel more comfortable if I could get a glimpse inside. I found the manual to be almost too vague, although with a close look I was able to figure everything out pretty quickly. And while the steam basket isn’t quite as large as some other models, it makes a sufficient amount of food. I also love the aesthetics here: the Babycook is offered in a few different colors, like a rose gold model with gold touches that look surprisingly chic for a baby food blender. All in all, it makes excellent purees and doesn’t compromise on style, so it was hard to beat.

Very easy to use   
  
 Compact and has a sleek look   
  
 Purees are consistently smooth   
  
 You can’t see the water reservoir   
  
 Difficult to clean   
  
 The manual is vague

The Baby Bullet produces smooth purees and is reasonably priced.

The Nutribullet Baby is not an all-in-one food maker: it doesn’t steam cooky, it just purees it. That said, it’s still a terrific value thanks to all of the parts and pieces. It’s just a blender, but it also comes with a freezer tray with a lid, six storage cups, a short cup, and a recipe book. The compact design makes for easy storage, doesn’t take up a lot of counter space, and the extra BPA-free containers are very helpful when it comes to putting away the food you just made.

Using it is very simple: you put the blender bowl on the power base, press down, and it blends. It’s fairly easy to clean and blends quickly. The purees from the Nutribullet certainly weren’t bad, but they weren’t very consistent: some were perfectly smooth, while others had some chunks of food in them, especially at the bottom under the blades due to the shape of the bowl. It holds a decent amount of food, the manual and recipe book were very helpful, and the containers made it easy to pack everything up.

Includes a lot of storage containers   
  
 Creates consistently smooth purees   
  
 Very easy to use   
  
 Food gets stuck under the blades   
  
 Difficult to clean   
  
 Slightly noisy   
  
 Doesn’t steam

At first glance, the QOOC 4-in-1 Food Maker is remarkably similar to the Beaba Babycook, and that’s actually not an incorrect way to describe it. Compact and featuring a stylish, minimalist design, the QOOC shares many of the same features as the Beaba (for about $20 cheaper). It steams and purees in minutes, and works with just one button. It comes with a separate tiny “pitcher” to measure out the amount of water you need.

One of the best things about this one is that the water reservoir has a large opening that not only makes it easy to see inside, but also makes it easier to clean. The instructions were a bit confusing, though: for example, while the food guide inside says to steam fruits for 15 minutes, the button on the front shows that you should steam fruits for 20 minutes. It left me feeling slightly lost on what to do, so I just guessed. Still, the QOOC makes impressively smooth purees. Although, in some cases, they were actually a little soup-like, which wasn’t exactly what I was going for.

With some great features and its small size, the QOOC is a great model, as long as you’re okay with figuring out steam times on your own.

Easy to use   
  
 Works quickly   
  
 Large opening of water reservoir   
  
 Consistent smooth purees   
  
 Instructions are inconsistent   
  
 Some purees came out a too runny

Featuring a large glass bowl, the Baby Brezza One Step Glass Food Maker is clearly one of the more sturdy and durable options on the market. It’s a bit on the heavier side, but is still pretty compact for the size of the bowl, and has little suction cups on the bottom so that it won’t budge on the counter.

Perhaps the best selling feature of the Baby Brezza is its Steam&Blend option, which allows you to add your food and press one button, then walk away while it seamlessly goes from steaming to blending. I was the most excited about this, but to be honest, was left disappointed: I found that a lot of the steamed water collected in the bowl with the food, so when it was blended, the puree was super watered down, sometimes (like with the blueberries) to the point where it was barely edible. You can choose not to use the Steam&Blend option (when I did this, purees were much better) and try carefully straining the excess liquid out of the food, but this is difficult without a steamer basket. Plus, that’s kind of the selling point of this, so it’s frustrating that it doesn’t work that well.

I also noticed that water was getting into some parts of the bowl that I couldn’t clean, no matter how hard I tried, and that made me worry about mold in the future. It was quite loud when blending, something I definitely wouldn’t do during naptime. Still, it’s worth pointing out that the digital interface is a really nice touch and it’s super intuitive to use.

Durable   
  
 Easy to use   
  
 Digital interface   
  
 Puree results are watery   
  
 Difficult to clean   
  
 No steamer basket

The Sage Spoonfuls Sage Baby Puree and Blend stands out: it’s a stainless-steel immersion blender that comes with a batch bowl. It doesn’t steam food and is more of a hands-on option since you have to hold the immersion blender down. So, if you were thinking of making food while also holding your baby, you probably wouldn’t be able to accomplish that with this option.

There are still plenty of pros, though: the immersion blender worked just as well as the other blenders on this list in making smooth purees, if not better in some cases. Since it’s not a system at all, it’s smaller and easier to store, and doesn’t have to sit out on your counter. It’s easy to clean because there are so few pieces. It’s also very versatile: this is basically just an immersion blender, so you can use it for anything else, not just baby food. As for the cons? Aside from the fact that it requires two hands to use, the blender bowl is rather small and won’t hold too much food (although it’s worth noting you can use any bowl with this). Basically, there are no special features or add-ons to this one, it’s very straightforward.

Very easy to store   
  
 Immersion blender can be used for anything, not just baby food   
  
 Easy to clean   
  
 Need two hands to operate   
  
 Blender bowl is quite small   
  
 It doesn’t steam

Many new parents question whether they really need a baby food maker or not, and the answer truly depends on your lifestyle. If you know that you’ll be making most, if not all, of your baby’s food, then yes, a baby food maker may be worth investing in. If you know that you won’t be making most of their food, then you might want to skip this purchase and opt for just using the blender or food processor you already own instead.

There are plenty of advantages to using a baby food maker. Making your own baby food can save you money in the long run, it can be the healthier option compared to some jarred baby foods, and it allows you to know exactly what is in your baby’s food. Combination baby food makers that steam and blend your food make both cooking and cleaning easier and more convenient than using a separate blender and steamer.

A baby food maker should make cooking baby food more convenient, so look for a machine that is easy to clean, doesn’t come with complicated instructions, and doesn’t take up too much space in your kitchen. You should also read reviews and select the baby food maker that does the best job at quickly and effortlessly pureeing even the toughest foods out there.

How long you’ll use it: You’ll likely use a baby food maker once your baby is six months old and up until your baby is about 12-13 months old, at which point they’ll probably stop eating purees.

Jessica Booth  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Jessica is a freelance writer from New York who loves to write about travel, beauty, parenting, and food. She has also written for sites such as Refinery 29, Bustle, Parents, Romper, The Daily Beast, Insider, and Redbook. She spend most of her spare time on Instagram or in the kitchen cooking.

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# The Best Gas & Electric Ranges Under $800 of 2022

## What Are the Different Types of Ranges?

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The Samsung NX58H5600SS offers a clean stainless steel design with a large digital display panel to make baking a breeze.  
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 Reminiscent of a dorm range, this appliance isn't much to look at, but it boils and roasts really well. Baking could use some improvement.  
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 This budget-friendly range lacks special features, but it does a good job with baking and roasting. There’s also a stainless-steel upgrade available.  
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 The oven is a showstopper with its even baking, roasting, and broiling. The burners, meanwhile, struggle to boil and are tough to clean.  
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 This Amana electric range is certainly aimed at the budget-minded shopper, but we’ve seen better performing electric ranges at the same price point.  
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Updated October 4, 2022

For some, spending thousands of dollars on a range just doesn’t make any sense. If you aren’t a professional chef, you probably don’t need any of the fancy features that lift prices to eye-watering levels. You just want an appliance that can reliably get dinner on the table. Luckily, there are plenty of ranges that fit the bill. What should you expect at this price point? Answer: freestanding gas and electric ranges with decent-to-very-good cooking and baking performance. You won’t find any pricey finishes or induction cooktops in this price bracket, but don’t worry, you can still get a great-looking (and great-performing) range, even when you’re operating on a budget. Our current favorite is the Samsung NX58H5600SS (available at Amazon) because of its fast preheat and sleek looks, but if that doesn’t suit your needs, we have plenty of other picks; read on to find out more.

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Credit: Samsung

Best Overall Samsung NX58H5600SS We loved this 5.8 cu ft. 5-burner gas range. It has nicely designed, stainless steel dials that create a super smooth turning experience, and the large digital display panel makes it easy to enter your precise oven temperature. The grates are well designed for easy cleaning, and you can remove the middle grate to place the custom griddle directly over the griddle burner. In addition to aesthetics, the Samsung NX58H5600SS is built to perform. It preheats exceptionally fast and did well on both the baking and roasting tasks. While the burners didn’t heat our cast iron pan as evenly as some of the other ovens, it was quick to boil water. It comes in at a nice budget price for a convection oven, but it looks and performs much more like a high-end range. Pros Affordable Sleek stainless steel design Fast preheat Cons Uneven baking Buy now at Amazon

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Amana ACR4503SFS What the Amana ACR4503SFS lacks in features, it more than makes up in performance. It's true that it is a very bare-bones electric range; its bare electric coils and black cooktop surface are reminiscent of the ranges that come standard in a rental apartment or a college dorm. This range has the same user-friendliness that you'd need in a range you didn't purchase yourself, though: the burner dials feel nice and turn easily, and the oven controls are easily visible and intuitive. Its humble exterior belies its excellent cooking prowess, however. All four burners can get both extremely hot and maintain a low simmer, the six slices of test toast came out perfectly and evenly browned, and the pork loin was beautifully cooked, inside and out. Unfortunately, from the somewhat unevenly baked cookies and cakes, we can tell you that it has a bit more trouble when it comes to baking. Between the low price, streamlined design, and cooking performance, we think it's worth it for you to check out the Amana AC4503SFS, as long as you can overlook its less-than-ideal baking capabilities. Pros Burners and oven boil and roast wonderfully Easy to use and clean Cons Design is pretty bare-bones Baking proved to be uneven Buy now at AJ Madison   
  
 GE JBS60DKWW We put the inexpensive GE JBS60DKWW electric range to the test and found that it's a good deal for what it offers. Consumers agree that it’s worth its price despite its lack of bells and whistles—It's attractive, a snap to use, and simple to clean. Its cooktop is smooth and offers a ton of space, as well as a dual-ring burner. The front left burner also has a separate "melt" setting, which is perfect for bakers who, for example, want to melt baking chocolate without scorching it. Its 5.3 cubic-foot oven excels in roasting and baking. The white finish will help it to fit in with any other white appliances you have, but if you prefer, you can pay a bit extra and upgrade to a stainless steel finish. The GE JBS60DKWW electric range makes "back to basics" look easy. Pros Very inexpensive Cons Mediocre performance Controls feel a bit cheap $649.99 from Best Buy $648.00 from Home Depot

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Amana AGR6603SFS This Amana AGR6603SFS gas range has a 5.0 cubic-foot oven that bakes, roasts, and broils insanely evenly, even without convection. Having an oven this good is almost unheard of, especially at this price point. However, its range top leaves something to be desired. None of the burners can effectively reach high or low temperatures, it struggles to boil water in a reasonable amount of time, and the fact that the individual burners are recessed (rather than the cooktop as a whole) means that it will be a non-trivial task to really clean each burner. The Amana AGR6603SFS range is great for bakers and lackluster for home cooks. Pros Oven bakes, roasts, and broils evenly Cons Burners struggle to boil effectively Difficult to clean cooktop $599.99 from Best Buy $595.00 from Abt $666.00 from Home Depot   
  
 Amana AER6603SFS The Amana AER6603SFS electric range is certainly aimed at the budget-minded shopper, but we’ve seen better performing electric ranges at the same price point. We like some of the features–like easy-to-use controls and baking assist buttons that let you quickly set preset oven temps. All of the cooktop burners were able to hit both very high and very low temperatures, which is a plus when you near to either sear or simmer something on the stovetop. Overall, though, the range has a cheap look and our main complaint is in the burner knob design. The knobs are located at the back of the range and stick out so much that they actually bumped into the large stockpot that we placed on the back burners. If you decide to buy the Amana AER6630SFS, be sure to use larger cookware on the front left dual-ring burner. Pros Good min and max temperatures Affordable price point Cons Poor control design and placement Somewhat cheap look and feel $699.99 from Best Buy $777.00 from Home Depot

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Maytag MGR6600FZ There are a lot of things to like about the Maytag MGR6600FZ gas range. Where some products seem to have good ovens or good cooktops, but not both, this gas range has multiple cooktop burners that can boil water quickly and can maintain very high temperatures, as well as an oven that produces evenly baked cookies. The model we tested has a fingerprint-resistant stainless steel finish, which is a nice surprise at this price point. Even better, the cooktop's center burner is larger and oval-shaped, which makes it perfect for cooking with larger cookware. On the other hand, user reviews indicate that the burners may be placed too close together and that you might not be able to fit multiple large pots and pans on the cooktop at the same time. While it's not perfect, the Maytag MGR6600FZ will serve you well in both its cooktop and oven capacities. Pros Burners and oven cook evenly and quickly Attractive stainless steel design Cons Cooktop may be a little small and crowded $849.99 from Best Buy $845.00 from Abt $943.00 from Home Depot   
  
 GE JGBS66REKSS Editor's Note: December 9, 2021 The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued a recall of the GE JGBS66REKSS gas range due to a tip-over hazard. Affected customers should contact GE for repairs. You can find more information about the recall here and check your individual model and serial numbers here. The affordable GE JGB66REKSS gas range comes in lots of finishes—including stainless and Slate—and includes a couple of features that are usually found on more expensive ranges. If you find yourself cooking breakfast a lot, this range comes with a built-in griddle burner in the center of the cooktop and obviates the need for a separate, stand-alone griddle that takes up room on your countertop. We found the drawer-mounted broiler hard to use, and steam cleaning is good for small spills. As for cooking, this gas range did a solid job with the oven tests, but struggled a bit more when it came to our cooktop performance tests; the burners are a bit slower to bring water to a boil than we'd prefer. If you rely more heavily on your oven to do your cooking but will get some solid use out of the bonus griddle burner on the cooktop, the GE JGBS66REKSS is definitely worth a look. Read the full review. Pros Griddle burner included Cons Burners were a bit slow to boil Broiler was tricky to use $644.00 from Abt $648.00 from Home Depot

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Frigidaire FFEH3054US If you need an electric range with a cooktop that can get the job done right the first time, consider the Frigidaire FFEH3054US. This is one of the only ranges we've tested that had a cooktop that aced every single test we threw at it. Two burners can boil water in under five minutes, all five burners can maintain both very hot and very low simmer temperatures, and our cornbread testshowed that the heat is very evenly distributed within the burners. We had less luck with the oven; the cookies and cakes came out much browner on the bottom than they were on the top. On the other hand, some people enjoy that level of browning, so it's all down to your personal preferences. Performance aside, this range looks great—it wouldn't look out of place in a very expensive kitchen. The oven and cooktop controls are on the front and has a clean-looking stainless steel finish. The Frigidaire FFEH3054US's cooktop can take on any task, and look good doing it. Pros Great min and max temperatures Can boil water in under 5 minutes Clean-looking stainless steel finish Cons Lackluster oven performance $899.99 from Best Buy $899.00 from Abt $898.00 from Home Depot

What Are the Different Types of Ranges? One of the main ways to differentiate ranges is by their fuel type: gas, electric, dual-fuel, and induction. • Gas — Lower cooktop temperatures, faster water boiling than electric ranges, potential for uneven cooking/baking because of central flame location • Electric — Higher cooktop temperatures, slower water boiling compared to gas and induction, more even cooking/baking because of heat distribution over coil

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• Dual-fuel — Gas cooktop with an electric oven, which will give you faster water boiling times than an electric stove, but more even cooking/baking than a gas oven because of heat distribution over coil • Induction — Super faster water boiling, very high and low cooktop temperatures, requires induction-compatible cookware, may require recipe modification Depending on your cooking and baking priorities, as well as the way you learned to cook, one of these fuel types might be more appealing than the rest. One more thing to consider: dual-fuel and induction ranges can be more expensive than traditional gas and electric ranges, depending on the features and manufacturer. More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best Ranges The Best Gas Ranges The Best Electric Ranges The Best Electric and Induction Cooktops

For some, spending thousands of dollars on a range just doesn’t make any sense. If you aren’t a professional chef, you probably don’t need any of the fancy features that lift prices to eye-watering levels. You just want an appliance that can reliably get dinner on the table. Luckily, there are plenty of ranges that fit the bill.

What should you expect at this price point? Answer: freestanding gas and electric ranges with decent-to-very-good cooking and baking performance. You won’t find any pricey finishes or induction cooktops in this price bracket, but don’t worry, you can still get a great-looking (and great-performing) range, even when you’re operating on a budget. Our current favorite is the Samsung NX58H5600SS (available at Amazon) because of its fast preheat and sleek looks, but if that doesn’t suit your needs, we have plenty of other picks; read on to find out more.

The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

We loved this 5.8 cu ft. 5-burner gas range. It has nicely designed, stainless steel dials that create a super smooth turning experience, and the large digital display panel makes it easy to enter your precise oven temperature. The grates are well designed for easy cleaning, and you can remove the middle grate to place the custom griddle directly over the griddle burner.

In addition to aesthetics, the Samsung NX58H5600SS is built to perform. It preheats exceptionally fast and did well on both the baking and roasting tasks. While the burners didn’t heat our cast iron pan as evenly as some of the other ovens, it was quick to boil water. It comes in at a nice budget price for a convection oven, but it looks and performs much more like a high-end range.

Affordable   
  
 Sleek stainless steel design   
  
 Fast preheat   
  
 Uneven baking

What the Amana ACR4503SFS lacks in features, it more than makes up in performance. It’s true that it is a very bare-bones electric range; its bare electric coils and black cooktop surface are reminiscent of the ranges that come standard in a rental apartment or a college dorm. This range has the same user-friendliness that you’d need in a range you didn’t purchase yourself, though: the burner dials feel nice and turn easily, and the oven controls are easily visible and intuitive.

Its humble exterior belies its excellent cooking prowess, however. All four burners can get both extremely hot and maintain a low simmer, the six slices of test toast came out perfectly and evenly browned, and the pork loin was beautifully cooked, inside and out. Unfortunately, from the somewhat unevenly baked cookies and cakes, we can tell you that it has a bit more trouble when it comes to baking. Between the low price, streamlined design, and cooking performance, we think it’s worth it for you to check out the Amana AC4503SFS, as long as you can overlook its less-than-ideal baking capabilities.

Burners and oven boil and roast wonderfully   
  
 Easy to use and clean   
  
 Design is pretty bare-bones   
  
 Baking proved to be uneven

We put the inexpensive GE JBS60DKWW electric range to the test and found that it’s a good deal for what it offers. Consumers agree that it’s worth its price despite its lack of bells and whistles—It’s attractive, a snap to use, and simple to clean. Its cooktop is smooth and offers a ton of space, as well as a dual-ring burner. The front left burner also has a separate “melt” setting, which is perfect for bakers who, for example, want to melt baking chocolate without scorching it. Its 5.3 cubic-foot oven excels in roasting and baking.

The white finish will help it to fit in with any other white appliances you have, but if you prefer, you can pay a bit extra and upgrade to a stainless steel finish. The GE JBS60DKWW electric range makes “back to basics” look easy.

Very inexpensive   
  
 Mediocre performance   
  
 Controls feel a bit cheap

This Amana AGR6603SFS gas range has a 5.0 cubic-foot oven that bakes, roasts, and broils insanely evenly, even without convection. Having an oven this good is almost unheard of, especially at this price point.

However, its range top leaves something to be desired. None of the burners can effectively reach high or low temperatures, it struggles to boil water in a reasonable amount of time, and the fact that the individual burners are recessed (rather than the cooktop as a whole) means that it will be a non-trivial task to really clean each burner. The Amana AGR6603SFS range is great for bakers and lackluster for home cooks.

Oven bakes, roasts, and broils evenly   
  
 Burners struggle to boil effectively   
  
 Difficult to clean cooktop

The Amana AER6603SFS electric range is certainly aimed at the budget-minded shopper, but we’ve seen better performing electric ranges at the same price point. We like some of the features–like easy-to-use controls and baking assist buttons that let you quickly set preset oven temps. All of the cooktop burners were able to hit both very high and very low temperatures, which is a plus when you near to either sear or simmer something on the stovetop.

Overall, though, the range has a cheap look and our main complaint is in the burner knob design. The knobs are located at the back of the range and stick out so much that they actually bumped into the large stockpot that we placed on the back burners. If you decide to buy the Amana AER6630SFS, be sure to use larger cookware on the front left dual-ring burner.

Good min and max temperatures   
  
 Affordable price point   
  
 Poor control design and placement   
  
 Somewhat cheap look and feel

There are a lot of things to like about the Maytag MGR6600FZ gas range. Where some products seem to have good ovens or good cooktops, but not both, this gas range has multiple cooktop burners that can boil water quickly and can maintain very high temperatures, as well as an oven that produces evenly baked cookies.

The model we tested has a fingerprint-resistant stainless steel finish, which is a nice surprise at this price point. Even better, the cooktop’s center burner is larger and oval-shaped, which makes it perfect for cooking with larger cookware. On the other hand, user reviews indicate that the burners may be placed too close together and that you might not be able to fit multiple large pots and pans on the cooktop at the same time. While it’s not perfect, the Maytag MGR6600FZ will serve you well in both its cooktop and oven capacities.

Burners and oven cook evenly and quickly   
  
 Attractive stainless steel design   
  
 Cooktop may be a little small and crowded

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As for cooking, this gas range did a solid job with the oven tests, but struggled a bit more when it came to our cooktop performance tests; the burners are a bit slower to bring water to a boil than we’d prefer. If you rely more heavily on your oven to do your cooking but will get some solid use out of the bonus griddle burner on the cooktop, the GE JGBS66REKSS is definitely worth a look. Read the full review.

Griddle burner included   
  
 Burners were a bit slow to boil   
  
 Broiler was tricky to use

If you need an electric range with a cooktop that can get the job done right the first time, consider the Frigidaire FFEH3054US. This is one of the only ranges we’ve tested that had a cooktop that aced every single test we threw at it. Two burners can boil water in under five minutes, all five burners can maintain both very hot and very low simmer temperatures, and our cornbread testshowed that the heat is very evenly distributed within the burners. We had less luck with the oven; the cookies and cakes came out much browner on the bottom than they were on the top. On the other hand, some people enjoy that level of browning, so it’s all down to your personal preferences.

Performance aside, this range looks great—it wouldn’t look out of place in a very expensive kitchen. The oven and cooktop controls are on the front and has a clean-looking stainless steel finish. The Frigidaire FFEH3054US’s cooktop can take on any task, and look good doing it.

Great min and max temperatures   
  
 Can boil water in under 5 minutes   
  
 Clean-looking stainless steel finish   
  
 Lackluster oven performance

One of the main ways to differentiate ranges is by their fuel type: gas, electric, dual-fuel, and induction.

• Gas — Lower cooktop temperatures, faster water boiling than electric ranges, potential for uneven cooking/baking because of central flame location

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• Dual-fuel — Gas cooktop with an electric oven, which will give you faster water boiling times than an electric stove, but more even cooking/baking than a gas oven because of heat distribution over coil

• Induction — Super faster water boiling, very high and low cooktop temperatures, requires induction-compatible cookware, may require recipe modification

Depending on your cooking and baking priorities, as well as the way you learned to cook, one of these fuel types might be more appealing than the rest. One more thing to consider: dual-fuel and induction ranges can be more expensive than traditional gas and electric ranges, depending on the features and manufacturer.

The Best Ranges

The Best Gas Ranges

The Best Electric Ranges

The Best Electric and Induction Cooktops

James Aitchison  
   
  
  
 Staff Writer

Aside from reviewing ovens and cooktops, James moonlights as an educational theatre practitioner, amateur home chef, and weekend DIY warrior.

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Lindsay D. Mattison  
   
  
  
 Professional Chef

Lindsay D. Mattison is a professional chef, food writer, and amateur gardener. She is currently writing a cookbook that aims to teach home cooks how to write without a recipe.

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# The Best Kids’ Halloween Costumes of 2022

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

Suitable for ages three to 14, this realistic costume includes reflective safety strips, authentic NASA and USA patches, and a helmet  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This Colombian-style dress from the movie Encanto includes pom-pom earrings, glasses, and a cross-shoulder purse.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Made from 100% polyester, the costume is flexible and soft. It has attached feet that slip right over your child’s shoes for easy wear.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Poiuyt offers a selection of all the most popular costumes for the little hero in your life: Spider-Man, Iron Man, Black Panther, Venom, and more.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 With matching wig and boots, this lovely little dress will have your daughter feeling like the most powerful ice princess in the kingdom.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated October 20, 2022

When you ask kids what they want to be when they grow up, you’re bound to get answers like astronaut, firefighter, ballerina, and maybe even superhero. So why not let your little one slip into one of those roles with a fun costume this Halloween? Amazon has one of the biggest selections worldwide of children’s Halloween costumes. They’ll have the world at their fingertips choosing from any sort of ghost, goblin, occupation, or mythical creature. Here are some of the best kids’ Halloween costumes you can get online before it’s time for another year of trick-or-treating.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Astronaut NASA Pilot Costume You love your kiddo to the moon and back. Now you can prove it to them with a fun and exciting astronaut costume. Available in a number of different sizes, suitable for ages three to 14, this realistic costume includes reflective safety strips, authentic NASA and USA patches, and a helmet with a movable visor. It comes in either white or orange and is super comfortable for trick-or-treating as well as classroom use. Pros Realistic helmet Quality stitching Multiple sizes and colors Cons Tricky to get in and out of May not fare well after multiple washes Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Mirabel from Encanto Costume for Girls Encanto was a hugely popular animated film last year, and Mirabel was its unlikely yet lovable hero. This lovely Colombian-style dress will have your little girl thinking she can cast spells on all she encounters. It includes pom-pom earrings, glasses, and a cross-shoulder purse. The colorful decorative patches make this lovely little dress perfect for Halloween, a day at the mall, or just about any occasion your little girl sees fit. Available in sizes from toddlers to nine years old. Pros Beautiful colors makes dress highly adaptable Comfortable Beautiful accessories Cons Sizing may run small Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Morph Costumes Orange T-Rex Kids’ Dinosaur Costume You little monster will be ferociously adorable in this soft and comfy dinosaur costume. Made from 100% polyester, the costume is flexible and soft. It has attached feet that slip right over your child’s shoes for easy wear. Includes dinosaur hood and spikey tail for a complete one-piece costume. Your kids will roar for this cute and fun little costume. Pros All-in-one design Suitable for roughly ages 3 to 9 Bright, easy-to-see colors Cons Can be hot in warm weather due to polyester Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Poiuyt Superhero Kids’ Bodysuit Costumes Superheroes seem to be the order of the day when it comes to boys’ Halloween costumes. That’s why Poiuyt offers a selection of all the most popular costumes for the little hero in your life. Spider-Man, Iron Man, Black Panther, and Venom are all available in this selection. These stretchy bodysuits are made from polyester and spandex, and make your kid feel like they can do anything. Machine washable and available in five different sizes, these superhero costumes will be a treat for your little trickster. Pros Spandex design is flexible and comfortable Multiple characters available Cons Can be difficult to get in and out of Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Party City Elsa’s Travel Costume If your little girl decides she wants to be Elsa from Frozen for Halloween, she may never “let it go.” That’s why you should probably order this Party City Elsa costume while it’s still available. With matching wig and boots, this lovely little dress will have your daughter feeling like the most powerful ice princess in the kingdom. Made from 100% polyester, the costume is durable and machine washable. Pros Quick and easy to put on Machine washable Includes wig and boots Cons Some found the fabric to be itchy Buy now at Amazon

Halloween Costume Ideas Halloween’s right around the corner, but if you’re still not sure how to dress up your little one, don’t worry—we’ve got a few ideas. Many of kids’ perennial favorite characters are still in vogue, and you can often find a decent, affordable Halloween costume on Amazon, at your local Target, or in a seasonal Spirit Halloween shop. The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Batman, Five Nights at Freddy’s (a series of video games), Harry Potter, Star Wars, and Harley Quinn are all hot properties right now. The younger crowd still adores Toy Story, Paw Patrol, Baby Shark, Peppa Pig, and the like. Heads to the kids’ costume section, and you’ll be sure to find something to delight your child. Grab a fun costume accessory and a candy bucket, and you’re good to go. Trick-or-treating crisis averted. Supply Chain Issues Last year’s supply-chain woes raised concerns about Halloween shortages, but far fewer news outlets seem concerned about availability in 2022. Folks still spent billions of dollars on costumes alone in 2021, and Halloween candy, spooky inflatables, and Count Chocula seem to be back in full force this month.

When you ask kids what they want to be when they grow up, you’re bound to get answers like astronaut, firefighter, ballerina, and maybe even superhero. So why not let your little one slip into one of those roles with a fun costume this Halloween?

Amazon has one of the biggest selections worldwide of children’s Halloween costumes. They’ll have the world at their fingertips choosing from any sort of ghost, goblin, occupation, or mythical creature. Here are some of the best kids’ Halloween costumes you can get online before it’s time for another year of trick-or-treating.

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You love your kiddo to the moon and back. Now you can prove it to them with a fun and exciting astronaut costume. Available in a number of different sizes, suitable for ages three to 14, this realistic costume includes reflective safety strips, authentic NASA and USA patches, and a helmet with a movable visor.

It comes in either white or orange and is super comfortable for trick-or-treating as well as classroom use.

Realistic helmet   
  
 Quality stitching   
  
 Multiple sizes and colors   
  
 Tricky to get in and out of   
  
 May not fare well after multiple washes

Encanto was a hugely popular animated film last year, and Mirabel was its unlikely yet lovable hero. This lovely Colombian-style dress will have your little girl thinking she can cast spells on all she encounters.

It includes pom-pom earrings, glasses, and a cross-shoulder purse. The colorful decorative patches make this lovely little dress perfect for Halloween, a day at the mall, or just about any occasion your little girl sees fit. Available in sizes from toddlers to nine years old.

Beautiful colors makes dress highly adaptable   
  
 Comfortable   
  
 Beautiful accessories   
  
 Sizing may run small

You little monster will be ferociously adorable in this soft and comfy dinosaur costume. Made from 100% polyester, the costume is flexible and soft.

It has attached feet that slip right over your child’s shoes for easy wear. Includes dinosaur hood and spikey tail for a complete one-piece costume. Your kids will roar for this cute and fun little costume.

All-in-one design   
  
 Suitable for roughly ages 3 to 9   
  
 Bright, easy-to-see colors   
  
 Can be hot in warm weather due to polyester

Superheroes seem to be the order of the day when it comes to boys’ Halloween costumes. That’s why Poiuyt offers a selection of all the most popular costumes for the little hero in your life. Spider-Man, Iron Man, Black Panther, and Venom are all available in this selection.

These stretchy bodysuits are made from polyester and spandex, and make your kid feel like they can do anything. Machine washable and available in five different sizes, these superhero costumes will be a treat for your little trickster.

Spandex design is flexible and comfortable   
  
 Multiple characters available   
  
 Can be difficult to get in and out of

If your little girl decides she wants to be Elsa from Frozen for Halloween, she may never “let it go.” That’s why you should probably order this Party City Elsa costume while it’s still available. With matching wig and boots, this lovely little dress will have your daughter feeling like the most powerful ice princess in the kingdom. Made from 100% polyester, the costume is durable and machine washable.

Quick and easy to put on   
  
 Machine washable   
  
 Includes wig and boots   
  
 Some found the fabric to be itchy

Halloween’s right around the corner, but if you’re still not sure how to dress up your little one, don’t worry—we’ve got a few ideas.

Many of kids’ perennial favorite characters are still in vogue, and you can often find a decent, affordable Halloween costume on Amazon, at your local Target, or in a seasonal Spirit Halloween shop. The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Batman, Five Nights at Freddy’s (a series of video games), Harry Potter, Star Wars, and Harley Quinn are all hot properties right now.

The younger crowd still adores Toy Story, Paw Patrol, Baby Shark, Peppa Pig, and the like. Heads to the kids’ costume section, and you’ll be sure to find something to delight your child. Grab a fun costume accessory and a candy bucket, and you’re good to go. Trick-or-treating crisis averted.

Last year’s supply-chain woes raised concerns about Halloween shortages, but far fewer news outlets seem concerned about availability in 2022. Folks still spent billions of dollars on costumes alone in 2021, and Halloween candy, spooky inflatables, and Count Chocula seem to be back in full force this month.

Adam Reeder  
   
  
  
 Contributor

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# The Best Trash Bags of 2022

## The Testers

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

The Glad ForceFlex Plus is both strong and flexible.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 At an affordable price, you can get a great trash bag from Amazon Basics that is sturdy and flexible.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Made from plants, the Hippo Sak is the best sustainable trash bag for its durable design and ability to hold up to 60 pounds.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Hefty Ultra Strong is a great option because it’s very durable and simple to use.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Glad ForceFlex contains odors like a champ and is very stretchy.  
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Updated October 6, 2022

It’s easy to underestimate the value of a great trash bag—that is, until you have to take out the garbage in a weak, leaky bag. Even if you’re sold on the necessity of a good garbage bag, it’s tough to know which to buy. As they don’t come in sample sizes, trying out a new brand of trash bag could mean that you’re stuck using month’s worth of bags less than impressed with. Fortunately, we’re here to help. After spending weeks researching and testing the most popular trash bags on the market, as well as some notable store brands, we’re confident the Glad ForceFlex Plus (available at Amazon) are the best option, for most people. They tie up easily and can accommodate large, heavy loads. If you’re looking for something more budget-friendly, you’ll want to check out the Amazon Basics (available at Amazon). They’re durable and you’re getting a ton of bags in the box. Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The Glad ForceFlex Plus trash bags are both durable and strong. Best Overall Glad ForceFlexPlus Tall Kitchen Drawstring Bags After two rounds of testing, the Glad ForceFlexPlus remains the best kitchen trash bag we’ve ever tested thanks to its durable design. During our tests, the bag securely held 43 pounds of water without breaking. It is also extremely tear-resistant, remaining intact despite being loaded to the brim with sharp-sided objects. The one downside, though, is that when the bag is at capacity, the plastic drawstring broke under weight of the bags contents which could result in a messy situation when you go to take out the trash. When the time came to take out the trash, we found these plastic drawstring trash bags pulled together in one smooth motion. However, because these stretchy bags can accommodate huge loads, the drawstring was often strained under the weight of the garbage that we thought it might break. The bags are scented but not overpowering. It kept the trash smelling pleasant rather than faintly rotting. The scent lasts all the way until it’s time to take out the garbage proving that these trash bags have it all. With its ultra-flexible stretchy sides and a light scent, these trash bags are durable and will work overtime to handle your messy trash. Pros Strong Flexible Covers up trash smell Cons None that we could find Buy now at Amazon $18.05 from Walmart

ADVERTISEMENT

Credit: Reviewed / Amazon The Amazon Basics trash bags are affordable, and sturdy.

Best Value Amazon Basics Tall Kitchen Drawstring Bags We retested the Amazon Basic Tall trash bags after they were rebranded from Solimo, and were seriously impressed by the 50 pounds of water weight they could hold before breaking. Unlike our Best Overall pick, the Amazon Basics bags are unscented and aren’t as flexible—they don’t stretch like our top pick does. However, they were still able to hold in any icky smells while they were tied up to take to the curb. At 15 cents per bag, they’re about half the price as our top pick. While these bags don’t have stretchy sides or a light fragrance to cover up the smell of trash, they get the job done and can hold a substantial amount of weight without tearing. This makes them a great value. Pros Fits snug to trash can Durable Cons Sides don’t stretch Buy now at Amazon

Credit: Reviewed / Hippo Sak If you're looking for a sustainable trash bag, the Hippo Sak is the best option.

Best Sustainable Trash Bag Hippo Sak Tall Kitchen Bags Clean up what you put your trash in with a more sustainable trash bag like the Hippo Sak. While trash bags are usually made of plastics, these Hippo Sak trash bags are made from polyethylene derived from plants like wheat grain and sugar cane. Structurally, the material feels just like thick plastic. While there isn’t much stretch to these bags, they can handle a lot of weight. They held 60 pounds of water, the most weight out of any of the bags we tested. The handle design of these bags looks like plastic grocery bags and makes for easy toting around, however, without the drawstring, they frustratingly fall off the rim of the trash can. Pros Holds 60 pounds Sustainable Sturdy Cons Slides down trash can easily Buy now at Amazon $54.45 from Walmart

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Other Trash Bags We Tested Hefty Ultra Strong - 13 Gallon The Hefty Ultra Strong trash bags are quite durable. There’s 80 bags per box and they can hold up to 35 pounds of dumbbells weight before failing, which means it can handle larger loads and bulkier items. The drawstrings also fastened tightly when we cinched the bag shut. While they performed similarly to our top pick, we preferred the ForceFlex Plus’ scented bags to the Ultra Strong’s unscented ones. Pros Durable Easy to use Cons None that we could find Buy now at Amazon $14.96 from Walmart

Glad ForceFlex - 13 Gallon The Glad ForceFlex trash bags contains odors like a champ and there are 120 bags per box, so it should last you a while until you’ve got to hit the store again. The bag can hold up to 30 pounds of dumbbell weight, making it a reasonably durable option. The drawstrings also cinched up the bag nice and tight, and it was easy to put the bag in a trash can. They performed similarly to our top pick. However, during testing, we discovered that the ForceFlex holds less weight than its Plus variation. Pros Stretchy Contains odors Cons Not very sturdy Buy now at Home Depot $25.98 from Lowe's $35.99 from Walmart   
  
 Simplehuman Code P Custom Fit Liners We are big fans of Simplehuman’s sleek line of trash cans, and we have similar feelings about Simplehuman kitchen trash bags. These bags feel expensive as they’re made with thick plastic. They lack the stretch and flexibility of our No. 1 pick, and can sometimes rip if overloaded, however they held an impressive 45 pounds of weight before breaking.. Simplehuman trash bags are designed to specifically fit the different trash can models, however, its code ‘P’ bags should fit a standard 13-gallon kitchen trash can. They fit snugly around the trash can rim so they didn’t fall down when stuffing trash into them. Pros Sturdy Fits trash can well Cons Plastic doesn't stretch Buy now at Amazon $15.50 from Walmart

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Kirkland Signature Flex-Tech Kitchen Trash Bags, 13 Gallon Available in boxes of 200, Kirkland Signature Flex-Tech trash bags are a good option for anyone looking to buy in bulk. During day-to-day use, these bags withstood any trash we threw at them and were able to accommodate larger items, without tearing. During weight testing, these bags proved capable of holding up to 35 pounds of weight Unfortunately, we found that when the time came to take out the trash, its drawstrings couldn’t cinch up as tightly as other trash bags in this guide. Pros Strong Moderate flexibility Comes with a lot of bags Cons Drawstrings don't cinch up as tightly as others $16.99 from Costco Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Up & Up FlexGuard Tall Kitchen Trash Bags - 13 Gallon The Up & Up FlexGuard bags from Target held 25 pounds of dumbbells before finally tearing open. They might be a good choice for use in an office environment, where lighter items tend to end up getting chucked in the garbage, more often than not. However, for kitchen duty, you’ll want to consider using one of the more durable bags, found in this guide. Additionally, there are only 25 Up & Up bags in each box, meaning that you’ll find yourself running out to buy more, a lot more often than you might like. Pros Stretchy Strong Made of thicker plastic Cons Not many bags per box Buy now at Amazon $5.99 from Target $13.79 from Walmart

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Great Value Tall Kitchen Drawstring Bags - 13 Gallon Walmart’s Great Value Tall trash bags come in a box of 40. We noticed that they felt thinner than other bags we tested for this guide. Subjectively, there’s not much stretch to them and they felt a little flimsy. During testing, they were only able to hold about 25 pounds of dumbbell weight before breaking. Pros None that we could find Cons Thin Flimsy $6.88 from Walmart   
  
 365 Everyday Value Tall Drawstring Kitchen Bags, 13 Gallon The Whole Foods’ 365 Everyday Value Tall trash bags can hold up to 30 pounds before they’ll break. They have easy-to-handle drawstrings that allow for a tight when you’re taking out the trash. However, they’re only available in boxes of 20. If you’ve got a lot of trash, you’ll blaze right through a single box. Don't avoid them if you see them at Whole Foods, but don't go out of your way to pick them up. Pros Drawstrings are easy to work with Decent flexibility Cons Don't support much weight Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Glad Guaranteed Strong Trash Bags, 13 Gallon In terms of everyday use, the Glad Guaranteed Strong trash bags get the job done without much fuss. Available in a box of 90 bags, they held about 30 pounds of dumbbell weight before tearing apart. Additionally, its drawstrings were sturdy and fastened tightly at the top, making it easy to lift a full bag out of the trash can. Pros Sturdy drawstrings Cons Don't support much weight Not that flexible Buy now at Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $16.99 from Blain Farm & Fleet $29.89 from Walmart

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Hefty Strong Trash/Garbage Bags (Kitchen Drawstring, 13 Gallon) The Hefty Strong trash bags held up to 30 pounds of weight. There are also 90 bags per box and it comes unscented. Unfortunately, we detected a small dribbling leak during daily use, which is why it got bumped down the list. Pros Decent strength Surprisingly flexible Seals up tightly Cons Not many bags per box Buy now at Amazon $10.99 from Target $32.90 from Walmart

How We Tested Trash Bags Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser To determine the relative strength of each bag, we designed a test to push the limits of each bag until it broke. The Testers I’m Samantha Mangino, a staff writer at Reviewed covering the home section. I review appliances and products so you can rest assured you’re buying the best stuff out there. Living in an apartment, I want a sturdy trash bag that won’t leak or break in the hallway or on the way to the garbage bin. Dave Ellerby, the Chief Scientist in the Reviewed labs, assisted in these trash bag tests. He oversees our lab testing, develops tests for new products, and updates tests to ensure they’re as meaningful as possible. Kevin Oliver and Georgia Kral were the original testers and writers of this buying guide. The Tests

To find the best available trash bag, we put each bag in this guide through a series of practical tests. While kitchen trash bags can range in size from 12 gallons to 16 gallons, we tested the most common size kitchen trash bags, which is 13 gallons. First, we inserted each bag into a 13-gallon trash can and, throughout the week, used it as, well, a trash bag to toss garbage into. We paid special attention to how easily each bag fit into our trash can, how difficult it was to tie while still in the can, and how cumbersome it was to remove a full bag from the can once tied. To determine durability, we turned to Reviewed’s chief scientist, David Ellerby, at our labs in Cambridge, MA. We tested the maximum weight capacity of each trash bag, by adding dumbbells to each bag in five-pound increments until the bag finally surrendered under its load and broke. Most of the bags gave way under 30 pounds of weight. Others couldn’t hold more than 25 pounds. When we redid our testing, we tested the durability of the trash bags through water weight. We held the bags up with a lift and filled them with water until they broke, noting the weight at which the bags faltered. What You Should Know About Buying Trash Bags While not all trash bags are the same, you can expect certain characteristics to be present in each.

Size: If your trash bag hangs over the receptacle by four inches, it’s too long. It’s way more bag than you realistically need. Ideally, you’d want the trash bag to hug the circumference of the barrel by an inch or two. You don’t want to waste money on a bag that’s way too big. Material: Most trash bags available today are made out of low-density polyethylene, which is a lightweight plastic that’s relatively tough and tear resistant. This type of plastic takes years to degrade, though, so it’s not very eco-friendly. If you’d rather go the biodegradable route, we’d recommend checking out reusable trash bags. Durability: For kitchen barrels and outdoor bins, you’ll want to go with a low-density trash bag. They’re thicker and more durable than most run-of-the-mill trash bags. Not only are they able to hold heavy loads, but they can also withstand objects with sharp or pointed edges like cardboard or wood. A more durable trash bag also lends itself, potentially, fewer liquid leaks.

While different types of plastics can end up in the recycling, are trash bags recyclable? No, trash bags are not recyclable so it’s not recommended that you use them to bag up your recycling. More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best Kitchen Trash Cans The Best Outdoor Trash Cans The Best Kitchen Towels The Best Toilet Paper

It’s easy to underestimate the value of a great trash bag—that is, until you have to take out the garbage in a weak, leaky bag. Even if you’re sold on the necessity of a good garbage bag, it’s tough to know which to buy. As they don’t come in sample sizes, trying out a new brand of trash bag could mean that you’re stuck using month’s worth of bags less than impressed with.

Fortunately, we’re here to help.

After spending weeks researching and testing the most popular trash bags on the market, as well as some notable store brands, we’re confident the Glad ForceFlex Plus (available at Amazon) are the best option, for most people. They tie up easily and can accommodate large, heavy loads. If you’re looking for something more budget-friendly, you’ll want to check out the Amazon Basics (available at Amazon). They’re durable and you’re getting a ton of bags in the box.

The Glad ForceFlex Plus trash bags are both durable and strong.

After two rounds of testing, the Glad ForceFlexPlus remains the best kitchen trash bag we’ve ever tested thanks to its durable design. During our tests, the bag securely held 43 pounds of water without breaking. It is also extremely tear-resistant, remaining intact despite being loaded to the brim with sharp-sided objects.

The one downside, though, is that when the bag is at capacity, the plastic drawstring broke under weight of the bags contents which could result in a messy situation when you go to take out the trash.

When the time came to take out the trash, we found these plastic drawstring trash bags pulled together in one smooth motion. However, because these stretchy bags can accommodate huge loads, the drawstring was often strained under the weight of the garbage that we thought it might break.

The bags are scented but not overpowering. It kept the trash smelling pleasant rather than faintly rotting. The scent lasts all the way until it’s time to take out the garbage proving that these trash bags have it all.

With its ultra-flexible stretchy sides and a light scent, these trash bags are durable and will work overtime to handle your messy trash.

Strong   
  
 Flexible   
  
 Covers up trash smell   
  
 None that we could find

The Amazon Basics trash bags are affordable, and sturdy.

We retested the Amazon Basic Tall trash bags after they were rebranded from Solimo, and were seriously impressed by the 50 pounds of water weight they could hold before breaking. Unlike our Best Overall pick, the Amazon Basics bags are unscented and aren’t as flexible—they don’t stretch like our top pick does. However, they were still able to hold in any icky smells while they were tied up to take to the curb.

At 15 cents per bag, they’re about half the price as our top pick. While these bags don’t have stretchy sides or a light fragrance to cover up the smell of trash, they get the job done and can hold a substantial amount of weight without tearing. This makes them a great value.

Fits snug to trash can   
  
 Durable   
  
 Sides don't stretch

If you’re looking for a sustainable trash bag, the Hippo Sak is the best option.

Clean up what you put your trash in with a more sustainable trash bag like the Hippo Sak. While trash bags are usually made of plastics, these Hippo Sak trash bags are made from polyethylene derived from plants like wheat grain and sugar cane.

Structurally, the material feels just like thick plastic. While there isn’t much stretch to these bags, they can handle a lot of weight. They held 60 pounds of water, the most weight out of any of the bags we tested.

The handle design of these bags looks like plastic grocery bags and makes for easy toting around, however, without the drawstring, they frustratingly fall off the rim of the trash can.

Holds 60 pounds   
  
 Sustainable   
  
 Sturdy   
  
 Slides down trash can easily

The Hefty Ultra Strong trash bags are quite durable. There’s 80 bags per box and they can hold up to 35 pounds of dumbbells weight before failing, which means it can handle larger loads and bulkier items. The drawstrings also fastened tightly when we cinched the bag shut. While they performed similarly to our top pick, we preferred the ForceFlex Plus’ scented bags to the Ultra Strong’s unscented ones.

Durable   
  
 Easy to use   
  
 None that we could find

The Glad ForceFlex trash bags contains odors like a champ and there are 120 bags per box, so it should last you a while until you’ve got to hit the store again. The bag can hold up to 30 pounds of dumbbell weight, making it a reasonably durable option. The drawstrings also cinched up the bag nice and tight, and it was easy to put the bag in a trash can. They performed similarly to our top pick. However, during testing, we discovered that the ForceFlex holds less weight than its Plus variation.

Stretchy   
  
 Contains odors   
  
 Not very sturdy

We are big fans of Simplehuman’s sleek line of trash cans, and we have similar feelings about Simplehuman kitchen trash bags. These bags feel expensive as they’re made with thick plastic. They lack the stretch and flexibility of our No. 1 pick, and can sometimes rip if overloaded, however they held an impressive 45 pounds of weight before breaking..

Simplehuman trash bags are designed to specifically fit the different trash can models, however, its code ‘P’ bags should fit a standard 13-gallon kitchen trash can. They fit snugly around the trash can rim so they didn’t fall down when stuffing trash into them.

Sturdy   
  
 Fits trash can well   
  
 Plastic doesn't stretch

Available in boxes of 200, Kirkland Signature Flex-Tech trash bags are a good option for anyone looking to buy in bulk.

During day-to-day use, these bags withstood any trash we threw at them and were able to accommodate larger items, without tearing. During weight testing, these bags proved capable of holding up to 35 pounds of weight

Unfortunately, we found that when the time came to take out the trash, its drawstrings couldn’t cinch up as tightly as other trash bags in this guide.

Strong   
  
 Moderate flexibility   
  
 Comes with a lot of bags   
  
 Drawstrings don't cinch up as tightly as others

The Up & Up FlexGuard bags from Target held 25 pounds of dumbbells before finally tearing open. They might be a good choice for use in an office environment, where lighter items tend to end up getting chucked in the garbage, more often than not. However, for kitchen duty, you’ll want to consider using one of the more durable bags, found in this guide.

Additionally, there are only 25 Up & Up bags in each box, meaning that you’ll find yourself running out to buy more, a lot more often than you might like.

Stretchy   
  
 Strong   
  
 Made of thicker plastic   
  
 Not many bags per box

Walmart’s Great Value Tall trash bags come in a box of 40. We noticed that they felt thinner than other bags we tested for this guide. Subjectively, there’s not much stretch to them and they felt a little flimsy.

During testing, they were only able to hold about 25 pounds of dumbbell weight before breaking.

None that we could find   
  
 Thin   
  
 Flimsy

The Whole Foods’ 365 Everyday Value Tall trash bags can hold up to 30 pounds before they’ll break. They have easy-to-handle drawstrings that allow for a tight when you’re taking out the trash.

However, they’re only available in boxes of 20. If you’ve got a lot of trash, you’ll blaze right through a single box.

Don’t avoid them if you see them at Whole Foods, but don’t go out of your way to pick them up.

Drawstrings are easy to work with   
  
 Decent flexibility   
  
 Don't support much weight

In terms of everyday use, the Glad Guaranteed Strong trash bags get the job done without much fuss. Available in a box of 90 bags, they held about 30 pounds of dumbbell weight before tearing apart. Additionally, its drawstrings were sturdy and fastened tightly at the top, making it easy to lift a full bag out of the trash can.

Sturdy drawstrings   
  
 Don't support much weight   
  
 Not that flexible

The Hefty Strong trash bags held up to 30 pounds of weight. There are also 90 bags per box and it comes unscented. Unfortunately, we detected a small dribbling leak during daily use, which is why it got bumped down the list.

Decent strength   
  
 Surprisingly flexible   
  
 Seals up tightly   
  
 Not many bags per box

To determine the relative strength of each bag, we designed a test to push the limits of each bag until it broke.

I’m Samantha Mangino, a staff writer at Reviewed covering the home section. I review appliances and products so you can rest assured you’re buying the best stuff out there. Living in an apartment, I want a sturdy trash bag that won’t leak or break in the hallway or on the way to the garbage bin.

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Kevin Oliver is a valued contributor to the Reviewed.com family of sites.

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Samantha Mangino  
   
  
  
 Staff Writer, Home

Samantha Mangino is a Boston-based writer covering the home section of Reviewed. She began her career in restaurants before breaking into editorial. In her free time, you’ll find her swimming in the nearest body of water or reading on her back porch. She received her Bachelors in Journalism from Emerson College.

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David Ellerby  
   
  
  
 Chief Scientist

Dave Ellerby is Reviewed’s Chief Scientist, and has a Ph.D. from the University of Leeds and a B.Sc. from the University of Manchester.

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# The Best Online Learning Platforms of 2022

## How to Use an Online Learning Platform

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Updated October 6, 2022

If you’re an inquisitive soul who loves to learn, online learning platforms are a fantastic option—even for those with busy schedules. Whether you’re looking to further hone your creative writing skills or learn how to code using HTML, you can do so at your own pace from the comfort of your home. These platforms offer a wide range of individual courses and features. How do you even begin to narrow down the pool of learning opportunities? Don’t worry, we’ve done all the research for you. After looking into several classes and learning experiences, we named Coursera our top pick. Not only does it host classes and video lectures from top colleges, but it also offers flexible scheduling. If you’re looking for something more creative or business-oriented, we’ve found plenty of other great options. From the art of storytelling to resume writing to data science classes, there’s something for every type of learner on this list.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Credit: Coursera / Tara Jacoby Coursera is a good option for those with busy schedules.

Best Overall Coursera Coursera is affordable, easy to navigate, and offers about 5,000 classes. It even hosts classes from top colleges like Columbia University, University of Michigan, and University of California, Berkeley. Coursera nabbed our top spot because it offers a great amount of flexibility thanks to its short instructional videos and reading assignments, making it a great option for those with busy schedules. The interface is also user-friendly and easy to navigate, and the coursework structure is laid out in a way that allows you to follow your progress. To help review this platform, Valerie Li Stack, a senior staff writer for kitchen and cooking at Reviewed, signed up for the “Web Design for Everybody: Basics of Web Development & Coding Specialization” course. Here’s a summary of her personal experience: “The class is structured to encourage learning. The coursework structure was clear and allowed me to track my progress. It was nice having a visual track of my strengths and weaknesses at my disposal. The final project is more involved than the small weekly quizzes, which helped me test my real world knowledge on the subject. Each class had videos, reading assignments, and quizzes. I wasn’t ever doing one thing for too long, which is great because I have a short attention span. This course offers a great amount of flexibility for people who can only find a small amount of time each day dedicated to taking an online class. Thanks to the short video sessions and reading assignments, I can complete the course at my own pace as the elements were all within 10 to 15 minutes. Each class is also accompanied by a transcript, which is helpful for people with hearing difficulties. The only drawback is that the course itself is a bit slow. I think when people sign up for the HTML class, they want to understand the basics but they also want to get to coding as quickly as possible. I think the history of the development of HTML is fascinating, which could be interesting for me in additional reading but not in the video part of the class.” Pros User friendly interface Flexible scheduling Cons Web design course is a bit slow Buy now at Coursera

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Credit: LinkedIn Learning / Tara Jacoby LinkedIn Learning offers up to 13,000 courses.

Best for Hard Skills LinkedIn Learning LinkedIn Learning (formerly Lynda Learning) is a great option for those looking to either brush up on or further hone their professional skills. However, it is only accessible for those who pay for a premium membership to LinkedIn—a professional networking platform. LinkedIn Learning offers more than 16,000 courses. You can find a wide range of classes that focus on project management, Photoshop, graphic design, HTML coding, and much more. This platform caters specifically to people interested in business and technology. As for the specific course that was taken, the pacing was just right and the coursework was broken down into 1 to 5 minute sections. To help evaluate this platform, Kate McCarthy, Reviewed’s senior social media manager, took the “Introduction to Graphic Design: Photoshop” class. Here’s what she had to say about it: “For anyone who has basic Photoshop skills and wants to learn how to make their own designs pop, I’d definitely recommend this course from LinkedIn Learning. The instructor goes through the process at just the right pace and the course is structured in a way where you can pause the videos and rewatch multiple times (without having to rewatch a 20 minute long video). Plus, you come out with a finished product. The course was a little over an hour in length and was broken down into three separate chapters (creating the content, building the layout, and wrapping up). Each chapter had anywhere between 5 to 10 sections in it. The individual sections were also labeled with how long it would take. The shortest was less than a minute and the longest was just over 5 minutes. I liked this visual representation because I knew what I was going to get in each chapter and how long each section would take. Since I did this course in pieces, (though I could’ve done it all in one sitting), it was nice to see what was coming up and where a natural place to stop would be. While there’s a lot I liked about this course and learning platform, the instructor mentioned that it’s not a class for Photoshop beginners. I would’ve been able to follow along better if I had more basic Photoshop skills and it would’ve taken me less time fooling around with the settings and just familiarizing myself with it in general. Even though this was explicitly stated at the start of the course, maybe LinkedIn could do a better job with making that apparent in the title.” Pros Offers more than 16,000 courses Caters to people interested in business or tech Cons Photoshop course is not for beginners Buy now at LinkedIn

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Credit: MasterClass / Tara Jacoby MasterClass is a fantastic online learning platform for creative thinkers.

Best for Creatives MasterClass Whether you’re looking to learn more about the art of storytelling or pick up a new musical instrument, MasterClass is a fantastic learning platform for artists and creative thinkers. There’s more than 100 high-quality courses in its catalog and the production value of the instructional videos are high quality. However, the biggest draw to this platform is the celebrity instructor. It offers interesting courses such as voice acting classes from Nancy Cartwright (aka the voice of Bart Simpson), acting lessons from Academy Award winning actress Helen Mirren, writing lessons from Dan Brown, and much more. The only downfall is that it’s not very interactive, so you won’t actually get to talk to the celebrity instructor. To help review this platform, Melissa Rorech, Reviewed’s video producer, took “Margaret Atwood’s Creative Writing” because she wants to become a better writer. Here’s what Rorech shared about her experience: “Overall, I found the course to be interesting and beneficial. Margaret Atwood had a lot of good tidbits of information about writing from her many years of experience. There weren’t any assignments in the video class itself, but there were in the accompanying workbook. Margaret never mentioned the workbook, so I barely looked at it until the end. The accompanying workbook has a lot of good websites and tips for getting started with writing whereas Margaret herself has a lot of functional tips on how to get in the right mindset. Margaret challenges you to think of things in different ways. She suggested imagining scenes from different points of views, narratives, locations, and so on. She talks about where you need to get inspiration from and how you need to write if you want to be a writer. The simplest advice she gave was to sit down and start writing. Most people don’t write until they have an idea for the next great American novel, but that may never come, so you’ve just got to start writing anything. Experiences, short stories, poetry, anything. A fairy tale flipped around. A traumatic memory from another’s perspective. Once you get in the habit of writing, then you can move onto bigger works. As someone who wants to become a better writer and maybe someday write a book, this class was really helpful. It motivated me to start writing outside of work for myself, not for money or anyone else. It’s a lot easier now to sit down and let the words flow because I have the confidence of Margaret Atwood’s advice backing me up.” Pros Fantastic production value Celebrity instructors Cons No interactions with celebrity instructor Buy now at MasterClass

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Shaw Academy Shaw Academy is a good option for those looking to gain some practical skills. There are classes on data analytics, computer science, Excel, cryptocurrency, and financial planning. It features more than 100 classes in its catalog, interactive sessions, globally recognized diplomas, and flexible scheduling. As for the course the tester took, the information is presented in a systematic way that’s easy to follow. While the tester liked the pre-recorded lectures and the detailed text and visuals on each slide, he found that Shaw Academy sent him too many text messages and emails and the interface was cluttered. James Aitchison, Reviewed’s international editor, took the “Digital Marketing and SEO” course from Shaw Academy. Here’s what his experience was like: “In general, the course materials were well put together. The information was easy to follow and understand and the person leading the course seemed fairly knowledgeable about the topic. However, I found the actual web interface of the course module to be a bit busy and clustered. I was also unsure of what materials were available and which required an additional purchase. Clicking on various items would often result in pop-ups and screens asking for additional payment. If you find a Shaw Academy class that interests you and you are willing to jump through some hoops, it might be worth a try. I can’t speak to the general quality of the courses, but I was satisfied with sections of the course I attended. However, the general approach to communication, upselling, and payment structure prevents me from recommending it without serious caveats.” Pros Flexible scheduling Offers globally recognized diplomas Cons Too many advertisements Buy now at Shaw Academy

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Skillshare Skillshare offers classes catered to freelancers and entrepreneurs, including how to help you develop creativity or equip you with skills to start your own business. The 30,000 course catalog is huge and diverse. You’ll find classes on anything from iPhone photography to personal branding. The videos are high-quality and short enough to keep the student engaged.There’s even a note-taking plugin that allows you to record important information, which is great for those with hearing difficulties. While there’s a lot of positives, the one shortcoming we discovered is a lack of worksheets or written resources. To help evaluate Skillshare, Amanda Tarlton, Reviewed’s shopping editor, took the “Modern Leadership: Give and Get Honest Feedback at Work” course. Here is her feedback: “For starters, I like how personable, professional, and inspiring the instructor was. She's the CEO of a major organization so I felt I could trust her expertise—I like that she's someone who has real-world experience in the topic that she was teaching about. She was well-spoken and all of her lessons were easy to follow and understand. She gave plenty of examples of how to apply the knowledge in the workplace, so I felt prepared to implement some of her ideas in my own life. I like that she responded to comments in the Discussion section as well—it's nice to have such an interactive platform. In terms of user experience, I appreciated that there's a note-taking plugin where you can record important information as you listen to the lectures (which are available in video, audio, and written transcript format). The videos were high-quality and short enough that they were digestible—they didn't drone on and on. I like that I was able to complete the course at my own pace as well so it didn't feel cumbersome or tedious. There were a few negatives, however. I wish there were more action items, worksheets, or written resources. There's nothing besides the written transcripts in terms of visual aids. I'm a visual learner so these types of files would've been helpful, especially to refer back to after the course was completed. I also think the course was a little short and it would've been nice to have different speakers and lecturers to get a different perspective or a range of opinions and insights.” Pros Offers 30,000 courses High quality videos Cons No written resources Buy now at Skillshare

ADVERTISEMENT

Udemy If you’re looking for a wide range of courses, look no further than Udemy. You’ll find classes on JavaScript, Microsoft Excel, drawing, and web development. It’s a good option for those looking to change careers or gain new skills. Udemy has 155,000 classes in its catalog, so there’s plenty of content to dive into and explore. As for the course the tester participated in, the instructor was easy to follow and the instructions were broken into short videos that were bite-sized and easily digestible. However, this format was unique to this particular class. That said, the tester disliked the way in which the coursework was organized, as she felt it was disjointed. Amy Roberts, a contributing editor at Reviewed, took the Udemy course, "How to Write a Resume and Cover Letter." Having written resumes on a professional level in the past, she was curious how this course would be taught. Here’s a summary of her experience: “Overall, someone who doesn't know how to write a resume or cover letter will end up with better documents than whatever they started with by using this program. The presenter is easy enough to follow and the instructions are broken into bite-sized videos, so you can do it all in about three hours. I could see it working for someone who prefers lecture learning ove reading a book. The course presentation was made up of short videos and seemed weirdly out of order to me, specifically in terms of how one might approach a resume. Sections 1 through 10 cover the basics, from resume to cover letter to interviewing and how to negotiate salary once you have an offer. Sections 11 through 14 backtrack and focus on the application process and managing your online presence, which seems weirdly out of order. As for the resume portion of the course, the order was similarly disjointed. The instructor first talked about writing an objective, which was odd because that’s what the cover letter should focus on. When he gets into the meat and potatoes of resume writing, he starts with the skills section before the experience section. Why not take people on the journey of writing a resume from the top down? The presenter included just one design template suggestion. It’s fine, but it means that most people who take this course are going to have identical-looking resumes. And, if you don’t like that specific style, you’re left to your own devices to find something else.” Pros Offers 155,000 courses Cons Coursework felt disjointed Buy now at Udemy   
  
 Mindvalley Mindvalley is one of the more unique learning platforms out there, as it focuses more on self-improvement and personal development. There’s over 60 courses (they’re called “quests”) to choose from and they’re divided into the following categories: mind, body, soul, career, entrepreneurship, relationships, and parenting. They range from classes like beginners yoga and chakra healing to mastering authentic networking and the power of boldness. We like that Mindvalley is easily accessible through an app and a website with an easy-to-use and intuitive interface, but our tester had mixed feelings about the specific course she took. To help evaluate this platform, Betsey Goldwasser, a Reviewed photographer, took the “The Mindvalley Yoga Quest.” She occasionally practices yoga in her free time and was interested in trying the class to improve her form. Here’s how she describes her experience: “The platform has many courses with different options for yogis at all levels. The course consisted of video modules, some short blurbs about the poses you learned, and a discussion section where you can communicate with other students. The lessons are well organized. They provided written details of what was learned in class, which I haven’t seen with other online yoga and workout classes that I’ve taken. The range of instructors was impressive and many of them seemed to be important in the yoga community. Some of the classes were really rejuvenating and left me feeling relaxed, stretched, and present. I didn’t love that the classes were not consistent with instructors or format. It felt as though this wasn’t a cohesive program, but a smorgasbord playlist of random yoga classes. The difficulty in classes really ranged and the instructors did not take that into consideration. I didn’t feel like I was learning anything new about yoga. As someone who does yoga occasionally, I don’t feel like it improved my form. The pace was a little overwhelming, too. Having people try headstands on the first day of the second week was a bit much. There are plenty of free options on YouTube that do the trick.” Pros Intuitive interface Cons Not many courses Classes weren't consistent Buy now at Mindvalley   
  
 edX If you’re interested in taking university level classes, you’ll want to check out edX. It’s partnered with top schools like Harvard, MIT, University of Oxford, Columbia University, and much more. From architecture and art to engineering and social sciences, edX offers a pretty diverse range of content from its 3,000-course catalog. The interface is easy to navigate and the instructional videos are clear and professionally recorded. However, the amount of advertisements on the site proved to be distracting for the tester. To help review this platform, Jon Chan, Reviewed’s senior manager of lab operations, took the “IBM Analyzing Data with Excel” class. Here’s what his experience was like: “The course was very easy to navigate. The text was easy to read and the videos were clear with professionally recorded sound. I also appreciated that each video had an accompanying transcript. The Core Foundations course included a workbook in Excel that synced up with the instructional videos. My major complaint about edX revolves around the amount of advertising there is in the learning modules. Every time I loaded up a lesson, there would be an ad on the side suggesting I upgrade to the paid service. During lessons, certain slides would remind me that I was not using the paid service so therefore I would not get a certificate.” Pros Videos are professionally recorded Wide array of courses Cons Too many advertisements Buy now at edX   
  
 Codecademy Codeacademy is great for those interested in designing a website or video game, as most of the 1,000 courses are geared towards learning how to code (hence the name). The platform offers both beginner-friendly and advanced courses. The interface is intuitive and the specific class our tester took found the exercises to be chock-full of details. The course the tester took really guides you through each step of the coding process. While there were many things we liked about this course and platform, the assignments could get repetitive at times. To evaluate this platform, Jim Ryan, Reviewed’s manager of business intelligence, took “Learn HTML.” As his job involves looking at a lot of code, he wanted to see how an online course would simplify a rather complex task. Here’s what his experience was like: “This course helped me understand HTML in a way I never thought I could in 9 hours. The user interface was basic but well thought out. The exercise instructions were to the left of the screen and the coding interface screen was right beside it. This was very helpful, as many of the exercises became progressively more detailed with more steps. If you made an error when you tried to run the script, it would highlight the area you made the mistake in to assist you in finding the right area to correct. The exercises were very detailed but could get slightly tedious with the amount of repetition. However, as the coding got more complex, I appreciated the amount of repetition that I found tedious in the beginning of the course. When you’re doing something over and over again, it really sticks in your brain. Within the space of 9 hours, I was able to turn a jumble of lines into an understandable code.” Pros Offers beginner and advanced classes Intuitive interface Cons Assignments can get repetitive Buy now at Codecademy   
Credit: Getty Images Online learning platforms are great for those with busy schedules.

What Is Online Learning? While no two educational platforms are exactly the same, a majority of them share some commonalities. To put it simply, they’re online spaces for helpful resources and educational content. It’s also a place where students and instructions can interact and have discussions. The content is usually divided into a variety of topics. Most of the online course platforms feature a wide variety of classes, but others are more specific. Some educational platforms specialize in business-oriented and offer classes on HTML or resume writing. These platforms are great for gaining hard skills and other skills you’d utilize in a workplace environment. Meanwhile, other platforms may be more focused on self-improvement or creative pursuits. MasterClass, for example, offers courses on acting and scriptwriting. It really depends on what you’re looking to learn. How to Use an Online Learning Platform Most, if not all, of the websites we evaluated, require you to sign up with a username and password. It’s no different than logging into your email or social media account. However, you’ll want to check and see if the course offers any live sessions. Some platforms will record the session, so you can watch it at your leisure. Other platforms may require you to attend the live session at a specific time. When it comes to the coursework, these websites will structure it in bite-sized sections somewhere on the interface. This is a great way of tracking your own progress throughout the length of the course. You’ll be able to review quiz results, reading assignments, instructional videos, and so on. Deadlines for assignments should be featured somewhere on the platform as well. Is Online Learning Effective? Online classes are great for people who want to pick up a new hobby or beef up their resume. They’re an especially good fit for people with busy schedules. You can take a course from your home and learn at your own pace. Although some platforms may be more business-oriented, many of them feature a massive pool of topics. You can learn anything from DSLR photography to Search Engine Optimization. Some of these platforms only provide a certificate of completion, while others will allow you to receive professional certificates, college credit and are more formal degree programs. However, in our testing, we didn’t evaluate these educational platforms for these opportunities. Pricing—and How to Learn Online for Free The pricing model varies greatly. Some platforms charge per class while others offer annual memberships. Udemy, for example, allows you to pay per class. MasterClass, on the other hand, is $15 a month but is billed annually. That said, most if not all learning platforms offer a course for free or a free trial of some kind. When it comes to selecting a service, it’s important to take the free trial into consideration. A lengthier free trial period will give you more time with the platform, which better informs your decision. Shaw Academy, for example, has a pretty generous free trial period. There’s a four week free trial with live educator support and 20+ hours of learning per course. Coursera, on the other hand, only has a seven day free trial. More Articles You Might Enjoy

I tried an intense cooking MasterClass here’s what I learned The 10 most popular classes to take on MasterClass The Best Yoga Apps The Best Meditation Apps

If you’re an inquisitive soul who loves to learn, online learning platforms are a fantastic option—even for those with busy schedules. Whether you’re looking to further hone your creative writing skills or learn how to code using HTML, you can do so at your own pace from the comfort of your home. These platforms offer a wide range of individual courses and features. How do you even begin to narrow down the pool of learning opportunities? Don’t worry, we’ve done all the research for you.

After looking into several classes and learning experiences, we named Coursera our top pick. Not only does it host classes and video lectures from top colleges, but it also offers flexible scheduling. If you’re looking for something more creative or business-oriented, we’ve found plenty of other great options. From the art of storytelling to resume writing to data science classes, there’s something for every type of learner on this list.

The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Coursera is a good option for those with busy schedules.

Coursera is affordable, easy to navigate, and offers about 5,000 classes. It even hosts classes from top colleges like Columbia University, University of Michigan, and University of California, Berkeley. Coursera nabbed our top spot because it offers a great amount of flexibility thanks to its short instructional videos and reading assignments, making it a great option for those with busy schedules. The interface is also user-friendly and easy to navigate, and the coursework structure is laid out in a way that allows you to follow your progress.

To help review this platform, Valerie Li Stack, a senior staff writer for kitchen and cooking at Reviewed, signed up for the “Web Design for Everybody: Basics of Web Development & Coding Specialization” course. Here’s a summary of her personal experience:

“The class is structured to encourage learning. The coursework structure was clear and allowed me to track my progress. It was nice having a visual track of my strengths and weaknesses at my disposal. The final project is more involved than the small weekly quizzes, which helped me test my real world knowledge on the subject. Each class had videos, reading assignments, and quizzes. I wasn’t ever doing one thing for too long, which is great because I have a short attention span.

This course offers a great amount of flexibility for people who can only find a small amount of time each day dedicated to taking an online class. Thanks to the short video sessions and reading assignments, I can complete the course at my own pace as the elements were all within 10 to 15 minutes. Each class is also accompanied by a transcript, which is helpful for people with hearing difficulties.

The only drawback is that the course itself is a bit slow. I think when people sign up for the HTML class, they want to understand the basics but they also want to get to coding as quickly as possible. I think the history of the development of HTML is fascinating, which could be interesting for me in additional reading but not in the video part of the class.”

User friendly interface   
  
 Flexible scheduling   
  
 Web design course is a bit slow

LinkedIn Learning offers up to 13,000 courses.

LinkedIn Learning (formerly Lynda Learning) is a great option for those looking to either brush up on or further hone their professional skills. However, it is only accessible for those who pay for a premium membership to LinkedIn—a professional networking platform.

LinkedIn Learning offers more than 16,000 courses. You can find a wide range of classes that focus on project management, Photoshop, graphic design, HTML coding, and much more. This platform caters specifically to people interested in business and technology. As for the specific course that was taken, the pacing was just right and the coursework was broken down into 1 to 5 minute sections.

To help evaluate this platform, Kate McCarthy, Reviewed’s senior social media manager, took the “Introduction to Graphic Design: Photoshop” class. Here’s what she had to say about it:

“For anyone who has basic Photoshop skills and wants to learn how to make their own designs pop, I’d definitely recommend this course from LinkedIn Learning. The instructor goes through the process at just the right pace and the course is structured in a way where you can pause the videos and rewatch multiple times (without having to rewatch a 20 minute long video). Plus, you come out with a finished product.

The course was a little over an hour in length and was broken down into three separate chapters (creating the content, building the layout, and wrapping up). Each chapter had anywhere between 5 to 10 sections in it. The individual sections were also labeled with how long it would take. The shortest was less than a minute and the longest was just over 5 minutes. I liked this visual representation because I knew what I was going to get in each chapter and how long each section would take. Since I did this course in pieces, (though I could’ve done it all in one sitting), it was nice to see what was coming up and where a natural place to stop would be.

While there’s a lot I liked about this course and learning platform, the instructor mentioned that it’s not a class for Photoshop beginners. I would’ve been able to follow along better if I had more basic Photoshop skills and it would’ve taken me less time fooling around with the settings and just familiarizing myself with it in general. Even though this was explicitly stated at the start of the course, maybe LinkedIn could do a better job with making that apparent in the title.”

Offers more than 16,000 courses   
  
 Caters to people interested in business or tech   
  
 Photoshop course is not for beginners

MasterClass is a fantastic online learning platform for creative thinkers.

Whether you’re looking to learn more about the art of storytelling or pick up a new musical instrument, MasterClass is a fantastic learning platform for artists and creative thinkers. There’s more than 100 high-quality courses in its catalog and the production value of the instructional videos are high quality. However, the biggest draw to this platform is the celebrity instructor. It offers interesting courses such as voice acting classes from Nancy Cartwright (aka the voice of Bart Simpson), acting lessons from Academy Award winning actress Helen Mirren, writing lessons from Dan Brown, and much more. The only downfall is that it’s not very interactive, so you won’t actually get to talk to the celebrity instructor.

To help review this platform, Melissa Rorech, Reviewed’s video producer, took “Margaret Atwood’s Creative Writing” because she wants to become a better writer. Here’s what Rorech shared about her experience:

“Overall, I found the course to be interesting and beneficial. Margaret Atwood had a lot of good tidbits of information about writing from her many years of experience. There weren’t any assignments in the video class itself, but there were in the accompanying workbook. Margaret never mentioned the workbook, so I barely looked at it until the end. The accompanying workbook has a lot of good websites and tips for getting started with writing whereas Margaret herself has a lot of functional tips on how to get in the right mindset.

Margaret challenges you to think of things in different ways. She suggested imagining scenes from different points of views, narratives, locations, and so on. She talks about where you need to get inspiration from and how you need to write if you want to be a writer. The simplest advice she gave was to sit down and start writing. Most people don’t write until they have an idea for the next great American novel, but that may never come, so you’ve just got to start writing anything. Experiences, short stories, poetry, anything. A fairy tale flipped around. A traumatic memory from another’s perspective. Once you get in the habit of writing, then you can move onto bigger works.

As someone who wants to become a better writer and maybe someday write a book, this class was really helpful. It motivated me to start writing outside of work for myself, not for money or anyone else. It’s a lot easier now to sit down and let the words flow because I have the confidence of Margaret Atwood’s advice backing me up.”

Fantastic production value   
  
 Celebrity instructors   
  
 No interactions with celebrity instructor

Shaw Academy is a good option for those looking to gain some practical skills. There are classes on data analytics, computer science, Excel, cryptocurrency, and financial planning. It features more than 100 classes in its catalog, interactive sessions, globally recognized diplomas, and flexible scheduling. As for the course the tester took, the information is presented in a systematic way that’s easy to follow. While the tester liked the pre-recorded lectures and the detailed text and visuals on each slide, he found that Shaw Academy sent him too many text messages and emails and the interface was cluttered.

James Aitchison, Reviewed’s international editor, took the “Digital Marketing and SEO” course from Shaw Academy. Here’s what his experience was like:

“In general, the course materials were well put together. The information was easy to follow and understand and the person leading the course seemed fairly knowledgeable about the topic. However, I found the actual web interface of the course module to be a bit busy and clustered. I was also unsure of what materials were available and which required an additional purchase. Clicking on various items would often result in pop-ups and screens asking for additional payment.

If you find a Shaw Academy class that interests you and you are willing to jump through some hoops, it might be worth a try. I can’t speak to the general quality of the courses, but I was satisfied with sections of the course I attended. However, the general approach to communication, upselling, and payment structure prevents me from recommending it without serious caveats.”

Flexible scheduling   
  
 Offers globally recognized diplomas   
  
 Too many advertisements

Skillshare offers classes catered to freelancers and entrepreneurs, including how to help you develop creativity or equip you with skills to start your own business. The 30,000 course catalog is huge and diverse. You’ll find classes on anything from iPhone photography to personal branding. The videos are high-quality and short enough to keep the student engaged.There’s even a note-taking plugin that allows you to record important information, which is great for those with hearing difficulties. While there’s a lot of positives, the one shortcoming we discovered is a lack of worksheets or written resources.

To help evaluate Skillshare, Amanda Tarlton, Reviewed’s shopping editor, took the “Modern Leadership: Give and Get Honest Feedback at Work” course. Here is her feedback:

“For starters, I like how personable, professional, and inspiring the instructor was. She’s the CEO of a major organization so I felt I could trust her expertise—I like that she’s someone who has real-world experience in the topic that she was teaching about. She was well-spoken and all of her lessons were easy to follow and understand. She gave plenty of examples of how to apply the knowledge in the workplace, so I felt prepared to implement some of her ideas in my own life. I like that she responded to comments in the Discussion section as well—it’s nice to have such an interactive platform.

In terms of user experience, I appreciated that there’s a note-taking plugin where you can record important information as you listen to the lectures (which are available in video, audio, and written transcript format). The videos were high-quality and short enough that they were digestible—they didn’t drone on and on. I like that I was able to complete the course at my own pace as well so it didn’t feel cumbersome or tedious.

There were a few negatives, however. I wish there were more action items, worksheets, or written resources. There’s nothing besides the written transcripts in terms of visual aids. I’m a visual learner so these types of files would’ve been helpful, especially to refer back to after the course was completed. I also think the course was a little short and it would’ve been nice to have different speakers and lecturers to get a different perspective or a range of opinions and insights.”

Offers 30,000 courses   
  
 High quality videos   
  
 No written resources

If you’re looking for a wide range of courses, look no further than Udemy. You’ll find classes on JavaScript, Microsoft Excel, drawing, and web development. It’s a good option for those looking to change careers or gain new skills. Udemy has 155,000 classes in its catalog, so there’s plenty of content to dive into and explore. As for the course the tester participated in, the instructor was easy to follow and the instructions were broken into short videos that were bite-sized and easily digestible. However, this format was unique to this particular class. That said, the tester disliked the way in which the coursework was organized, as she felt it was disjointed.

Amy Roberts, a contributing editor at Reviewed, took the Udemy course, “How to Write a Resume and Cover Letter.” Having written resumes on a professional level in the past, she was curious how this course would be taught. Here’s a summary of her experience:

“Overall, someone who doesn’t know how to write a resume or cover letter will end up with better documents than whatever they started with by using this program. The presenter is easy enough to follow and the instructions are broken into bite-sized videos, so you can do it all in about three hours. I could see it working for someone who prefers lecture learning ove reading a book.

The course presentation was made up of short videos and seemed weirdly out of order to me, specifically in terms of how one might approach a resume. Sections 1 through 10 cover the basics, from resume to cover letter to interviewing and how to negotiate salary once you have an offer. Sections 11 through 14 backtrack and focus on the application process and managing your online presence, which seems weirdly out of order.

As for the resume portion of the course, the order was similarly disjointed. The instructor first talked about writing an objective, which was odd because that’s what the cover letter should focus on. When he gets into the meat and potatoes of resume writing, he starts with the skills section before the experience section. Why not take people on the journey of writing a resume from the top down?

The presenter included just one design template suggestion. It’s fine, but it means that most people who take this course are going to have identical-looking resumes. And, if you don’t like that specific style, you’re left to your own devices to find something else.”

Offers 155,000 courses   
  
 Coursework felt disjointed

Mindvalley is one of the more unique learning platforms out there, as it focuses more on self-improvement and personal development. There’s over 60 courses (they’re called “quests”) to choose from and they’re divided into the following categories: mind, body, soul, career, entrepreneurship, relationships, and parenting. They range from classes like beginners yoga and chakra healing to mastering authentic networking and the power of boldness. We like that Mindvalley is easily accessible through an app and a website with an easy-to-use and intuitive interface, but our tester had mixed feelings about the specific course she took.

To help evaluate this platform, Betsey Goldwasser, a Reviewed photographer, took the “The Mindvalley Yoga Quest.” She occasionally practices yoga in her free time and was interested in trying the class to improve her form. Here’s how she describes her experience:

“The platform has many courses with different options for yogis at all levels. The course consisted of video modules, some short blurbs about the poses you learned, and a discussion section where you can communicate with other students.

The lessons are well organized. They provided written details of what was learned in class, which I haven’t seen with other online yoga and workout classes that I’ve taken. The range of instructors was impressive and many of them seemed to be important in the yoga community. Some of the classes were really rejuvenating and left me feeling relaxed, stretched, and present.

I didn’t love that the classes were not consistent with instructors or format. It felt as though this wasn’t a cohesive program, but a smorgasbord playlist of random yoga classes. The difficulty in classes really ranged and the instructors did not take that into consideration. I didn’t feel like I was learning anything new about yoga.

As someone who does yoga occasionally, I don’t feel like it improved my form. The pace was a little overwhelming, too. Having people try headstands on the first day of the second week was a bit much. There are plenty of free options on YouTube that do the trick.”

Intuitive interface   
  
 Not many courses   
  
 Classes weren't consistent

If you’re interested in taking university level classes, you’ll want to check out edX. It’s partnered with top schools like Harvard, MIT, University of Oxford, Columbia University, and much more. From architecture and art to engineering and social sciences, edX offers a pretty diverse range of content from its 3,000-course catalog. The interface is easy to navigate and the instructional videos are clear and professionally recorded. However, the amount of advertisements on the site proved to be distracting for the tester.

To help review this platform, Jon Chan, Reviewed’s senior manager of lab operations, took the “IBM Analyzing Data with Excel” class. Here’s what his experience was like:

“The course was very easy to navigate. The text was easy to read and the videos were clear with professionally recorded sound. I also appreciated that each video had an accompanying transcript. The Core Foundations course included a workbook in Excel that synced up with the instructional videos.

My major complaint about edX revolves around the amount of advertising there is in the learning modules. Every time I loaded up a lesson, there would be an ad on the side suggesting I upgrade to the paid service. During lessons, certain slides would remind me that I was not using the paid service so therefore I would not get a certificate.”

Videos are professionally recorded   
  
 Wide array of courses   
  
 Too many advertisements

Codeacademy is great for those interested in designing a website or video game, as most of the 1,000 courses are geared towards learning how to code (hence the name). The platform offers both beginner-friendly and advanced courses. The interface is intuitive and the specific class our tester took found the exercises to be chock-full of details. The course the tester took really guides you through each step of the coding process. While there were many things we liked about this course and platform, the assignments could get repetitive at times.

To evaluate this platform, Jim Ryan, Reviewed’s manager of business intelligence, took “Learn HTML.” As his job involves looking at a lot of code, he wanted to see how an online course would simplify a rather complex task. Here’s what his experience was like:

“This course helped me understand HTML in a way I never thought I could in 9 hours. The user interface was basic but well thought out. The exercise instructions were to the left of the screen and the coding interface screen was right beside it. This was very helpful, as many of the exercises became progressively more detailed with more steps. If you made an error when you tried to run the script, it would highlight the area you made the mistake in to assist you in finding the right area to correct.

The exercises were very detailed but could get slightly tedious with the amount of repetition. However, as the coding got more complex, I appreciated the amount of repetition that I found tedious in the beginning of the course. When you’re doing something over and over again, it really sticks in your brain. Within the space of 9 hours, I was able to turn a jumble of lines into an understandable code.”

Offers beginner and advanced classes   
  
 Intuitive interface   
  
 Assignments can get repetitive

Online learning platforms are great for those with busy schedules.

While no two educational platforms are exactly the same, a majority of them share some commonalities. To put it simply, they’re online spaces for helpful resources and educational content. It’s also a place where students and instructions can interact and have discussions. The content is usually divided into a variety of topics. Most of the online course platforms feature a wide variety of classes, but others are more specific.

Some educational platforms specialize in business-oriented and offer classes on HTML or resume writing. These platforms are great for gaining hard skills and other skills you’d utilize in a workplace environment. Meanwhile, other platforms may be more focused on self-improvement or creative pursuits. MasterClass, for example, offers courses on acting and scriptwriting. It really depends on what you’re looking to learn.

Most, if not all, of the websites we evaluated, require you to sign up with a username and password. It’s no different than logging into your email or social media account. However, you’ll want to check and see if the course offers any live sessions. Some platforms will record the session, so you can watch it at your leisure. Other platforms may require you to attend the live session at a specific time.

When it comes to the coursework, these websites will structure it in bite-sized sections somewhere on the interface. This is a great way of tracking your own progress throughout the length of the course. You’ll be able to review quiz results, reading assignments, instructional videos, and so on. Deadlines for assignments should be featured somewhere on the platform as well.

Online classes are great for people who want to pick up a new hobby or beef up their resume. They’re an especially good fit for people with busy schedules. You can take a course from your home and learn at your own pace. Although some platforms may be more business-oriented, many of them feature a massive pool of topics. You can learn anything from DSLR photography to Search Engine Optimization.

Some of these platforms only provide a certificate of completion, while others will allow you to receive professional certificates, college credit and are more formal degree programs. However, in our testing, we didn’t evaluate these educational platforms for these opportunities.

The pricing model varies greatly. Some platforms charge per class while others offer annual memberships. Udemy, for example, allows you to pay per class. MasterClass, on the other hand, is $15 a month but is billed annually. That said, most if not all learning platforms offer a course for free or a free trial of some kind.

When it comes to selecting a service, it’s important to take the free trial into consideration. A lengthier free trial period will give you more time with the platform, which better informs your decision. Shaw Academy, for example, has a pretty generous free trial period. There’s a four week free trial with live educator support and 20+ hours of learning per course. Coursera, on the other hand, only has a seven day free trial.

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The Reviewed staff is based in the heart of Cambridge, MA. Backed by our knowledgeable writers and rigorous test labs, we’re working hard to make sure you can make the right decisions about what to buy.

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Ashley Barry-Biancuzzo  
   
  
  
 Editor

Ashley Barry-Biancuzzo is a valued contributor to the Reviewed.com family of sites.

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# The Best Countertop Dishwashers of 2022

## Do I Need a Countertop Dishwasher?

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

This Danby countertop dishwasher is our best overall, having cleaning performance that's comparable (or even better) than that of regular dishwashers.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This portable dishwasher doesn't require a sink hookup and will clean and dry your dishes with no muss and no fuss.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 A step-down from our favorite Danby, this countertop dishwasher is a great option for those who want to spend a little less for similar performance.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This modern-style countertop dishwasher offers great cleaning performance and cycle options.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 For those looking more into design over performance, the Black & Decker countertop dishwasher offers a sleek stainless steel finish.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated October 21, 2022

If you don’t have the budget or space for a full-size, built-in dishwasher, but don’t want to spend a lot of time scrubbing dirty dishes, it makes sense to buy a compact countertop dishwasher. While countertop models look tiny, they can typically fit up to six place settings (where one place setting includes a plate, a bowl, a glass, a fork, a knife, and a spoon), and generally don’t require any additional plumbing other than access to your kitchen faucet. They’re also significantly more efficient than trying to hand wash all of your dishes. Most of the countertop dishwashers on this list are very similar and will work well in your kitchen. Based on our findings, these are some of the best countertop dishwashers you can get online right now.

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Editor’s Note Due to supply chain challenges and soaring demand, there is widespread unavailability of home appliances and long wait times for delivery of backordered products. If you’re a consumer in need of a dishwasher, here are the best places to buy in-stock appliances right now.

Danby DDW631SDB This portable dishwasher has excellent cleaning performance, considering that its stain removal ability is comparable to some other full-size dishwashers. The normal cycle time clocks in at about 100 minutes. You can also choose from eight different cycles: Heavy, Normal, BabyCare, Eco, Glass, Speed, Rinse, and Mini Party (We guess you can only have a mini party with a mini dishwasher?) With an extra drying option, a digital display, and a sleek-looking exterior, the Danby DDW631SDB is a great pick for a dishwasher that takes up a minimal amount of counter space that's capable of getting the job done right the first time. Pros Has comparable cleaning to a full-size dishwasher Plenty of cycle options Cons Has issues with spinach redeposit Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Farberware FDW05ASBWHA There’s a lot to love about the Farberware FDW05ASBWHA countertop portable dishwasher. It has this great feature where you can use either the kitchen sink hookup or the separate water tank as the dishwasher’s water source. The built-in water tank is a great option if you have difficulty attaching and securing water hoses, or if you want to wash dishes far from a sink. This dishwasher comes with six wash cycles: Baby Care, Glass, Fruit (where you can use the removable basket to wash your fruits), Normal, Rapid, and Air Refresh. Perhaps the coolest feature is that this dishwasher has a little glass window so that you can watch the food stains get cleaned off your dishes in real time. Speaking of clean dishes, this portable dishwasher does a great job of removing stains, including really difficult baked-on stains like chopped spinach, with only a few minor instances of redeposit. Furthermore, almost all of the cleaned dishes came out completely dry. Overall, if you’re looking for some flexibility when it comes to washing dishes in a small kitchen space, you’ll appreciate the performance and thoughtful design of the Farberware FDW05ASBWHA. Pros Great performance Dries dishes Has a fruit cleaning cycle Cons Minor issues with redeposit $379.99 from Amazon

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Danby DDW621WDB If you have smaller space constraints, Danby also makes countertop dishwashers, one of which is the Danby DDW621WDB. While this countertop dishwasher looks small, it can fit six place settings, where each place setting involves plates, a bowl, a glass, a tea cup, and some cutlery. You won't be able to fit a spaghetti pot in there, but that's true for any countertop dishwasher. With a wide variety of wash program cycles to choose from (including Intensive, Normal, Soak, Economy, Rapid, and Glass), you shouldn't have a problem getting difficult stains off your dishes. This countertop dishwasher also has options to delay the start of the dishwasher cycle for 2, 4, or 8 hours, as well as water and rinse aid notification lights. It may take you a bit of time to get used to the control panel, but once you understand what the icons mean, the Danby DDW621WDB is a breeze to operate, and at only 22 inches wide, it won't take up too much space on your counter either. Pros Big capacity for a 22-inch countertop dishwasher Cons Controls were a bit confusing at first Very small capacity compared to full-size models Buy now at Amazon Buy now at Home Depot

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Homelabs HME010033N As it turns out, the HomeLabs HME010033N is nearly identical to the Danby DDW621WDB. It has the same cleaning performance, the same cycles (although one cycle is called “Eco” rather than “Light”), and similar cycle times. Its exterior looks a bit more modern than that of the DDW621WDB, but if you’re interested in buying this flavor of countertop dishwasher, we recommend buying whichever of these two products is on sale that day. Pros Sleek look Intuitive controls Cons Very small capacity Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Black & Decker BCD6W Finally, a product from a brand you recognize! Again, the cleaning performance for this countertop dishwasher is pretty comparable to that of the others on this list. In addition to the same six cycles that most of the countertop dishwashers on this list have, the BCD6W also has a 90-minute BabyCare cycle. Like the Magic Chef, the Black & Decker also has a 1-to-24-hour delay feature. One aspect that separates the Black & Decker countertop dishwasher from the competition is its looks—with its stainless steel handle finish and its touchscreen user interface, it’s easily the best-looking dishwasher on this list. If you have a more modern-looking kitchen, and don’t want a white box on your countertop to ruin its visual appeal, you won’t regret choosing the Black & Decker countertop dishwasher. Pros Stainless steel finish 1-24 hour delay option Cons Has issues with spinach redeposit $349.99 from Amazon

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RCA RDW3208 For those of you who want an affordable tabletop dishwasher for your small space, it’s worth checking out the RCA RDW3208. This one includes a durable stainless steel interior, can fit under almost all types of kitchen cabinets, and even has a bottom rack that can fold down. Plus, this one uses less water supply to wash up to six regular place settings and includes an easy-to-operate, self-cleaning feature. Reviewers say that this dishwasher is worth it if you don’t have one, and that it both operates quietly and washes dishes well. A few have had issues with theirs leaking, but overall, we believe that this one is worth it, especially for the price. Pros Cleans dishes well Operates quietly Affordable Cons May leak $242.64 from Amazon Buy now at Home Depot

What You Should Know About Buying Countertop Dishwashers Credit: Reviewed.com Countertop dishwashers look a lot like full-sized models on the inside—including full-sized filters, stainless interiors, and washarms. Do I Need a Countertop Dishwasher? It depends. If you’re concerned about the environment, a countertop dishwasher uses less water than hand washing, while typically being more energy efficient than built-in washers. This makes it an especially attractive option for an RV or somewhere else where you don’t have the space for a fully-installed or portable dishwasher.

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Using these compact dishwashers also requires a lot less effort than it does to wash dishes by hand, and our tests show that it does a much better job cleaning. If you’re a clean freak, buying a countertop dishwasher is a small price to pay to ensure that your dishes don’t just look clean. However, you’ll still have to wash larger items in the sink; additionally, a countertop dishwasher can take up valuable space on your counter when it’s not in use. Larger portable dishwashers, which also hook up to kitchen faucets and wheel out of the way when they’re not in use, can cost twice as much, but can also accommodate more, larger dishes. How Do Countertop Dishwashers Work? Credit: Reviewed.com / Jackson Ruckar Countertop dishwashers can usually fit up to six place settings, which includes one plate, one bowl, one glass, one fork, one spoon, and one knife. Nearly every countertop dishwasher works the same way: There are two hoses that join a “quick connect” mount that should attach to almost any faucet. One hose takes in fresh water, the other drains dirty water into the sink. Inside, there’s room for four full place settings in a single rack, a cutlery basket, a removable filter, and a stainless tub. Credit: Getty Images This faucet likely won’t work with a countertop dishwasher You can keep the dishwasher attached to your sink and press a bypass button to get fresh water, or you can disconnect it after use. Be aware: Not every faucet works with a portable dishwasher. We had to purchase a small 15/16 inch to 55/64 inch faucet adapter at a hardware store. Stylish faucets with hidden “Cache” aerators may not fit a portable dishwasher at all. It’s possible to hook up a sprayer faucet to a dishwasher—several online guides exist that explain how to do so—but it’s not recommended. Credit: Costway Two hoses hook up to the rear of the dishwasher, and then attach to a single connector that hangs from a kitchen faucet. Who Makes Countertop Dishwashers? Credit: hOmeLabs A hOmeLabs portable dishwasher—made by Midea. After looking at bills of lading and other import data, we learned that nearly every portable countertop dishwasher sold in the U.S. is made by Midea. Midea, based in Guangdong, China, is one of the largest appliance companies in the world. It owns vacuum-maker Eureka, has the rights to use the Toshiba name on small appliances, and manufactures hundreds of products for companies like GE Appliances and even the Instant Pot. Midea now sells appliances under its own name, and recently opened several research and development centers in the U.S. It makes sense that these products are imported from China, and not just because of lower manufacturing costs. Countertop dishwashers are much more popular in China, and it’s a lot easier to import these rectangular, easy-to-ship boxes from an existing factory than to set up production in countries where they’re more of a niche product. More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best Portable Dishwashers The Best Affordable Dishwashers The Best Dish Racks The Best Dish Soap

If you don’t have the budget or space for a full-size, built-in dishwasher, but don’t want to spend a lot of time scrubbing dirty dishes, it makes sense to buy a compact countertop dishwasher.

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Due to supply chain challenges and soaring demand, there is widespread unavailability of home appliances and long wait times for delivery of backordered products. If you’re a consumer in need of a dishwasher, here are the best places to buy in-stock appliances right now.

This portable dishwasher has excellent cleaning performance, considering that its stain removal ability is comparable to some other full-size dishwashers. The normal cycle time clocks in at about 100 minutes. You can also choose from eight different cycles: Heavy, Normal, BabyCare, Eco, Glass, Speed, Rinse, and Mini Party (We guess you can only have a mini party with a mini dishwasher?)

With an extra drying option, a digital display, and a sleek-looking exterior, the Danby DDW631SDB is a great pick for a dishwasher that takes up a minimal amount of counter space that’s capable of getting the job done right the first time.

Has comparable cleaning to a full-size dishwasher   
  
 Plenty of cycle options   
  
 Has issues with spinach redeposit

There’s a lot to love about the Farberware FDW05ASBWHA countertop portable dishwasher. It has this great feature where you can use either the kitchen sink hookup or the separate water tank as the dishwasher’s water source. The built-in water tank is a great option if you have difficulty attaching and securing water hoses, or if you want to wash dishes far from a sink.

This dishwasher comes with six wash cycles: Baby Care, Glass, Fruit (where you can use the removable basket to wash your fruits), Normal, Rapid, and Air Refresh. Perhaps the coolest feature is that this dishwasher has a little glass window so that you can watch the food stains get cleaned off your dishes in real time.

Speaking of clean dishes, this portable dishwasher does a great job of removing stains, including really difficult baked-on stains like chopped spinach, with only a few minor instances of redeposit. Furthermore, almost all of the cleaned dishes came out completely dry.

Overall, if you’re looking for some flexibility when it comes to washing dishes in a small kitchen space, you’ll appreciate the performance and thoughtful design of the Farberware FDW05ASBWHA.

Great performance   
  
 Dries dishes   
  
 Has a fruit cleaning cycle   
  
 Minor issues with redeposit

If you have smaller space constraints, Danby also makes countertop dishwashers, one of which is the Danby DDW621WDB. While this countertop dishwasher looks small, it can fit six place settings, where each place setting involves plates, a bowl, a glass, a tea cup, and some cutlery. You won’t be able to fit a spaghetti pot in there, but that’s true for any countertop dishwasher.

With a wide variety of wash program cycles to choose from (including Intensive, Normal, Soak, Economy, Rapid, and Glass), you shouldn’t have a problem getting difficult stains off your dishes. This countertop dishwasher also has options to delay the start of the dishwasher cycle for 2, 4, or 8 hours, as well as water and rinse aid notification lights.

It may take you a bit of time to get used to the control panel, but once you understand what the icons mean, the Danby DDW621WDB is a breeze to operate, and at only 22 inches wide, it won’t take up too much space on your counter either.

Big capacity for a 22-inch countertop dishwasher   
  
 Controls were a bit confusing at first   
  
 Very small capacity compared to full-size models

As it turns out, the HomeLabs HME010033N is nearly identical to the Danby DDW621WDB. It has the same cleaning performance, the same cycles (although one cycle is called “Eco” rather than “Light”), and similar cycle times. Its exterior looks a bit more modern than that of the DDW621WDB, but if you’re interested in buying this flavor of countertop dishwasher, we recommend buying whichever of these two products is on sale that day.

Sleek look   
  
 Intuitive controls   
  
 Very small capacity

Finally, a product from a brand you recognize! Again, the cleaning performance for this countertop dishwasher is pretty comparable to that of the others on this list. In addition to the same six cycles that most of the countertop dishwashers on this list have, the BCD6W also has a 90-minute BabyCare cycle. Like the Magic Chef, the Black & Decker also has a 1-to-24-hour delay feature.

One aspect that separates the Black & Decker countertop dishwasher from the competition is its looks—with its stainless steel handle finish and its touchscreen user interface, it’s easily the best-looking dishwasher on this list. If you have a more modern-looking kitchen, and don’t want a white box on your countertop to ruin its visual appeal, you won’t regret choosing the Black & Decker countertop dishwasher.

Stainless steel finish   
  
 1-24 hour delay option   
  
 Has issues with spinach redeposit

For those of you who want an affordable tabletop dishwasher for your small space, it’s worth checking out the RCA RDW3208. This one includes a durable stainless steel interior, can fit under almost all types of kitchen cabinets, and even has a bottom rack that can fold down. Plus, this one uses less water supply to wash up to six regular place settings and includes an easy-to-operate, self-cleaning feature.

Reviewers say that this dishwasher is worth it if you don’t have one, and that it both operates quietly and washes dishes well. A few have had issues with theirs leaking, but overall, we believe that this one is worth it, especially for the price.

Cleans dishes well   
  
 Operates quietly   
  
 Affordable   
  
 May leak

Countertop dishwashers look a lot like full-sized models on the inside—including full-sized filters, stainless interiors, and washarms.

It depends. If you’re concerned about the environment, a countertop dishwasher uses less water than hand washing, while typically being more energy efficient than built-in washers. This makes it an especially attractive option for an RV or somewhere else where you don’t have the space for a fully-installed or portable dishwasher.

Using these compact dishwashers also requires a lot less effort than it does to wash dishes by hand, and our tests show that it does a much better job cleaning. If you’re a clean freak, buying a countertop dishwasher is a small price to pay to ensure that your dishes don’t just look clean.

However, you’ll still have to wash larger items in the sink; additionally, a countertop dishwasher can take up valuable space on your counter when it’s not in use.

Larger portable dishwashers, which also hook up to kitchen faucets and wheel out of the way when they’re not in use, can cost twice as much, but can also accommodate more, larger dishes.

Countertop dishwashers can usually fit up to six place settings, which includes one plate, one bowl, one glass, one fork, one spoon, and one knife.

Nearly every countertop dishwasher works the same way: There are two hoses that join a “quick connect” mount that should attach to almost any faucet. One hose takes in fresh water, the other drains dirty water into the sink.

Inside, there’s room for four full place settings in a single rack, a cutlery basket, a removable filter, and a stainless tub.

This faucet likely won’t work with a countertop dishwasher

You can keep the dishwasher attached to your sink and press a bypass button to get fresh water, or you can disconnect it after use.

Be aware: Not every faucet works with a portable dishwasher. We had to purchase a small 15/16 inch to 55/64 inch faucet adapter at a hardware store. Stylish faucets with hidden “Cache” aerators may not fit a portable dishwasher at all.

It’s possible to hook up a sprayer faucet to a dishwasher—several online guides exist that explain how to do so—but it’s not recommended.

Two hoses hook up to the rear of the dishwasher, and then attach to a single connector that hangs from a kitchen faucet.

A hOmeLabs portable dishwasher—made by Midea.

After looking at bills of lading and other import data, we learned that nearly every portable countertop dishwasher sold in the U.S. is made by Midea.

Midea, based in Guangdong, China, is one of the largest appliance companies in the world. It owns vacuum-maker Eureka, has the rights to use the Toshiba name on small appliances, and manufactures hundreds of products for companies like GE Appliances and even the Instant Pot.

Midea now sells appliances under its own name, and recently opened several research and development centers in the U.S.

It makes sense that these products are imported from China, and not just because of lower manufacturing costs. Countertop dishwashers are much more popular in China, and it’s a lot easier to import these rectangular, easy-to-ship boxes from an existing factory than to set up production in countries where they’re more of a niche product.

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 Senior Scientist

Julia is the Senior Scientist at Reviewed, which means that she oversees (and continually updates) the testing of products in Reviewed’s core categories such as televisions, washing machines, refrigerators, and more. She also determines the testing methods and standards for Reviewed’s “The Best Right Now” articles.

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# The Best Leaf Blowers of 2022

## The Testers

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

The Worx WG520 is unmatched in its ability to clear leaves off any surface from a distance, including wet, matted leaves.   
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 If you need a cordless blower to access the back corners of your yard, the Ego Power+ LB7654 is your best bet.  
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 If you’re looking for a small blower that packs a punch for clearing out small areas, the Sun Joe SBJ597E is a great model at a great price.  
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 This Black & Decker delivers 450 cubic feet of air per minute and is perfect for most medium to small yards.  
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 Blowing 650 cubic feet of air per minute, this is perfect for most medium to large yards and shares the intuitive design of the Ego Power+ LB7654.  
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Updated August 3, 2022

A great leaf blower can make your yard look neater by helping to clean up fall leaves, grass clippings, and debris in less time and effort than a rake. A bad leaf blower makes fall cleanup an annoying, noisy chore, and it gets you dirty looks from neighbors looking for a little piece and quiet.. That’s why we put 14 handheld leaf blowers to the test during fall in New England. After several rounds of testing that included blowing leaves, pine needles, acorns, and dust off dozens of obstacles, our top pick is the Worx WG520 Turbine 600 (available at Amazon for $69.99). It’s powerful, lightweight, and easy to use. For those on a budget, the Sun Joe SBJ597E (available at Amazon) is a steal. It’s a mere slip of a blower that is best used for clearing small yards, decks, front steps, and walkways.

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And if portability is a top priority, the Ego Power+ LB7654 (available at Amazon) is our choice for best cordless leaf blower. It’s powerful, but easy enough to use one-handed. Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar The Worx WG520 Turbine 600 is the best leaf blower we’ve tested. Best Overall Worx WG520 Power: This tornado of a leaf blower claims it can move 600 cubic feet of air per minute—the second-highest CFM measurement in our testing—and it’s easy to believe. The Worx WG520 was unmatched in its ability to clear leaves off any surface from a distance, including wet, matted leaves glued to the pavement. If you’re not looking to blow all your potted plants off the porch, though, the Worx has a speed dial to adjust its air blasts from hurricane pounding down to normal leaf-blower levels. For $60, you’re getting an effective, powerful machine. Comfort: At 7.2 pounds, the Worx WG520 is easy to carry. Aesthetically, it looks less like a radioactive “Fortnite” gun than any other blower we tested. Noise: The Worx’s one downfall is that it’s loud for a corded pick, spewing up to 82 decibels at its highest speed. The noise is higher-pitched than landscapers’ gasoline-powered blowers, and less annoying at a distance, but you should still wear ear protection when you use this blower. Pros Powerful Easy to carry Cons Loud $69.99 from Amazon $69.99 from Target $79.98 from Lowe’s $79.53 from Walmart

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Credit: Reviewed / Kevin Kavanaugh The Ego Power+ LB7654 is the best cordless leaf blower we've tested.

Best Cordless Ego Power+ LB7654 Power: If you need a cordless blower to access the back corners of your yard, the Ego Power+ LB7654 is your best bet. This battery-powered leaf blower can move 765 cubic feet of air per minute and you can feel it as soon as you hit the Thrust button. It has an intuitive design, with buttons placed where the hand naturally falls. The speed control button has a tab that makes one-handed operation easy. Most of our tests were conducted on the low setting, as there is plenty of power to accomplish a variety of yard jobs. The Thrust power button proved most effective at clearing out large, embedded piles of leaves, but that same power can also eliminate most of your mulch if you’re not careful. It’s all the power you need to take care of a large yard. Comfort: With the battery attached, the Ego LB7654 is very well balanced. The motor is located in the middle of the blower, and is well protected from pant legs and windbreakers. The design is streamlined and well thought out. The only drawback to its design is the size of the battery. With the battery attached, the blower weighs in at a hefty 9.6 pounds. There are hooks on the blower for a shoulder strap, but no straps were included. Carrying this blower around the yard could become a chore in itself. Noise: The Ego registered 86 decibels on the lowest setting, so it is at the upper range of noise for a yard tool. This machine is perfect for larger yards where there is more room between homes. Battery: At 30 minutes, the Ego LB7654 had the best run-time of the cordless blowers we tested. Pros Powerful Long run time Cons Heavy Loud $329.00 from Amazon $329.00 from Lowe’s $319.00 from Walmart

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Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar At less than $20, the Sun Joe SBJ597E is our choice for best value.

Best Value Sun Joe SBJ597E Power: Will the Sun Joe SBJ597E clean out a one-acre lot in 10 minutes or dislodge wet, stuck-on leaves? No. But if you’re looking for a small blower that packs a punch for clearing out small areas, the Sun Joe is a great model at a great price. At less than $20, it’s a no-brainer. The Sun Joe puts out 260 CFM of power, and its tube is narrow, so you can clear precise areas fast. Unlike the Worx, which could strip your entire flower bed of vegetation in seconds if someone bumped your elbow, the Sun Joe has only one speed setting for a moderate flow of air. You’d have to work pretty hard to destroy your garden plants. Comfort: Lightweight and compact, the Sun Joe SBJ597E weighs under 4 pounds and can fit in a large shoebox once you remove the blow tube. Noise: The Sun Joe SBJ597E is on the loud side, so wear ear protection when you use it. Pros Can clear precise areas fast Lightweight and compact Inexpensive Cons Loud Only one air speed setting $20.51 from Amazon $24.99 from Target Buy now at Home Depot $27.99 from Tractor Supply

Other Leaf Blowers We Tested Black & Decker BEBL750 Power: The Black & Decker delivers 450 cubic feet of air per minute and is perfect for most medium to small yards. It was surprisingly powerful and completed most of the heavy jobs without fail. Being a corded blower and weighing in at only 5.3 pounds, it was easy to move this machine around and get into the nooks and crannies of the yard to remove the debris. Comfort: The Black & Decker was the most comfortable blower we tested, but dragging a cord around a half-acre yard is cumbersome and one of the reasons why so many homeowners are choosing cordless power equipment. The blower itself was a breeze to use, but the power source presents more challenges. Noise: The Black and Decker registered 86 decibels on the lowest setting. Pros Lightweight Powerful Cons Cord limits range Buy now at Amazon $54.99 from Target Buy now at Home Depot $39.98 from Lowe’s

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Ego Power+ LB6504 Power: Blowing 650 cubic feet of air per minute, this is perfect for most medium to large yards and shares the intuitive design of the Ego Power+ LB7654. However, this model’s speed control button does not have a tab, and controlling the speed took two hands. Most of our tests were conducted on the low setting, as there is plenty of power to accomplish a variety of yard jobs. The Thrust power button proved quite capable at clearing out large, embedded piles of leaves.This model is the same size and weight of the LB7654, and was well suited for our half acre. Comfort: Like the LB7654, the LB6504 is very well balanced. The motor is located in the middle of the blower and is well protected from pant legs and windbreakers. The Ego design is streamlined and well thought out. Like the LB7654, the only drawback to its design is the size of the battery. With the battery attached, the blower weighs in at 9.6 pounds. There are hooks on the blower for a shoulder strap, but no straps were included. Noise: The Ego registered 92 decibels on the lowest setting and was the loudest blower we tested. Battery: At 24 minutes, the Ego LB6504 had one of the best run-times of the cordless blowers we tested. Pros Can use around landscaping without disturbing it Decent run time Cons Heavy Very loud $249.00 from Amazon $249.00 from Lowe's $309.00 from Walmart

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Kobalt KHB 3040-06 Power: Formerly our top cordless pick, the Kobalt KHB 3040-06 moves leaves and debris more quickly than most other cordless blowers we tested, blowing out an estimated 480 CFM. It also has a variable-speed trigger and a turbo button for increasing power to dislodge stubborn wet leaves. Comfort: The Kobalt KHB 3040-06 feels well-balanced and easy to carry, unlike other cordless models which are back-heavy due to battery weight. Noise: Close up, it sounds like a household vacuum, not a gigantic grinding machine, although it isn’t quiet. Kobalt representatives say it has a noise rating of under 65 decibels at 50 feet, which means it meets most leaf blower noise laws. That also means it’s much noisier for the person operating it, so wear ear protection to prevent hearing loss. Battery: The one drawback to the Kobalt KHB 3040-06 is its relatively short running time. With the blower set on minimum power, the Kobalt ran for 16 minutes, 30 seconds. If you’re thinking of running your blower continuously for a longer span, consider buying an extra battery. Pros Moves debris quickly Easy to carry Cons Loud Relatively short running time Buy now at Amazon $159.00 from Lowe's $99.00 from Walmart   
  
 Ryobi RY40407BTLVNM Power: This Ryobi model seemed under-powered compared to corded models, despite manufacturer-advertised ratings of 550 CFM. It blew well on the Turbo setting—the extra-power button—but it didn’t pick up and move leaves the way the Worx or Kobalt models did. Given that the battery lasted less than 20 minutes on the lowest setting, don’t count on using that Turbo setting very much unless you have a second battery ready. Comfort: This Ryobi model felt heavy and awkward, thanks largely to a battery that weighs more than 3 pounds and is positioned on top of the leaf blower. This Ryobi model is also designed with the fan on the back of the leaf blower, behind the handle, where it can suck in clothing. The back fan could become an annoyance or a safety hazard. Noise: The RY404070VNM Whisper model claims to be “the industry’s quietest handheld blower,” producing 59 decibels at 50 feet. It seems to achieve this lower rating via a layer of foam on the interior of the air tube. It’s quieter, but subjectively, it doesn’t seem much quieter for the operator. Battery: In our testing, the RY404070VNM’s battery lasted for 18 minutes, 20 seconds on the lowest setting. It’s not terrible, but if you have a larger yard, you’ll want to invest in a second battery. Pros Turbo mode is powerful Quiet Cons Heavy and awkward to carry Buy now at Amazon $144.99 from Walmart   
  
 Black & Decker LB700 Power: The Black & Decker LB700 is a middle-of-the-road leaf blower in all possible ways. It can blow leaves, but it doesn’t have anything like the power of the Worx 5920 or the Toro Powerjet F700. The 180 CFM power rating is the lowest in our leaf blower sample. Comfort: Lightweight at 4.4 pounds, the Black & Decker LB700 is easy to carry and manage. Plus, the air intake at the bottom of the blower doesn’t suck in clothes. Noise: Although it’s a lightweight blower, the Black & Decker LB700 is a heavyweight for sound, putting out 86 decibels of noise pollution at 50 feet. If you want to stay friends with your neighbors—or obey municipal leaf blower noise bylaws—avoid this blower. Pros Lightweight Cons Low power Loud $29.60 from Amazon $45.00 from Target Buy now at Home Depot $44.99 from Tractor Supply   
  
 Toro PowerJet F700 Power: The Toro Powerjet F700 will blow you away—especially if you’re not holding onto something sturdy. Astonishingly strong gusts of air come out of this blower’s tube. If you need less than hurricane force to clean your yard, you can turn down the power with a variable-speed dial. Comfort: This Toro is well balanced, and weighs a little under 6.5 pounds. There are two minor flaws in the design that kept it from being our top pick: It’s difficult to adjust the speed dial one-handed, and the relatively large openings in the wrap-around rear air intake can suck in loose clothing. Noise: Thiswas one of the noisier blowers in our sample, broadcasting 70.1 decibels at 50 feet away. Still, it’s quieter than the Worx WG520, which clocks in at 82 decibels. If you’re willing to overlook the inconveniences of the rear air intake and the dial adjustment, the Toro Powerjet F700 is a better bet for keeping the peace in your neighborhood. Pros Powerful airflow Well-balanced design Cons Loud Difficult to adjust one-handed Buy now at Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $89.85 from Walmart   
  
 Toro UltraPlus 51621 Power: The Toro 51621 is a decent, hard-working leaf blower. It won’t wow you with its overwhelming force like the Toro F700 or Worx 5920, but its 410 CFM air flow will blow most leaves most of the way you want them to go most of the time. That said, the vacuum/mulcher attachment is unimpressive. In our test vacuuming up dry oak leaves, the process of getting the leaves up the tube into the bag was very slow, and the leaves weren’t much smaller once they were in the bag then out. It would be faster to pick up the leaves with a pair of leaf scoops and stomp on them in the yard waste bag to break them up. Comfort: At 8.9 pounds, this bruiser of a leaf lower felt the heaviest of all the blowers in our sample, even though it weighed less than the Ryobi models. The top handle is helpful for balancing the blower, but it doesn’t make it feel lighter. Noise: The Toro 51621 is one of the quieter corded models, putting out 68 decibels at 50 feet. It’s not quiet enough for the user to forego ear protection, but it should reduce conflicts with your neighbors. Pros Adequate power Quiet Cons Heavy Mulcher attachment is unimpressive $116.15 from Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $116.15 from Walmart   
  
 Greenworks Pro BL60L2510 Power: Although the manufacturer rates the Greenworks BL60L2510 as moving 470 CFM, its performance was much weaker than most of the other leaf blowers in our sample. It simply couldn’t blow leaves, acorns, and other debris very far or very fast. In addition, it vibrates worryingly during use. Comfort: At a little over 8 pounds, the Greenworks BL60L2510 wasn’t the lightest blower in our sample, but it wasn’t the heaviest either. It was the only cordless blower we tested that had an extra on/off switch in addition to the speed-adjustment dial, which can be either annoying or reassuring. Noise: The Greenworks BL60L2510 makes a lower-pitched noise than many other nozzles, and is less annoying than some of the more whinier models. Rated at 65 decibels, it is acceptably quiet by most municipal leaf blower sound standards. Battery: The Greenworks BL60L2510 was one of the longest-lasting in our sample, clocking 24 minutes, 40 seconds on the lowest setting. If you want to use a higher setting to blow your leaves more effectively, consider investing in an extra battery. Pros Quiet Long-lasting battery Cons Weak performance Buy now at Lowe's Buy now at Amazon $158.88 from Walmart   
  
 Ryobi RY40480VNM Power: Much like the Ryobi RY404070VNM Whisper model, the 40480VNM seemed under-powered despite an air volume measurement of 535 CFM. The main difference from the other Ryobi model is that it’s louder, producing 68 decibels of high-pitched, whiny noise at 50 feet. The Turbo setting enhanced the 40480’s performance, but not to the level of our top three models. Comfort: Both cordless Ryobi models we tested felt heavy and awkward thanks to a top-mounted battery that weighs more than 3 pounds. The battery puts a third of this blower’s weight right below the handle, and boosts the total weight to 9.4 pounds. During testing, the 40480’s rear-mounted fan sucked my clothes against the back of the blower when I held the blower in front of me. No harm was done, but depending on your clothing choices and your arm position, this back fan could be a safety hazard. Noise: The RY 40480VNM has a noise rating of 68 decibels, and it produced a loud, high-pitched whine. Battery: The RY40480VNM’s battery lasted a reasonable 21 minutes, 35 seconds on the lowest setting. If you’re planning on using the Turbo setting to dislodge wet leaves or gravel, you should have a second battery ready. Pros Turbo setting enhances performance Solid battery life Cons Loud Heavy Buy now at Amazon Buy now at Home Depot   
  
 Hoover OnePWR BH57205 Power: You won’t have to worry about blowing too many leaves out of your yard with the Hoover BH57205. Although this model lists a respectable 270 CFM and had middle-of-the-road leaf-moving force in our testing, the battery lasted less than 10 minutes before dying out. Comfort: Awkward and strangely heavy for a blower that’s only 6.4 pounds, the Hoover blower is hard to carry comfortably. Fortunately, the battery is weak enough that using the Hoover over a long period really isn’t an issue. Noise: Hoover doesn’t list an official noise rating for the BH57205, but it is very loud—noticeably louder than the other models we tested. Battery: On a fully-charged battery, the Hoover gave up the ghost at a mere 8 minutes, 45 seconds. At that rate, you’ll want to get two extra batteries, and maybe an extra charger too. Pros Adequate power Cons Weak battery life Awkward to carry Loud $215.98 from Amazon $189.99 from Wayfair $160.24 from Walmart   
  
 Litheli U1BR21103 Power: The Litheli U1BR21103 delivers 480 cubic feet of air per minute, which could work for most medium to small yards. It is a capable blower, but its poor design prevents it from being either a good value or a good choice. The air intake on the Litheli is located on the back side of the blower, so no matter how you position your body, the blower will find your pant legs and latch on, making a most distressing sound. This design seriously inhibits lateral movements needed to move leaves across the yard. Comfort: The Litheli is not a comfortable blower to use. Even though the battery is small and the blower weighs in at only 7.5 pounds, most of the weight is located in the back of the blower. It lacks balance and is awkward to use. The tube of the blower extends for easier directional jobs, but it lacks attachments for any other applications. This blower would be a good choice for small, quick clean up jobs around the yard. Noise: The Litheli registered 85 decibels on the lowest setting. Battery: The Litheli had a decent run-time for a cordless blowers: 14 minutes, 30 seconds. The battery is quite small but delivered power for its duration. Unlike the Ego blowers, the Litheli battery only indicates its present charge if you depress the battery button. Pros Lightweight Extendable tube Cons Poor design Shorter run time $155.99 from Walmart

How We Tested Leaf Blowers The Testers I’m Meg Muckenhoupt, a garden writer and reviewer. I’ve been wrangling with trees, branches, leaves, and gravel for more than 20 years, and along the way I co-founded a community farm and earned a certificate in field botany. I live under a canopy of oak, pine, maple, and hickory trees, and I’ve used many different techniques for managing the leaf avalanche that engulfs my yard every fall. And I’m Kevin Kavanaugh, a retired public school teacher who has always been intrigued by all things mechanical, be it watches, power equipment, vintage bicycles or classic cars. After I finished testing the best lawn mowers for Reviewed, I went to work testing half a dozen leaf blowers to add to Meg’s previous findings. Aided by fellow lawn care enthusiast Ray Lane, I cleared leaves and other debris from my half-acre yard that’s surrounded by trees. The Tests Credit: Reviewed / Kevin Kavanaugh We tested leaf blowers for power and portability. We tested these blowers by moving piles of dry leaves across the yard and clearing the driveway and street of light debris, small sticks and sand. We further tested their power by moving large piles of leaves caught under bushes and woodpiles. We tested cordless leaf blowers’ battery endurance by running a zip-tie around their power buttons with the speed adjustment dial turned to the lowest setting, and timing how long it took for them to run out of power. Measurements varied from 8 minutes, 45 seconds, for the Hoover BH57205 to 30 minutes for the Ego Power+ LB7654. We rated how heavy or unwieldy these electric blowers felt carrying them up and down a 100-foot slope, and whether they felt unbalanced. We also evaluated how easy it was to store these blowers in a tight space, and tried out any special accessories they included. Overall, power and speed were highly correlated for these electric models: The blowers that blew leaves away the fastest also blew them across the largest area and did the best job of prying up wet leaves. How to Choose the Right Leaf Blower Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar We tested each cordless leaf blower to see how long the battery lasts on the lowest setting. Leaf blower product listings like to include plenty of information that doesn’t tell you much about the blower’s performance. Here are the key factors to look out for—and what to ignore. Gas vs. Electric Leaf Blowers One of the major differences between leaf blowers is how they are powered: gas engines, an electric cord, or a rechargeable battery. For the purposes of this review, we skipped over testing gas-powered models because they have several disadvantages. For starters, “gas-powered” is a misnomer. Gas leaf blowers actually require a mixture of gas and a special type of oil. If you get the proportions wrong, your leaf blower can stop working. The fuel also needs to be drained before you store your blower for the winter. Gas-powered leaf blowers are also very noisy, with common models making sounds ranging from 70 decibels to an ear-splitting 90. Many communities have banned gas-powered leaf blowers altogether, or limit leaf blowers to models that emit 65 decibels or less from 50 feet away. They may be cordless, but they are just as much of a pain at the end of the day. Electric leaf blowers are either powered by an electric cord or by batteries. Typically, they are quieter than gas-powered blowers. While battery-operated leaf blowers provide more freedom, their duration is limited. With corded models, you may have to lug around an electric cord. If you choose a corded model, note that you’ll need an extension cord to make it work in your yard. If you choose a cordless model, check how much an extra battery costs. Most cordless models will only run 15 to 20 minutes under typical conditions, and recharging times can vary depending on the surrounding temperature, how much the battery has run down, and how old the battery is. Look at CFM, Not Airspeed Airspeed and air volume give you an idea of how powerful a leaf blower is, but only an idea. In general, airspeed (miles per hour) measures how fast the air is going, which tells you how well a blower will dislodge and lift leaves. Air volume (cubic feet per minute, or CFM) tells you how much air is coming out of the blower, or how big a mass of leaves you can blow away. The problem is that there is no industry-standard way of measuring air speed for CFM. You can be pretty sure that a blower putting out 600 CFM of air—like our top pick, the Worx WG520 Turbine 600 (available at Amazon for $69.99)—will blow more leaves away in a minute than a leaf blower putting out 180 CFM. However, as one example, in our testing the 480 CFM Kobalt outperformed the 525 CFM Ryobi RY40480. Our recommendation: Look at CFM to tell if the leaf blower is supposed to clear your entire yard (at least 400 CFM) or just your deck (under 300 CFM). Ignore airspeed, which doesn’t tell you anything meaningful about performance, Pay Attention to Decibels Leaf blower noise ratings show how loud the blowers are to someone standing 50 feet away. There are two numbers you should remember: 65 decibels (dB), which is the maximum allowable noise rating for leaf blowers in some municipalities; and 80 dB, the level where hearing loss can occur after extended exposure (two hours or more). Don’t Worry About Brushless Motors Many leaf blowers advertise their brushless motors, which contain electronic engine controllers. Brushless motors should make the blower run more efficiently and last longer, but they’re also more expensive to build than conventional brushed motors. Having a brushless motor, like our top cordless pick, also doesn’t guarantee that that motor will push air out faster or more forcefully than conventional motors. Our recommendation: Ignore the motor type, and look at CFM and decibels instead.

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A great leaf blower can make your yard look neater by helping to clean up fall leaves, grass clippings, and debris in less time and effort than a rake. A bad leaf blower makes fall cleanup an annoying, noisy chore, and it gets you dirty looks from neighbors looking for a little piece and quiet..

That’s why we put 14 handheld leaf blowers to the test during fall in New England. After several rounds of testing that included blowing leaves, pine needles, acorns, and dust off dozens of obstacles, our top pick is the Worx WG520 Turbine 600 (available at Amazon for $69.99). It’s powerful, lightweight, and easy to use.

For those on a budget, the Sun Joe SBJ597E (available at Amazon) is a steal. It’s a mere slip of a blower that is best used for clearing small yards, decks, front steps, and walkways.

And if portability is a top priority, the Ego Power+ LB7654 (available at Amazon) is our choice for best cordless leaf blower. It’s powerful, but easy enough to use one-handed.

The Worx WG520 Turbine 600 is the best leaf blower we’ve tested.

Power: This tornado of a leaf blower claims it can move 600 cubic feet of air per minute—the second-highest CFM measurement in our testing—and it’s easy to believe. The Worx WG520 was unmatched in its ability to clear leaves off any surface from a distance, including wet, matted leaves glued to the pavement.

If you’re not looking to blow all your potted plants off the porch, though, the Worx has a speed dial to adjust its air blasts from hurricane pounding down to normal leaf-blower levels. For $60, you’re getting an effective, powerful machine.

Comfort: At 7.2 pounds, the Worx WG520 is easy to carry. Aesthetically, it looks less like a radioactive “Fortnite” gun than any other blower we tested.

Noise: The Worx’s one downfall is that it’s loud for a corded pick, spewing up to 82 decibels at its highest speed. The noise is higher-pitched than landscapers’ gasoline-powered blowers, and less annoying at a distance, but you should still wear ear protection when you use this blower.

Powerful   
  
 Easy to carry   
  
 Loud

The Ego Power+ LB7654 is the best cordless leaf blower we’ve tested.

Power: If you need a cordless blower to access the back corners of your yard, the Ego Power+ LB7654 is your best bet. This battery-powered leaf blower can move 765 cubic feet of air per minute and you can feel it as soon as you hit the Thrust button.

It has an intuitive design, with buttons placed where the hand naturally falls. The speed control button has a tab that makes one-handed operation easy. Most of our tests were conducted on the low setting, as there is plenty of power to accomplish a variety of yard jobs.

The Thrust power button proved most effective at clearing out large, embedded piles of leaves, but that same power can also eliminate most of your mulch if you’re not careful. It’s all the power you need to take care of a large yard.

Comfort: With the battery attached, the Ego LB7654 is very well balanced. The motor is located in the middle of the blower, and is well protected from pant legs and windbreakers. The design is streamlined and well thought out.

The only drawback to its design is the size of the battery. With the battery attached, the blower weighs in at a hefty 9.6 pounds. There are hooks on the blower for a shoulder strap, but no straps were included. Carrying this blower around the yard could become a chore in itself.

Noise: The Ego registered 86 decibels on the lowest setting, so it is at the upper range of noise for a yard tool. This machine is perfect for larger yards where there is more room between homes.

Battery: At 30 minutes, the Ego LB7654 had the best run-time of the cordless blowers we tested.

Powerful   
  
 Long run time   
  
 Heavy   
  
 Loud

At less than $20, the Sun Joe SBJ597E is our choice for best value.

Power: Will the Sun Joe SBJ597E clean out a one-acre lot in 10 minutes or dislodge wet, stuck-on leaves? No. But if you’re looking for a small blower that packs a punch for clearing out small areas, the Sun Joe is a great model at a great price.

At less than $20, it’s a no-brainer.

The Sun Joe puts out 260 CFM of power, and its tube is narrow, so you can clear precise areas fast. Unlike the Worx, which could strip your entire flower bed of vegetation in seconds if someone bumped your elbow, the Sun Joe has only one speed setting for a moderate flow of air. You’d have to work pretty hard to destroy your garden plants.

Comfort: Lightweight and compact, the Sun Joe SBJ597E weighs under 4 pounds and can fit in a large shoebox once you remove the blow tube.

Noise: The Sun Joe SBJ597E is on the loud side, so wear ear protection when you use it.

Can clear precise areas fast   
  
 Lightweight and compact   
  
 Inexpensive   
  
 Loud   
  
 Only one air speed setting

Power: The Black & Decker delivers 450 cubic feet of air per minute and is perfect for most medium to small yards. It was surprisingly powerful and completed most of the heavy jobs without fail. Being a corded blower and weighing in at only 5.3 pounds, it was easy to move this machine around and get into the nooks and crannies of the yard to remove the debris.

Comfort: The Black & Decker was the most comfortable blower we tested, but dragging a cord around a half-acre yard is cumbersome and one of the reasons why so many homeowners are choosing cordless power equipment. The blower itself was a breeze to use, but the power source presents more challenges.

Noise: The Black and Decker registered 86 decibels on the lowest setting.

Lightweight   
  
 Powerful   
  
 Cord limits range

Power: Blowing 650 cubic feet of air per minute, this is perfect for most medium to large yards and shares the intuitive design of the Ego Power+ LB7654. However, this model’s speed control button does not have a tab, and controlling the speed took two hands.

Most of our tests were conducted on the low setting, as there is plenty of power to accomplish a variety of yard jobs. The Thrust power button proved quite capable at clearing out large, embedded piles of leaves.This model is the same size and weight of the LB7654, and was well suited for our half acre.

Comfort: Like the LB7654, the LB6504 is very well balanced. The motor is located in the middle of the blower and is well protected from pant legs and windbreakers. The Ego design is streamlined and well thought out.

Like the LB7654, the only drawback to its design is the size of the battery. With the battery attached, the blower weighs in at 9.6 pounds. There are hooks on the blower for a shoulder strap, but no straps were included.

Noise: The Ego registered 92 decibels on the lowest setting and was the loudest blower we tested.

Battery: At 24 minutes, the Ego LB6504 had one of the best run-times of the cordless blowers we tested.

Can use around landscaping without disturbing it   
  
 Decent run time   
  
 Heavy   
  
 Very loud

Power: Formerly our top cordless pick, the Kobalt KHB 3040-06 moves leaves and debris more quickly than most other cordless blowers we tested, blowing out an estimated 480 CFM. It also has a variable-speed trigger and a turbo button for increasing power to dislodge stubborn wet leaves.

Comfort: The Kobalt KHB 3040-06 feels well-balanced and easy to carry, unlike other cordless models which are back-heavy due to battery weight.

Noise: Close up, it sounds like a household vacuum, not a gigantic grinding machine, although it isn’t quiet. Kobalt representatives say it has a noise rating of under 65 decibels at 50 feet, which means it meets most leaf blower noise laws. That also means it’s much noisier for the person operating it, so wear ear protection to prevent hearing loss.

Battery: The one drawback to the Kobalt KHB 3040-06 is its relatively short running time. With the blower set on minimum power, the Kobalt ran for 16 minutes, 30 seconds. If you’re thinking of running your blower continuously for a longer span, consider buying an extra battery.

Moves debris quickly   
  
 Easy to carry   
  
 Loud   
  
 Relatively short running time

Power: This Ryobi model seemed under-powered compared to corded models, despite manufacturer-advertised ratings of 550 CFM. It blew well on the Turbo setting—the extra-power button—but it didn’t pick up and move leaves the way the Worx or Kobalt models did.

Given that the battery lasted less than 20 minutes on the lowest setting, don’t count on using that Turbo setting very much unless you have a second battery ready.

Comfort: This Ryobi model felt heavy and awkward, thanks largely to a battery that weighs more than 3 pounds and is positioned on top of the leaf blower.

This Ryobi model is also designed with the fan on the back of the leaf blower, behind the handle, where it can suck in clothing. The back fan could become an annoyance or a safety hazard.

Noise: The RY404070VNM Whisper model claims to be “the industry’s quietest handheld blower,” producing 59 decibels at 50 feet. It seems to achieve this lower rating via a layer of foam on the interior of the air tube. It’s quieter, but subjectively, it doesn’t seem much quieter for the operator.

Battery: In our testing, the RY404070VNM’s battery lasted for 18 minutes, 20 seconds on the lowest setting. It’s not terrible, but if you have a larger yard, you’ll want to invest in a second battery.

Turbo mode is powerful   
  
 Quiet   
  
 Heavy and awkward to carry

Power: The Black & Decker LB700 is a middle-of-the-road leaf blower in all possible ways. It can blow leaves, but it doesn’t have anything like the power of the Worx 5920 or the Toro Powerjet F700. The 180 CFM power rating is the lowest in our leaf blower sample.

Comfort: Lightweight at 4.4 pounds, the Black & Decker LB700 is easy to carry and manage. Plus, the air intake at the bottom of the blower doesn’t suck in clothes.

Noise: Although it’s a lightweight blower, the Black & Decker LB700 is a heavyweight for sound, putting out 86 decibels of noise pollution at 50 feet. If you want to stay friends with your neighbors—or obey municipal leaf blower noise bylaws—avoid this blower.

Lightweight   
  
 Low power   
  
 Loud

Power: The Toro Powerjet F700 will blow you away—especially if you’re not holding onto something sturdy. Astonishingly strong gusts of air come out of this blower’s tube. If you need less than hurricane force to clean your yard, you can turn down the power with a variable-speed dial.

Comfort: This Toro is well balanced, and weighs a little under 6.5 pounds. There are two minor flaws in the design that kept it from being our top pick: It’s difficult to adjust the speed dial one-handed, and the relatively large openings in the wrap-around rear air intake can suck in loose clothing.

Noise: Thiswas one of the noisier blowers in our sample, broadcasting 70.1 decibels at 50 feet away. Still, it’s quieter than the Worx WG520, which clocks in at 82 decibels. If you’re willing to overlook the inconveniences of the rear air intake and the dial adjustment, the Toro Powerjet F700 is a better bet for keeping the peace in your neighborhood.

Powerful airflow   
  
 Well-balanced design   
  
 Loud   
  
 Difficult to adjust one-handed

Power: The Toro 51621 is a decent, hard-working leaf blower. It won’t wow you with its overwhelming force like the Toro F700 or Worx 5920, but its 410 CFM air flow will blow most leaves most of the way you want them to go most of the time.

That said, the vacuum/mulcher attachment is unimpressive. In our test vacuuming up dry oak leaves, the process of getting the leaves up the tube into the bag was very slow, and the leaves weren’t much smaller once they were in the bag then out. It would be faster to pick up the leaves with a pair of leaf scoops and stomp on them in the yard waste bag to break them up.

Comfort: At 8.9 pounds, this bruiser of a leaf lower felt the heaviest of all the blowers in our sample, even though it weighed less than the Ryobi models. The top handle is helpful for balancing the blower, but it doesn’t make it feel lighter.

Noise: The Toro 51621 is one of the quieter corded models, putting out 68 decibels at 50 feet. It’s not quiet enough for the user to forego ear protection, but it should reduce conflicts with your neighbors.

Adequate power   
  
 Quiet   
  
 Heavy   
  
 Mulcher attachment is unimpressive

Power: Although the manufacturer rates the Greenworks BL60L2510 as moving 470 CFM, its performance was much weaker than most of the other leaf blowers in our sample. It simply couldn’t blow leaves, acorns, and other debris very far or very fast. In addition, it vibrates worryingly during use.

Comfort: At a little over 8 pounds, the Greenworks BL60L2510 wasn’t the lightest blower in our sample, but it wasn’t the heaviest either. It was the only cordless blower we tested that had an extra on/off switch in addition to the speed-adjustment dial, which can be either annoying or reassuring.

Noise: The Greenworks BL60L2510 makes a lower-pitched noise than many other nozzles, and is less annoying than some of the more whinier models. Rated at 65 decibels, it is acceptably quiet by most municipal leaf blower sound standards.

Battery: The Greenworks BL60L2510 was one of the longest-lasting in our sample, clocking 24 minutes, 40 seconds on the lowest setting. If you want to use a higher setting to blow your leaves more effectively, consider investing in an extra battery.

Quiet   
  
 Long-lasting battery   
  
 Weak performance

Power: Much like the Ryobi RY404070VNM Whisper model, the 40480VNM seemed under-powered despite an air volume measurement of 535 CFM. The main difference from the other Ryobi model is that it’s louder, producing 68 decibels of high-pitched, whiny noise at 50 feet. The Turbo setting enhanced the 40480’s performance, but not to the level of our top three models.

Comfort: Both cordless Ryobi models we tested felt heavy and awkward thanks to a top-mounted battery that weighs more than 3 pounds. The battery puts a third of this blower’s weight right below the handle, and boosts the total weight to 9.4 pounds.

During testing, the 40480’s rear-mounted fan sucked my clothes against the back of the blower when I held the blower in front of me. No harm was done, but depending on your clothing choices and your arm position, this back fan could be a safety hazard.

Noise: The RY 40480VNM has a noise rating of 68 decibels, and it produced a loud, high-pitched whine.

Battery: The RY40480VNM’s battery lasted a reasonable 21 minutes, 35 seconds on the lowest setting. If you’re planning on using the Turbo setting to dislodge wet leaves or gravel, you should have a second battery ready.

Turbo setting enhances performance   
  
 Solid battery life   
  
 Loud   
  
 Heavy

Power: You won’t have to worry about blowing too many leaves out of your yard with the Hoover BH57205. Although this model lists a respectable 270 CFM and had middle-of-the-road leaf-moving force in our testing, the battery lasted less than 10 minutes before dying out.

Comfort: Awkward and strangely heavy for a blower that’s only 6.4 pounds, the Hoover blower is hard to carry comfortably. Fortunately, the battery is weak enough that using the Hoover over a long period really isn’t an issue.

Noise: Hoover doesn’t list an official noise rating for the BH57205, but it is very loud—noticeably louder than the other models we tested.

Battery: On a fully-charged battery, the Hoover gave up the ghost at a mere 8 minutes, 45 seconds. At that rate, you’ll want to get two extra batteries, and maybe an extra charger too.

Adequate power   
  
 Weak battery life   
  
 Awkward to carry   
  
 Loud

Power: The Litheli U1BR21103 delivers 480 cubic feet of air per minute, which could work for most medium to small yards. It is a capable blower, but its poor design prevents it from being either a good value or a good choice.

The air intake on the Litheli is located on the back side of the blower, so no matter how you position your body, the blower will find your pant legs and latch on, making a most distressing sound. This design seriously inhibits lateral movements needed to move leaves across the yard.

Comfort: The Litheli is not a comfortable blower to use. Even though the battery is small and the blower weighs in at only 7.5 pounds, most of the weight is located in the back of the blower. It lacks balance and is awkward to use.

The tube of the blower extends for easier directional jobs, but it lacks attachments for any other applications. This blower would be a good choice for small, quick clean up jobs around the yard.

Noise: The Litheli registered 85 decibels on the lowest setting.

Battery: The Litheli had a decent run-time for a cordless blowers: 14 minutes, 30 seconds. The battery is quite small but delivered power for its duration. Unlike the Ego blowers, the Litheli battery only indicates its present charge if you depress the battery button.

Lightweight   
  
 Extendable tube   
  
 Poor design   
  
 Shorter run time

I’m Meg Muckenhoupt, a garden writer and reviewer. I’ve been wrangling with trees, branches, leaves, and gravel for more than 20 years, and along the way I co-founded a community farm and earned a certificate in field botany. I live under a canopy of oak, pine, maple, and hickory trees, and I’ve used many different techniques for managing the leaf avalanche that engulfs my yard every fall.

And I’m Kevin Kavanaugh, a retired public school teacher who has always been intrigued by all things mechanical, be it watches, power equipment, vintage bicycles or classic cars. After I finished testing the best lawn mowers for Reviewed, I went to work testing half a dozen leaf blowers to add to Meg’s previous findings. Aided by fellow lawn care enthusiast Ray Lane, I cleared leaves and other debris from my half-acre yard that’s surrounded by trees.

We tested leaf blowers for power and portability.

We tested these blowers by moving piles of dry leaves across the yard and clearing the driveway and street of light debris, small sticks and sand. We further tested their power by moving large piles of leaves caught under bushes and woodpiles.

We tested cordless leaf blowers’ battery endurance by running a zip-tie around their power buttons with the speed adjustment dial turned to the lowest setting, and timing how long it took for them to run out of power. Measurements varied from 8 minutes, 45 seconds, for the Hoover BH57205 to 30 minutes for the Ego Power+ LB7654.

We rated how heavy or unwieldy these electric blowers felt carrying them up and down a 100-foot slope, and whether they felt unbalanced. We also evaluated how easy it was to store these blowers in a tight space, and tried out any special accessories they included.

Overall, power and speed were highly correlated for these electric models: The blowers that blew leaves away the fastest also blew them across the largest area and did the best job of prying up wet leaves.

We tested each cordless leaf blower to see how long the battery lasts on the lowest setting.

Leaf blower product listings like to include plenty of information that doesn’t tell you much about the blower’s performance. Here are the key factors to look out for—and what to ignore.

One of the major differences between leaf blowers is how they are powered: gas engines, an electric cord, or a rechargeable battery. For the purposes of this review, we skipped over testing gas-powered models because they have several disadvantages.

For starters, “gas-powered” is a misnomer. Gas leaf blowers actually require a mixture of gas and a special type of oil. If you get the proportions wrong, your leaf blower can stop working. The fuel also needs to be drained before you store your blower for the winter.

Gas-powered leaf blowers are also very noisy, with common models making sounds ranging from 70 decibels to an ear-splitting 90. Many communities have banned gas-powered leaf blowers altogether, or limit leaf blowers to models that emit 65 decibels or less from 50 feet away. They may be cordless, but they are just as much of a pain at the end of the day.

Electric leaf blowers are either powered by an electric cord or by batteries. Typically, they are quieter than gas-powered blowers. While battery-operated leaf blowers provide more freedom, their duration is limited. With corded models, you may have to lug around an electric cord.

If you choose a corded model, note that you’ll need an extension cord to make it work in your yard.

If you choose a cordless model, check how much an extra battery costs. Most cordless models will only run 15 to 20 minutes under typical conditions, and recharging times can vary depending on the surrounding temperature, how much the battery has run down, and how old the battery is.

Airspeed and air volume give you an idea of how powerful a leaf blower is, but only an idea. In general, airspeed (miles per hour) measures how fast the air is going, which tells you how well a blower will dislodge and lift leaves. Air volume (cubic feet per minute, or CFM) tells you how much air is coming out of the blower, or how big a mass of leaves you can blow away.

The problem is that there is no industry-standard way of measuring air speed for CFM. You can be pretty sure that a blower putting out 600 CFM of air—like our top pick, the Worx WG520 Turbine 600 (available at Amazon for $69.99)—will blow more leaves away in a minute than a leaf blower putting out 180 CFM. However, as one example, in our testing the 480 CFM Kobalt outperformed the 525 CFM Ryobi RY40480.

Our recommendation: Look at CFM to tell if the leaf blower is supposed to clear your entire yard (at least 400 CFM) or just your deck (under 300 CFM). Ignore airspeed, which doesn’t tell you anything meaningful about performance,

Leaf blower noise ratings show how loud the blowers are to someone standing 50 feet away. There are two numbers you should remember: 65 decibels (dB), which is the maximum allowable noise rating for leaf blowers in some municipalities; and 80 dB, the level where hearing loss can occur after extended exposure (two hours or more).

Many leaf blowers advertise their brushless motors, which contain electronic engine controllers. Brushless motors should make the blower run more efficiently and last longer, but they’re also more expensive to build than conventional brushed motors.

Having a brushless motor, like our top cordless pick, also doesn’t guarantee that that motor will push air out faster or more forcefully than conventional motors. Our recommendation: Ignore the motor type, and look at CFM and decibels instead.

Meg Muckenhoupt  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Meg Muckenhoupt is an environmental and travel writer. Her book Boston Gardens and Green Spaces (Union Park Press, 2010) is a Boston Globe Local Bestseller. Meg was awarded a certificate in Field Botany by the New England Wild Flower Society and earned degrees from Harvard and Brown University.

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Kevin Kavanaugh  
   
  
  
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Kevin Kavanaugh is a retired public school teacher and a product tester for Reviewed. Kevin has been cutting lawns for just about 50 years. He has always been intrigued by all things mechanical, be it watches, power equipment, vintage bicycles, or classic cars.

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# The Best Humidifiers of 2022

## The Testers

Recommendations are independently chosen by Reviewed’s editors. Purchases made through the links below may earn us and our publishing partners a commission.

Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

We believe that the Levoit Classic 300S is the best humidifier for most people. It has great output and quiet operation.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Honeywell HUL430 offers a sleek design, good nightlight, and high humidity output.  
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 The Vornado EV100 is an energy-efficient evaporative model.  
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 The Levoit LV600HH is one of the best warm misting humidifiers we've ever tested.  
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 The Baby Dream Machine is a five-in-one tool that can help kids get to sleep.  
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Updated October 6, 2022

Humidifiers offer many benefits: They can ease cold symptoms and congestion by adding moisture to the air, which can also help alleviate dry nasal passages and skin, especially in winter months. Your houseplants will love the extra moisture too. That said, humidifiers can be loud, messy to fill, and difficult to clean—and shopping for the best one for you can be overwhelming because of the sheer number of makes, models, and extra features available. To find the best humidifier, we tested 11 models in a climate-controlled chamber, running them for three hours to see how much they raised the relative humidity. Additionally, we looked at efficiency, noise, and ease of cleaning. After testing, we found that the Levoit Classic 300S (available at Amazon for $89.98) was the Best Overall for most people because of its mist level, value, and power for your money.

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If you’re looking for a humidifier with a nightlight and a great design, we’d suggest the Honeywell HUL430 (available at Amazon). Finally, for people looking to keep a room humidified year-round, check the highly efficient Vornado EV100 (available at Amazon). Here are all the humidifiers we tested ranked, in order: Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar The Levoit Classic 300S is a modern classic with its easy-to-use controls. Best Overall Levoit Classic 300S Type: Cool mist humidifier Water tank capacity: 1.59 gallons Dimensions: 9.6 x 7.5 x 13.4 inches The Levoit Classic 300S lived up to its reputation with an easy-to-use experience, quiet operation, and high-power humidity. Its reservoir holds about two gallons of water. During our three-hour test run, it used about 2.5 pints of water. This rate translates to 16 hours of continuous running at full steam. In addition to its staying power, the 300S brings the humidity. On average, it raised the humidity by 29 percent—the second-highest score of all the humidifiers we tested. The 300S was almost whisper-quiet. People who run a humidifier while they sleep will also like the relatively dim display and lack of superfluous lights. The Levoit Classic 300S has plenty of usability perks, as well. It has a no-spill fill system that you fill from the top, a huge boon if you plan on constantly running your humidifier. Best of all, the 300S is a smart humidifier. From the free app, you can start, stop, and create schedules from your phone. You can even command this model with your voice via your Amazon Alexa or Google Home. Overall, we think the Levoit Classic 300S is the best humidifier for most people. It’s quiet and small enough to go on a bedside table without disturbing you. Yet, the test results show that it can easily humidify a large room. Whatever your needs, we think this humidifier can accommodate them. Pros High capacity High output Quiet Cons High Energy Usage $89.98 from Amazon $79.99 from Best Buy $79.99 from Walmart Buy now at Home Depot

ADVERTISEMENT

Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar The Honeywell HUL430 provides lots of humidity quickly.

Best Nightlight Honeywell Designer Series HUL430 Type: Cool mist humidifier Water tank capacity: 1.25 gallons Dimensions: 8.8 x 8.8 x 13.2 inches The Honeywell HUL430 is the sports car of the humidifier world—it has a handsome design and high output. But like a sports car, the HUL430’s output means it’s short on endurance. We weighed the HUL430 before and after testing and calculated that this humidifier can run for 14 hours on the highest setting. You’ll get a lot of mist for that water consumption. In our testing chamber, this Honeywell raised the humidity 28 percent over a three-hour period. Honeywell has also put a lot of thought into the usability of the HUL430. The tank was easy to remove and fill, with a handle built into the top. It also comes with a well-received nightlight. Overall, if you’re looking for an attractive and powerful piece of humidifying machinery, look no further than the Honeywell HUL430. Pros Sleek Design High Output Cons High Energy Usage Buy now at Amazon

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Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar The Vornado EV100 is one of the most energy efficient humidifiers that we tested.

Best Evaporator Vornado EV100 Type: Evaporator humidifier Water tank capacity: 1 gallon Dimensions: 8 x 12.96 x 12.23 inches Vornado is probably more famous for making fans, but the company also produces a mean humidifier. Efficiency is the word of the day when it comes to the EV100. During testing, it used only 0.7 pints over three hours. We did the math, and that means this humidifier can run for over 32 hours on its max setting. However, we did have some gripes with this unit. Evaporative models have two drawbacks. First, evaporative humidifiers rely on a fan to work, which is great if you like white noise, but annoying if you crave silence. Second, evaporative humidifiers don’t produce any visible mist. Our sensors did show that the EV100 raised the humidity in the room by 19 percent, but some of our testers did not find it as pleasing as the ultrasonic humidifiers or warm misters. If you need to humidify a room constantly, for whatever reason, the Vornado EV100 is worth checking out. Pros Energy efficient Easy to use Cons Nosiy $69.95 from Amazon $98.00 from Walmart Buy now at Home Depot $69.95 from Macy’s

Other Humidifiers We Tested Levoit LV600HH Type: Warm and cool mist humidifier Water tank capacity: 1.58 gallons Dimensions: 7.7 x 11.6 x 11.3 inches Sometimes you want a cool mist to battle a dry climate and other times you want warm steam to help soothe you. The Levoit LV600HH deserves a major nod for providing both. Its 1.9-gallon tank allows it to run for up to 17 hours at its max settings. In our test chamber, the LV600HH raised the relative humidity up 38.5 percent, the highest of any unit we’ve tested. Aside from the ability to output a lot of humidity, this humidifier can also distribute essential oils for aromatherapy. So whether you’re dealing with a summer cold or enduring the dryness of winter, the Levoit LV600HH has a setting for you. It even has a dual nozzle at the top so you can send mist in two different directions. Combine all these features with quiet operation, and you have a real crowd-pleaser. Pros High Output Warm Mister Cons High Energy Usage $119.65 from Amazon $79.99 from Walmart

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Baby Dream Machine Sleep Device Type: Cool mist humidifier Water tank capacity: 0.11 gallons Dimensions: 7.95 x 7.95 x 8.27 Inches The Baby Dream Machine is the multitool of the humidifier world. It’s a five-in-one tool: a red light, night light, white noise machine, humidifier, and oil diffuser. The design and features of the Baby Dream Machine divided testers on whether it filled us with delight or dread. Our feelings about red light and bear head aside, this jack-of-all-trades did not master the art of humidifying. In the three-hour test run, the sensors we placed 5 feet away registered only a 3 percent uptick in humidity. While the Baby Dream Machine didn’t crush the humidity test, Reviewed parenting editor said she adored the sound machine and oil diffuser options when she was feeling under the weather. Pros Five tools in one Great nightlight Cons Low capacity Low Humidity $99.99 from Target $99.99 from Bed Bath & Beyond

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Vicks V5100 Type: Cool mist humidifier Water tank capacity: 1.2 gallons Dimensions: 13.7 x 8.13 x 11.5 inches The Vicks Ultrasonic Cool Mist V5100NS has a unique trick up its sleeve. The V5100NS is compatible with Vapopads, filling the room with a pleasant smell that can help provide relief from cold symptoms. However, after analyzing all the test results the V5100NS falls into the middle of the pack. It has a large 1.2-gallon tank, but it can only run for 15 hours on its max settings before needing a refill. Our sensors showed that it raised the humidity in the test chamber by 24 percent. If you only bust out the humidifier when you’re feeling unwell, the Vicks Ultrasonic Cool Mist V5100NS is worth checking out. Otherwise, there are better picks out there. Pros Moderate capacity Works with Vicks Pads Cons Low Humidity $71.62 from Amazon $73.84 from Walmart   
  
 Babymoov Hygro Plus Type: Cool mist humidifier Water tank capacity: 0.7 gallons Dimensions: ‎8.5 x 7.1 x 11.45 inches The Babymoov Hygro+ provides humidity, oil diffusing, and mood lighting. That’s a lot of tools in a tiny package. Unfortunately, the compact nature is one of the drawbacks. Our testing shows that while the Hygro+ is going at full steam, it only has enough capacity to run for about 10 hours. While it was going, we measured a 29 percent increase in humidity after three hours of operation—tied for second place in the rankings. The Hygro+ is on shakier ground when talking about the fit and finish. During testing, it spilled a good amount when removing the tank, and the connection between the tank and the base felt weak. Pros Great mood lighting Moderate humidity Cons Low Capacity $79.99 from Amazon $79.99 from Bed Bath & Beyond   
  
 Canopy x Lalo Humidifier Type: Evaporator humidifier Water tank capacity: 0.66 gallons Dimensions: 10 x 7 x 8.5 inches Lalo x Canopy is a no-mist humidifier that touts aromatherapy and cleanliness. It uses evaporative technology so it’s highly efficient. We calculate the 0.6-gallon tank will last nine hours on the highest settings. Another plus is that the unit is made from material that resists mold and has an antibacterial filter. The whole tank is also dishwasher safe. The Lalo x Canopy has a lot of pros, but also found drawbacks. The test results show after three hours of continuous operation on the maximum setting, this unit only raised the humidity of the test chamber by 15.9 percent. Results like that put it in the bottom three humidifiers that we’ve tested. While handling the Lalo x Canopy, we also found that it doesn’t feel like it's solidly put together. Combining all these issues together, this humidifier has way too much style over substance. Pros Anti-bacterial design Modern looking Cons Weak humidity Buy now at Canopy   
  
 Safety 1st Filter Free Cool Mist Humidifier Type: Cool mist humidifier Water tank capacity: 0.8 gallons Dimensions: 8.9 x 8.9 x 10.75 inches The Safety 1st Filter Free Cool Mist Humidifier is a staple in the affordable humidifier world. Because it’s lightweight, has a small footprint, and is easy to use, the Safety 1st is ideal for people who want to test out a humidifier. However, the small capacity means it doesn’t have a lot of staying power. Going full bore, we estimate the Safety 1st will run for a little over seven-and-a-half hours. It’s fairly powerful, increasing the test chamber’s humidity by 27 percent. Due to its limited number of features and low water capacity, however, the Safety 1st is placed toward the back of the pack. Pros Easy to use Cons Moderate Capacity $28.30 from Amazon $32.88 from Walmart   
  
 AquaOasis Cool Mist Humidifier Type: Cool mist humidifier Water tank capacity: 0.58 gallons Dimensions: 8.5 x 6 x 9.5 inches AquaOasis Cool Mist Humidifier is a dorm room purchase. Its 3.8-pint capacity means it can run for about seven-and-a-half hours at full steam. Many consumers will find that acceptable, but its low moisture output might give them pause. Our sensors showed that the AquaOasis raised the test chamber’s average humidity by only 15 percent after three hours. That’s the second-lowest of all the units we tested. Our testers found this humidifier to be noisy and a pain to handle. Sharp edges on poorly molded plastic left a literal impression. Overall, we’d give the AquaOasis a pass if you’re looking to use your humidifier regularly. Pros Affordable Cons Low humidity Low Capacity Buy now at Amazon $70.99 from Walmart   
  
 Fridababy 3-in-1 Humidifier Type: Cool mist humidifier Water tank capacity: 0.58 gallons Dimensions: 8.5 x 6 x 9.5 inches The Fridababy 3 in 1 is a humidifier, oil diffuser, and nightlight. There’s not much else to say. It provided a low output, raising the test room’s humidity by 16.5 percent—the third lowest on our list. Overall, there are better humidifiers out there, including those that can provide light and diffuse essential oils. Pros Small footprint Cons Weak humidity $39.99 from Amazon $47.44 from Walmart $39.99 from Target

How We Tested Humidifiers The Testers Hello, I’m Jon Chan, senior lab manager at Reviewed. The testing team–Beckett Dubay, Michael Elderbee, Dr. David Ellerby, and I–wanted to find out which humidifier is worth your money. Between us, we’ve reviewed everything from space heaters to shop vacs. The Tests Credit: Reviewed / Beckett Dubay We tested humidifiers by placing them in a room filled with humidity sensors. To test humidifiers, we filled their tanks with water and weighed the units. We then placed each of them in a climate-controlled chamber and ran them on their highest setting for three hours. Sensors placed to either side at a distance of 5 feet recorded changes in the environment. After three hours, we weighed the tanks again to figure out their water usage. Additionally, we evaluated how easy each model was to use, move, fill, and clean. (Note: Many are not dishwasher safe.) What to Consider When Buying a Humidifier Credit: Reviewed.com / Jonathan Chan We tested three types of humidifiers: ultrasonic, warm mister, and evaporators. Simply put, humidifiers add moisture to dry air. How they do so varies depending on the type of humidifier. But there are a number of other differences in humidifiers you should be aware of when shopping for one. Types of humidifiers We tested basic types of humidifiers, including those with ultrasonic and warm mist settings, and evaporators. Each has its own strengths and weaknesses. Ultrasonic cool mist humidifiers: These models are virtually silent, efficient, and are among the most popular on the market. They work by vibrating a ceramic plate very quickly. The high frequency turns the water into a fine mist that is cool to the touch. Ultrasonic models work best as personal units. They tend not to be powerful enough to cover a lot of square footage. Warm mist humidifiers: These humidifiers are pretty basic: They boil water, and the resulting steam is piped out through the top via a fan. Warm misters tend to be the most effective humidifiers, covering more square footage and outputting more moisture. However, this high-powered method makes them unsafe around small children and they can increase a room’s temperature to uncomfortable levels. Evaporators: As the name suggests, evaporators work by evaporating water into the air. A fan circulates air over the reservoir. These models make a bit of noise, but if you like white noise while you sleep, you may find it soothing. If you have mineral-rich water in your area, you might want to get an evaporator. The models we tested had filters to prevent white dust from forming. Water Tank Capacity As you might guess, smaller humidifiers will generally run out of steam (pun intended) faster than those with larger tank capacities (although it depends somewhat on the settings you choose on the humidifier itself). However, if you’re looking for a more portable humidifier, those with smaller tanks can be refilled faster and are easier to carry. If you just plan on making a humidifier a fixture in larger rooms or open areas, a larger humidifier with a higher capacity will probably be a good fit. For those times when you plan on sharing a humidifier between multiple bedrooms, though, consider getting a smaller humidifier (or even multiple smaller humidifiers). Efficiency is important, as well. While our top pick, the Levoit Classic 300S (available at Amazon for $89.98)advertises that it can run for 60 hours, our tests found that it could only run for 16 on its highest setting without refilling. That said, if it wasn’t on its highest setting, it could go longer. Room Size When looking for a humidifier, consider the size of the rooms you plan to use it. Some are better for personal use, while others are appropriate for medium size or larger rooms. For instance, the Levoit LV600HH advertises that it can easily handle spaces as large as 753 square feet. Extra features What you’re looking for beyond moisture in the air can help determine what humidifier is right for you. Some can be used as nightlights while others can serve as essential oil diffusers. For people who only use a humidifier when they’re sick, the Vicks Ultrasonic Cool Mist V5100NS can be used with Vapopads. Others use a UV light to sanitize water. There are so many features with humidifiers that you should be able to meet your specific needs. What to Know About Humidifiers How to Clean a Humidifier Humidifier cleaning instructions don’t vary much from model to model. Here are some things you can do to keep your humidifier running properly and safely. Use a bit of distilled white vinegar to regularly descale the water reservoir. Just add vinegar to the tank, shake it, and rinse. With more intense cleaning, a long-necked brush can help break up anything stuck on the sides. Most ultrasonic humidifiers work by having the reservoir drain into a base that features wick filters, drawing water upward. A fan then blows air through these filters, sending moist air into the room. The base, fan, and filters are the trickiest parts to clean, so follow your humidifier’s instructions. An old toothbrush can be effective at getting into the small areas, especially around and under the little ridges of the base where water can get stuck and promote bacterial growth. The hardest part to clean is the fan in the base. These tend to collect dust over time, which can lead to increased noise. The fans are usually not accessible without a screwdriver. A can of compressed air, however, may be able to blow much of it away without disassembling the humidifier. What is the White Dust in my Humidifier? White dust forms when you put hard water into a humidifier without a filter. The minerals get pulled up into the mist and come back down again as dust. You can prevent white dust from forming by using distilled water that can be found at any large supermarket. Which Humidifier is Best for Congestion? All humidifiers can help with congestion by preventing the air from becoming too dry. When the air is properly humidified, the moisture will help prevent and heal built up mucus. The majority of humidifiers on the market are cool mist, but which humidifier is best for your congestion is largely based on personal preference.

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Humidifiers offer many benefits: They can ease cold symptoms and congestion by adding moisture to the air, which can also help alleviate dry nasal passages and skin, especially in winter months. Your houseplants will love the extra moisture too.

That said, humidifiers can be loud, messy to fill, and difficult to clean—and shopping for the best one for you can be overwhelming because of the sheer number of makes, models, and extra features available.

To find the best humidifier, we tested 11 models in a climate-controlled chamber, running them for three hours to see how much they raised the relative humidity. Additionally, we looked at efficiency, noise, and ease of cleaning. After testing, we found that the Levoit Classic 300S (available at Amazon for $89.98) was the Best Overall for most people because of its mist level, value, and power for your money.

If you’re looking for a humidifier with a nightlight and a great design, we’d suggest the Honeywell HUL430 (available at Amazon). Finally, for people looking to keep a room humidified year-round, check the highly efficient Vornado EV100 (available at Amazon).

Here are all the humidifiers we tested ranked, in order:

The Levoit Classic 300S is a modern classic with its easy-to-use controls.

The Levoit Classic 300S lived up to its reputation with an easy-to-use experience, quiet operation, and high-power humidity. Its reservoir holds about two gallons of water. During our three-hour test run, it used about 2.5 pints of water. This rate translates to 16 hours of continuous running at full steam.

In addition to its staying power, the 300S brings the humidity. On average, it raised the humidity by 29 percent—the second-highest score of all the humidifiers we tested. The 300S was almost whisper-quiet. People who run a humidifier while they sleep will also like the relatively dim display and lack of superfluous lights.

The Levoit Classic 300S has plenty of usability perks, as well. It has a no-spill fill system that you fill from the top, a huge boon if you plan on constantly running your humidifier. Best of all, the 300S is a smart humidifier. From the free app, you can start, stop, and create schedules from your phone. You can even command this model with your voice via your Amazon Alexa or Google Home.

Overall, we think the Levoit Classic 300S is the best humidifier for most people. It’s quiet and small enough to go on a bedside table without disturbing you. Yet, the test results show that it can easily humidify a large room. Whatever your needs, we think this humidifier can accommodate them.

High capacity   
  
 High output   
  
 Quiet   
  
 High Energy Usage

The Honeywell HUL430 provides lots of humidity quickly.

The Honeywell HUL430 is the sports car of the humidifier world—it has a handsome design and high output. But like a sports car, the HUL430’s output means it’s short on endurance.

We weighed the HUL430 before and after testing and calculated that this humidifier can run for 14 hours on the highest setting. You’ll get a lot of mist for that water consumption. In our testing chamber, this Honeywell raised the humidity 28 percent over a three-hour period.

Honeywell has also put a lot of thought into the usability of the HUL430. The tank was easy to remove and fill, with a handle built into the top. It also comes with a well-received nightlight.

Overall, if you’re looking for an attractive and powerful piece of humidifying machinery, look no further than the Honeywell HUL430.

Sleek Design   
  
 High Output   
  
 High Energy Usage

The Vornado EV100 is one of the most energy efficient humidifiers that we tested.

Vornado is probably more famous for making fans, but the company also produces a mean humidifier. Efficiency is the word of the day when it comes to the EV100. During testing, it used only 0.7 pints over three hours. We did the math, and that means this humidifier can run for over 32 hours on its max setting.

However, we did have some gripes with this unit. Evaporative models have two drawbacks. First, evaporative humidifiers rely on a fan to work, which is great if you like white noise, but annoying if you crave silence. Second, evaporative humidifiers don’t produce any visible mist. Our sensors did show that the EV100 raised the humidity in the room by 19 percent, but some of our testers did not find it as pleasing as the ultrasonic humidifiers or warm misters.

If you need to humidify a room constantly, for whatever reason, the Vornado EV100 is worth checking out.

Energy efficient   
  
 Easy to use   
  
 Nosiy

Sometimes you want a cool mist to battle a dry climate and other times you want warm steam to help soothe you. The Levoit LV600HH deserves a major nod for providing both. Its 1.9-gallon tank allows it to run for up to 17 hours at its max settings. In our test chamber, the LV600HH raised the relative humidity up 38.5 percent, the highest of any unit we’ve tested.

Aside from the ability to output a lot of humidity, this humidifier can also distribute essential oils for aromatherapy. So whether you’re dealing with a summer cold or enduring the dryness of winter, the Levoit LV600HH has a setting for you. It even has a dual nozzle at the top so you can send mist in two different directions.

Combine all these features with quiet operation, and you have a real crowd-pleaser.

High Output   
  
 Warm Mister   
  
 High Energy Usage

The Baby Dream Machine is the multitool of the humidifier world. It’s a five-in-one tool: a red light, night light, white noise machine, humidifier, and oil diffuser. The design and features of the Baby Dream Machine divided testers on whether it filled us with delight or dread.

Our feelings about red light and bear head aside, this jack-of-all-trades did not master the art of humidifying. In the three-hour test run, the sensors we placed 5 feet away registered only a 3 percent uptick in humidity.

While the Baby Dream Machine didn’t crush the humidity test, Reviewed parenting editor said she adored the sound machine and oil diffuser options when she was feeling under the weather.

Five tools in one   
  
 Great nightlight   
  
 Low capacity   
  
 Low Humidity

The Vicks Ultrasonic Cool Mist V5100NS has a unique trick up its sleeve. The V5100NS is compatible with Vapopads, filling the room with a pleasant smell that can help provide relief from cold symptoms.

However, after analyzing all the test results the V5100NS falls into the middle of the pack. It has a large 1.2-gallon tank, but it can only run for 15 hours on its max settings before needing a refill. Our sensors showed that it raised the humidity in the test chamber by 24 percent.

If you only bust out the humidifier when you’re feeling unwell, the Vicks Ultrasonic Cool Mist V5100NS is worth checking out. Otherwise, there are better picks out there.

Moderate capacity   
  
 Works with Vicks Pads   
  
 Low Humidity

The Babymoov Hygro+ provides humidity, oil diffusing, and mood lighting. That’s a lot of tools in a tiny package. Unfortunately, the compact nature is one of the drawbacks.

Our testing shows that while the Hygro+ is going at full steam, it only has enough capacity to run for about 10 hours. While it was going, we measured a 29 percent increase in humidity after three hours of operation—tied for second place in the rankings.

The Hygro+ is on shakier ground when talking about the fit and finish. During testing, it spilled a good amount when removing the tank, and the connection between the tank and the base felt weak.

Great mood lighting   
  
 Moderate humidity   
  
 Low Capacity

Lalo x Canopy is a no-mist humidifier that touts aromatherapy and cleanliness. It uses evaporative technology so it’s highly efficient. We calculate the 0.6-gallon tank will last nine hours on the highest settings. Another plus is that the unit is made from material that resists mold and has an antibacterial filter. The whole tank is also dishwasher safe.

The Lalo x Canopy has a lot of pros, but also found drawbacks. The test results show after three hours of continuous operation on the maximum setting, this unit only raised the humidity of the test chamber by 15.9 percent. Results like that put it in the bottom three humidifiers that we’ve tested.

While handling the Lalo x Canopy, we also found that it doesn’t feel like it’s solidly put together. Combining all these issues together, this humidifier has way too much style over substance.

Anti-bacterial design   
  
 Modern looking   
  
 Weak humidity

The Safety 1st Filter Free Cool Mist Humidifier is a staple in the affordable humidifier world. Because it’s lightweight, has a small footprint, and is easy to use, the Safety 1st is ideal for people who want to test out a humidifier. However, the small capacity means it doesn’t have a lot of staying power.

Going full bore, we estimate the Safety 1st will run for a little over seven-and-a-half hours. It’s fairly powerful, increasing the test chamber’s humidity by 27 percent. Due to its limited number of features and low water capacity, however, the Safety 1st is placed toward the back of the pack.

Easy to use   
  
 Moderate Capacity

AquaOasis Cool Mist Humidifier is a dorm room purchase. Its 3.8-pint capacity means it can run for about seven-and-a-half hours at full steam. Many consumers will find that acceptable, but its low moisture output might give them pause. Our sensors showed that the AquaOasis raised the test chamber’s average humidity by only 15 percent after three hours. That’s the second-lowest of all the units we tested.

Our testers found this humidifier to be noisy and a pain to handle. Sharp edges on poorly molded plastic left a literal impression. Overall, we’d give the AquaOasis a pass if you’re looking to use your humidifier regularly.

Affordable   
  
 Low humidity   
  
 Low Capacity

The Fridababy 3 in 1 is a humidifier, oil diffuser, and nightlight. There’s not much else to say. It provided a low output, raising the test room’s humidity by 16.5 percent—the third lowest on our list. Overall, there are better humidifiers out there, including those that can provide light and diffuse essential oils.

Small footprint   
  
 Weak humidity

Hello, I’m Jon Chan, senior lab manager at Reviewed. The testing team–Beckett Dubay, Michael Elderbee, Dr. David Ellerby, and I–wanted to find out which humidifier is worth your money. Between us, we’ve reviewed everything from space heaters to shop vacs.

We tested humidifiers by placing them in a room filled with humidity sensors.

To test humidifiers, we filled their tanks with water and weighed the units. We then placed each of them in a climate-controlled chamber and ran them on their highest setting for three hours. Sensors placed to either side at a distance of 5 feet recorded changes in the environment. After three hours, we weighed the tanks again to figure out their water usage.

Additionally, we evaluated how easy each model was to use, move, fill, and clean. (Note: Many are not dishwasher safe.)

We tested three types of humidifiers: ultrasonic, warm mister, and evaporators.

Simply put, humidifiers add moisture to dry air. How they do so varies depending on the type of humidifier. But there are a number of other differences in humidifiers you should be aware of when shopping for one.

We tested basic types of humidifiers, including those with ultrasonic and warm mist settings, and evaporators. Each has its own strengths and weaknesses.

Ultrasonic cool mist humidifiers: These models are virtually silent, efficient, and are among the most popular on the market. They work by vibrating a ceramic plate very quickly. The high frequency turns the water into a fine mist that is cool to the touch. Ultrasonic models work best as personal units. They tend not to be powerful enough to cover a lot of square footage.

Warm mist humidifiers: These humidifiers are pretty basic: They boil water, and the resulting steam is piped out through the top via a fan. Warm misters tend to be the most effective humidifiers, covering more square footage and outputting more moisture. However, this high-powered method makes them unsafe around small children and they can increase a room’s temperature to uncomfortable levels.

Evaporators: As the name suggests, evaporators work by evaporating water into the air. A fan circulates air over the reservoir. These models make a bit of noise, but if you like white noise while you sleep, you may find it soothing. If you have mineral-rich water in your area, you might want to get an evaporator. The models we tested had filters to prevent white dust from forming.

As you might guess, smaller humidifiers will generally run out of steam (pun intended) faster than those with larger tank capacities (although it depends somewhat on the settings you choose on the humidifier itself). However, if you’re looking for a more portable humidifier, those with smaller tanks can be refilled faster and are easier to carry.

If you just plan on making a humidifier a fixture in larger rooms or open areas, a larger humidifier with a higher capacity will probably be a good fit. For those times when you plan on sharing a humidifier between multiple bedrooms, though, consider getting a smaller humidifier (or even multiple smaller humidifiers).

Efficiency is important, as well. While our top pick, the Levoit Classic 300S (available at Amazon for $89.98)advertises that it can run for 60 hours, our tests found that it could only run for 16 on its highest setting without refilling. That said, if it wasn’t on its highest setting, it could go longer.

When looking for a humidifier, consider the size of the rooms you plan to use it. Some are better for personal use, while others are appropriate for medium size or larger rooms. For instance, the Levoit LV600HH advertises that it can easily handle spaces as large as 753 square feet.

What you’re looking for beyond moisture in the air can help determine what humidifier is right for you. Some can be used as nightlights while others can serve as essential oil diffusers. For people who only use a humidifier when they’re sick, the Vicks Ultrasonic Cool Mist V5100NS can be used with Vapopads. Others use a UV light to sanitize water. There are so many features with humidifiers that you should be able to meet your specific needs.

Humidifier cleaning instructions don’t vary much from model to model. Here are some things you can do to keep your humidifier running properly and safely.

Use a bit of distilled white vinegar to regularly descale the water reservoir. Just add vinegar to the tank, shake it, and rinse. With more intense cleaning, a long-necked brush can help break up anything stuck on the sides.

Most ultrasonic humidifiers work by having the reservoir drain into a base that features wick filters, drawing water upward. A fan then blows air through these filters, sending moist air into the room. The base, fan, and filters are the trickiest parts to clean, so follow your humidifier’s instructions.

An old toothbrush can be effective at getting into the small areas, especially around and under the little ridges of the base where water can get stuck and promote bacterial growth.

The hardest part to clean is the fan in the base. These tend to collect dust over time, which can lead to increased noise. The fans are usually not accessible without a screwdriver. A can of compressed air, however, may be able to blow much of it away without disassembling the humidifier.

White dust forms when you put hard water into a humidifier without a filter. The minerals get pulled up into the mist and come back down again as dust. You can prevent white dust from forming by using distilled water that can be found at any large supermarket.

All humidifiers can help with congestion by preventing the air from becoming too dry. When the air is properly humidified, the moisture will help prevent and heal built up mucus. The majority of humidifiers on the market are cool mist, but which humidifier is best for your congestion is largely based on personal preference.

Jonathan Chan  
   
  
  
 Senior Manager of Lab Operations

Jonathan Chan currently serves as the Lab Manager at Reviewed. If you clean with it, it’s likely that Jon oversees its testing. Since joining the Reviewed in 2012, Jon has helped launch the company’s efforts in reviewing laptops, vacuums, and outdoor gear. He thinks he’s a pretty big deal. In the pursuit of data, he’s plunged his hands into freezing cold water, consented to be literally dragged through the mud, and watched paint dry. Jon demands you have a nice day.

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# The Best Sprinklers of 2022

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

This sprinkler from Melnor is an oscillating sprinkler, meaning it moves to get your lawn the best coverage that it can.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Spraying up to 90 feet in diameter with a 6,360 square foot coverage when set to a full circle, this sprinkler has a flow-through design.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The RainTrain is built with a cast-iron body with chip resistant powder coating and its adjustable aluminum arms provide lots of coverage.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Perfect for odd-shaped areas and hard-to-reach places, the Orbit Port-a-Rain sprinkler system lets you set up a custom layout for optimal watering.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Great fun for kids, the Dramm turret sprinkler is even better for your lawn; it comes with nine water patterns for a variety of watering options.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated October 21, 2022

While a lot of people think the perfect lawn is a dad’s domain, nobody loses when the lawn looks great. One easy way to keep your lawn looking its best is simply to water it, and for that we turn to lawn sprinklers. Considering your lawn size, sprinkler settings, and range is important when picking out a sprinkler for your lawn, and that can be a pain, so we’ve done most of the work for you. After poring over thousands of user reviews, we picked five of the best sprinklers to set your lawns and gardens up for success.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Melnor 65055-AMZ XT Turbo Oscillator This offering from Melnor is a turbo oscillating sprinkler, meaning it moves to get your lawn the best coverage possible. Twenty precision nozzles provide maximum coverage for large lawns up to 4,500 square feet. This sprinkler also allows the user to easily control the width, range, and flow so that you can be certain your yard is getting the appropriate amount of water—whether it’s a narrow or wide path—though some reviewers claim it isn’t the best for narrow spaces despite this feature. Backed by the Melnor limited lifetime warranty, this sprinkler has a rust-proof aluminum sled. The hose filter will need to be cleaned regularly, but there is a nozzle-cleaning tool included, so you won’t have to work too hard to make sure it’s clean. Pros Affordable Good for large lawns Cons Hose filter needs frequent cleaning Not good for narrow spaces $19.97 from Amazon

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Orbit 58308Z Brass Impact Sprinkler While some may see this sprinkler from Orbit as a bit of an eyesore with its tripod design, there’s no denying the fact that it delivers full coverage for large areas and will hold up to any situation. Spraying up to 90 feet in diameter, with 6,360-square-foot coverage when set to a full circle, this sprinkler has a flow-through design, making it clog resistant. This would be a great sprinkler if you’re into vegetable gardens, considering the available spray patterns. What we like about this sprinkler is that it’s made of heavy-duty brass and won’t tip over in your yard, but it’s still easy to connect to your hose with its gooseneck connection. Customizable settings include using the deflector shield and diffuser screw to alter the stream and change the spray distance radius, but this sprinkler does have fewer options than others. Pros Heavy duty Large coverage area Cons Ugly Not super customizable $52.71 from Amazon   
  
 Nelson RainTrain Said to be the best when it comes to big lawns, the Nelson RainTrain looks like a little tractor that moves along the track you set to water your lawn. The RainTrain is built with a cast-iron body with chip resistant powder coating, and its adjustable aluminum arms provide coverage from 15 to 55 feet along its 200-foot track (a total coverage of up to 13,500 square feet). Included with the RainTrain is an auto-shutoff feature for after it’s completed the watering trip, so you don’t have to worry about overwatering or puddles forming in your yard. The RainTrain is perfect for lawns that need specific watering and is a great fit for a wide variety of yard sizes. Pros Cool design Can create your own watering track Cons None that we could find $77.40 from Amazon

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Orbit Port-a-Rain Above-Ground Sprinkler System Perfect for odd-shaped areas and hard-to-reach places, the Orbit Port-a-Rain sprinkler system lets you set up a custom layout for optimal watering. This above-ground sprinkler system is easy to move around if you need to adjust your watering path; there’s no need for digging; and setup is a breeze. Each sprinkler head waters up to 24 feet in diameter and is also adjustable from a partial to full circle. Pros Easy set up Adjustable Sprays Cons None that we could find $38.27 from Amazon   
  
 Dramm Duty Metal Base Great fun for kids, the Dramm turret sprinkler is even better for your lawn. It comes with nine water sprinkler patterns for a variety of watering options. Six colors make it easy to fit into your landscape design, and each has a durable, heavy-duty metal base with a molded hook, which makes for easy storage in your shed or garage when not in use. Another great option for a garden sprinkler, this one covers angles of 360 degrees without issue. The Dramm includes a lifetime guarantee as well, so you can use it with plenty of peace of mind, knowing that you’re covered if something comes up. Pros Easy to store Nine water patterns Cons Doesn’t cover large areas $32.93 from Amazon

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Affordable   
  
 Good for large lawns   
  
 Hose filter needs frequent cleaning   
  
 Not good for narrow spaces

While some may see this sprinkler from Orbit as a bit of an eyesore with its tripod design, there’s no denying the fact that it delivers full coverage for large areas and will hold up to any situation. Spraying up to 90 feet in diameter, with 6,360-square-foot coverage when set to a full circle, this sprinkler has a flow-through design, making it clog resistant. This would be a great sprinkler if you’re into vegetable gardens, considering the available spray patterns.

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Heavy duty   
  
 Large coverage area   
  
 Ugly   
  
 Not super customizable

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Cool design   
  
 Can create your own watering track   
  
 None that we could find

Perfect for odd-shaped areas and hard-to-reach places, the Orbit Port-a-Rain sprinkler system lets you set up a custom layout for optimal watering. This above-ground sprinkler system is easy to move around if you need to adjust your watering path; there’s no need for digging; and setup is a breeze. Each sprinkler head waters up to 24 feet in diameter and is also adjustable from a partial to full circle.

Easy set up   
  
 Adjustable Sprays   
  
 None that we could find

Great fun for kids, the Dramm turret sprinkler is even better for your lawn. It comes with nine water sprinkler patterns for a variety of watering options. Six colors make it easy to fit into your landscape design, and each has a durable, heavy-duty metal base with a molded hook, which makes for easy storage in your shed or garage when not in use.

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 Nine water patterns   
  
 Doesn’t cover large areas   
  
  
 Ceara Perez-Murphy  
   
  
  
 Staff Writer, Search

Ceara Perez-Murphy is a staff writer at Reviewed.

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# The Best External Hard Drives of 2022

## Know Your Ports

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

This fast, aluminum encased desktop-class drive will look great at your workstation. However, it can be a little noisy.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The LaCie D2 Professional offers fast data transfer speeds but takes time to spin up after sitting idle.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The LaCie Mobile Drive is incredibly portable, but it can get hot while running.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Seagate Basic Portable Drive offers slow transfer speeds and questionable built quality.  
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 The Toshiba Canvio Flex offers lackluster performance in a very portable package.  
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Updated October 4, 2022

Investing in an external hard drive is the easiest way to add extra storage to your Windows PC or Mac to back up up your important files, adding extra capacity for games and media content, or creating a complete backup of everything on your computer. After a months of digging, we found the best external hard drives on the market. However, not everyone works at a desk. If your lifestyle necessitates a portable hard drive, we recommend the G-Technology ArmorATD (available at Amazon), which is designed to take the beating that comes with being used on the go. Impact, water, and dust-resistant, it’s a fast external drive designed to stand up to casual abuse.

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G-Technology G-Drive USB-C (4 TB) The G-Technology G-Drive USB-C is a fast desktop-class external drive, available in capacities of up to 18TB. It comes packed into a tough aluminum case that will look great alongside a Mac or metal-clad PC. We found that the G-Drive USB-C was the fastest drive in many of our tests, taking just 11.5 seconds to copy our 2.7GB test file. We loved that its USB-C cable can also be used to power a laptop, making it just a little bit easier to keep your work area looking neat and tidy. You should know, however, that the G-Drive USB-C can be a little noisy, making an audible whirring sound when it spins up after sitting idle for a while. Additionally, Like the other desktop-class external hard drives in this guide, it requires an external power adapter in order to be used. Pros Fast Transfers USB-C connect can power computer Cons Noisy Buy now at Amazon $159.95 from Walmart

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LaCie d2 Professional (6 TB) The LaCie D2 Professional was the fastest portable hard drive we tested, copying our 2.7GB test file in just over 13 seconds. When you are working on tasks that involve reading and writing lots of data such as 4k video editing, the kind of speed offered by the D2 can make your workflow easier and smoother. Available in capacities up to 14TB, the D2 is a desktop-class external hard drive that requires an external power adapter in order to use. Frequent international travelers will be pleased to know that the drive comes with six electrical plug adapters making it possible to use, no matter which continent you find yourself on. The D2 can be connected to your computer using eittheir its included USB-C or USB 3 cables. Th D2's drive is designed to spin down when it is idle. This means that there is a slight pause when the drive starts back up, which could create a hiccup in your workflow and, in some cases can cause your computer to momentarily freeze while the drive's contents are being re-registered. Pros Fast data transfer Comes with international power adapters USB-C or USB 3 connectivity Cons Drive takes time to spin up after sitting idle Buy now at Amazon $199.00 from Walmart $439.99 from Newegg

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LaCie Mobile Drive (1 TB) The LaCie Mobile Drive is a small, well-designed USB-C bus-powered external hard drive that offers relatively limited storage space, in a pocket-sized package. It’s available in capacities ranging from 1TB to 5TB and isn’t much bigger than a pack of cards. Its sleek aluminum drive enclosure isn’t much larger than a pack of playing cards and comes in three colors: 2.5-inch drive is wrapped in a sleek angular aluminum case that comes in three colors: moon silver, silver, or space gray. This external hard drive comes with LaCie Toolkit, which allows users to format their drive to be used with Mac OS or Windows 10, as required. The LaCie Mobile Drive comes with a 2-year rescue recovery service. So, if the drive fails while under warranty, LaCie will do its best to recover your data. We didn’t have the opportunity to test this service, but it is nice to know it is there, should you need it. You should know that during use, the Mobile Drive’s case gets a little warm as it has no ventilation holes built into it. However, it never became hot to the touch. While this may not be a worry for most users, those looking for an external hard drive to use in hot environments may want to consider a different option. Pros Compact Available in multiple colors Two Year rescue/recovery warranty Cons Runs hot: not idea for use in warm climates Buy now at Amazon $74.99 from Walmart $74.99 from B&H Photo Video

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Seagate Basic Portable Drive (1 TB) The performance of the Seagate Portable Drive drive isn’t anything to write home about: it took over 26 seconds to copy our 2.7GB test file to it. That’s not much slower than the G-Technology ArmorATD. However, the ArmorATD's outstanding build quality makes it far more loveable than the Seagate. The drive's slower transfer speeds make it less than ideal for regularly shuttling large files back and forth between the drive and your computer. However, if you’re looking for an external hard drive to back up your computer, it could be an ideal device: Simply schedule your computer’s backup to start overnight and, by the time morning rolls around, the operation should be complete. You should know that during testing we were unimpressed with the build quality of this drive’s enclosure. If your hardware is routinely subjected to casual abuse or, if you have a serious case of butterfingers, consider a more robust drive, like the G-Technology ArmorATD or Adata HD830, instead. Pros Ideal for overnight computer backups Cons Slow transfer speed Questionable build quality Buy now at Amazon $81.99 from Walmart $78.50 from Newegg   
  
 Toshiba Canvio Flex (1 TB) The Toshiba Canvio Flex is a small, portable drive that will fit easily into a pocket. The performance of this drive isn’t much to write home about, but it offers great capacity for the price. We found that it took just over 24 seconds to copy our 2.7GB test file to this drive. As with the Seagate Portable Drive, the Canvio Flex's lack of speed makes it an adequate solution for the storage of small files or slowly backing up a computer. We were unimpressed by the fact that Canvio Flex comes equipped with an older style Micro-B USB 3 port. Micro-B USB 3 has a wider, more complicated plug than more recent connections do, which can make it more prone to breaking. This may become an issue if you frequently plug and unplug the drive from its cable. Toshiba describes the drive being as USB-C ready. This means that you can use it with its included USB-C to USB 3 Micro-B cable to connect to USB-C equipped computers. However, because of the USB 3 Micro B connection, you won’t get the fasts speeds that a native USB-C connection can provide. Pros Incredibly compact Ideal for overnight backups Cons Slow transfer speeds Fragile port design Not able to provide true USB-C speeds $57.99 from Amazon $57.99 from Best Buy $57.99 from Walmart $57.99 from Target

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Fantom Drives GForce 3 External Hard Drive (2 TB) Like the Western Digital My Book, the Fantom GForce 3 is a large, 3.25-inch desktop-class drive enclosed in a portable case. The case is made of aluminum and includes a clip-on stand that allows the drive to sit horizontally or vertically on a flat surface. As with the other desktop-class external drives in this guide, the GForce-3 requires power from a wall socket in order to work. The GForce 3 was decent took roughly 14.5 seconds to copy our 2.7GB test file. That’s a little faster than our Best Overall pick. However, we thought it unfortunate that the only connection that the GForce 3 can use is USB 3.0. This means that, if you use a modern laptop that only includes USB-C ports, you are going to need an adapter. Pros Reasonably fast Aluminum enclosure Clip-on stand allows for smaller footprint Cons USB 3.0 connection Requires dongle for use with USB-C $80.99 from Amazon $88.85 from Walmart

What You Should Know About Buying an External Hard Drive Many people use hard drive as a blanket term for computer storage. However, there are some important differences, between hard drives and solid-state drives:

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Hard drives store the data on a spinning metal-coated glass disk (called the platter) with a read-write head that moves around the drive, reading the magnetic data or writing new data. The biggest advantage that hard drives have over solid-state drives is that they cost significantly less, per gigabyte. However, they’re comparatively fragile: the platter of a hard drive can be damaged if the drive is bumped or moved quickly while operating. Solid-state drives do not have this issue. Solid-state drives (SSDs) store data in a computer chip, like a camera memory card. The advantage of SSDs is that they are faster and less liable to be damaged from rough treatment because there are no moving parts. While they have been around for a number of years now, SSD storage is still expensive, in comparison to the per-gigabyte cost of a hard drive. Know Your Ports Currently, there’s no single standard for connecting an external hard drive to a computer. These are the ones that you’re most likely to run into:

USB 3.2 Gen 1: USB 3.2 devices of both generations use USB-C sockets, which are small with rounded edges. If you have an older computer with old-style rectangular USB ports, USB 3.2 devices are still compatible with an appropriate cable. Most portable hard drives include cables for both USB-C and USB ports.

USB 3.2 Gen 2: The latest and fastest standard for how computers connect to external devices such as portable hard drives. USB 3.2 devices (like many of the portable hard drives we tested here) can send or receive data at up to 10 GB/sec, twice as fast as the previous standard

Thunderbolt 3 & 4: Another standard for how computers connect to devices. Thunderbolt 3 and 4 devices are compatible with USB 3.2 ports, as they use the same USB-C type port.

A Word on Hard Drive Speeds Hard drives are complicated products, and there are a number of factors that can affect how quickly data can be read from or written to the drive. These include the type of data and the speed of the connection. It is slower, for instance, to write a lot of small files to a drive than a single large file, because the computer has to do a lot of background tasks to keep track of the small files. The connection that the hard drive has to the computer can also make a big difference. If, for instance, you have a USB 3.2 Gen 2 drive connected to a computer that only has USB 2 ports, the data will take longer to copy because the USB 2 port will limit the speed at which data can be sent. While testing the external hard drives featured in this guide, we used a computer that supports USB 3.2 Gen 2 and Thunderbolt 3 so that we could see the best speeds that the drive is capable of. If your external hard drive is running slower than you think it should, check that it is plugged into the fastest port available, or consider upgrading your computer. One of the most commonly mentioned features you’ll see associated with a hard drive is its revolutions per minute (rpm). This is a measure of how fast the platter that holds the hard drive’s data spins around. Some drives run at 5400rpm, others at 7200rpm. The latter can read and write data faster because of the higher speed. 2.5-Inch Hard Drives vs. 3.25-inch Hard Drives There are two types of hard drives, indicated by the diameter of the hard drive platter that holds the data: - 2.5-inch drives are designed for use inside laptops: they are small and don’t need much power. It’s these drives that you’ll find in most portable external hard drives. An external 2.5-inch drive can operate on nothing but the power supplied by the USB port it’s plugged into. The downside to using a 2.5-inch drive is that they can’t hold as much data as a 3.25-inch drive, with their larger platters, can. - 3.25-inch drives were designed for use inside desktop computers, They are larger and more power-hungry. External hard drives that use 3.25-inch disks, such as the WD My Home, require an external power adapter in order to operate: a USB port simply can’t deliver enough power to run them. More Articles You Might Enjoy

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Investing in an external hard drive is the easiest way to add extra storage to your Windows PC or Mac to back up up your important files, adding extra capacity for games and media content, or creating a complete backup of everything on your computer.

After a months of digging, we found the best external hard drives on the market. However, not everyone works at a desk. If your lifestyle necessitates a portable hard drive, we recommend the G-Technology ArmorATD (available at Amazon), which is designed to take the beating that comes with being used on the go. Impact, water, and dust-resistant, it’s a fast external drive designed to stand up to casual abuse.

The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

The G-Technology G-Drive USB-C is a fast desktop-class external drive, available in capacities of up to 18TB. It comes packed into a tough aluminum case that will look great alongside a Mac or metal-clad PC. We found that the G-Drive USB-C was the fastest drive in many of our tests, taking just 11.5 seconds to copy our 2.7GB test file. We loved that its USB-C cable can also be used to power a laptop, making it just a little bit easier to keep your work area looking neat and tidy.

You should know, however, that the G-Drive USB-C can be a little noisy, making an audible whirring sound when it spins up after sitting idle for a while. Additionally, Like the other desktop-class external hard drives in this guide, it requires an external power adapter in order to be used.

Fast Transfers   
  
 USB-C connect can power computer   
  
 Noisy

The LaCie D2 Professional was the fastest portable hard drive we tested, copying our 2.7GB test file in just over 13 seconds. When you are working on tasks that involve reading and writing lots of data such as 4k video editing, the kind of speed offered by the D2 can make your workflow easier and smoother.

Available in capacities up to 14TB, the D2 is a desktop-class external hard drive that requires an external power adapter in order to use. Frequent international travelers will be pleased to know that the drive comes with six electrical plug adapters making it possible to use, no matter which continent you find yourself on. The D2 can be connected to your computer using eittheir its included USB-C or USB 3 cables.

Th D2’s drive is designed to spin down when it is idle. This means that there is a slight pause when the drive starts back up, which could create a hiccup in your workflow and, in some cases can cause your computer to momentarily freeze while the drive’s contents are being re-registered.

Fast data transfer   
  
 Comes with international power adapters   
  
 USB-C or USB 3 connectivity   
  
 Drive takes time to spin up after sitting idle

The LaCie Mobile Drive is a small, well-designed USB-C bus-powered external hard drive that offers relatively limited storage space, in a pocket-sized package.

It’s available in capacities ranging from 1TB to 5TB and isn’t much bigger than a pack of cards. Its sleek aluminum drive enclosure isn’t much larger than a pack of playing cards and comes in three colors: 2.5-inch drive is wrapped in a sleek angular aluminum case that comes in three colors: moon silver, silver, or space gray. This external hard drive comes with LaCie Toolkit, which allows users to format their drive to be used with Mac OS or Windows 10, as required.

The LaCie Mobile Drive comes with a 2-year rescue recovery service. So, if the drive fails while under warranty, LaCie will do its best to recover your data. We didn’t have the opportunity to test this service, but it is nice to know it is there, should you need it.

You should know that during use, the Mobile Drive’s case gets a little warm as it has no ventilation holes built into it. However, it never became hot to the touch. While this may not be a worry for most users, those looking for an external hard drive to use in hot environments may want to consider a different option.

Compact Available in multiple colors   
  
 Two Year rescue/recovery warranty   
  
 Runs hot: not idea for use in warm climates

The performance of the Seagate Portable Drive drive isn’t anything to write home about: it took over 26 seconds to copy our 2.7GB test file to it. That’s not much slower than the G-Technology ArmorATD. However, the ArmorATD’s outstanding build quality makes it far more loveable than the Seagate. The drive’s slower transfer speeds make it less than ideal for regularly shuttling large files back and forth between the drive and your computer. However, if you’re looking for an external hard drive to back up your computer, it could be an ideal device: Simply schedule your computer’s backup to start overnight and, by the time morning rolls around, the operation should be complete.

You should know that during testing we were unimpressed with the build quality of this drive’s enclosure. If your hardware is routinely subjected to casual abuse or, if you have a serious case of butterfingers, consider a more robust drive, like the G-Technology ArmorATD or Adata HD830, instead.

Ideal for overnight computer backups   
  
 Slow transfer speed   
  
 Questionable build quality

The Toshiba Canvio Flex is a small, portable drive that will fit easily into a pocket. The performance of this drive isn’t much to write home about, but it offers great capacity for the price. We found that it took just over 24 seconds to copy our 2.7GB test file to this drive. As with the Seagate Portable Drive, the Canvio Flex’s lack of speed makes it an adequate solution for the storage of small files or slowly backing up a computer.

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Incredibly compact   
  
 Ideal for overnight backups   
  
 Slow transfer speeds   
  
 Fragile port design   
  
 Not able to provide true USB-C speeds

Like the Western Digital My Book, the Fantom GForce 3 is a large, 3.25-inch desktop-class drive enclosed in a portable case. The case is made of aluminum and includes a clip-on stand that allows the drive to sit horizontally or vertically on a flat surface. As with the other desktop-class external drives in this guide, the GForce-3 requires power from a wall socket in order to work.

The GForce 3 was decent took roughly 14.5 seconds to copy our 2.7GB test file. That’s a little faster than our Best Overall pick. However, we thought it unfortunate that the only connection that the GForce 3 can use is USB 3.0. This means that, if you use a modern laptop that only includes USB-C ports, you are going to need an adapter.

Reasonably fast   
  
 Aluminum enclosure   
  
 Clip-on stand allows for smaller footprint   
  
 USB 3.0 connection   
  
 Requires dongle for use with USB-C

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# The Best Balance Transfer Credit Cards of 2022

## How We Evaluated

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

Finance a large purchase or transfer balances with this forgiving card. Just don't expect any perks or rewards in exchange.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Uniquely, this card earns 1% cash back on a purchase and an additional 1% when you pay it off. The 2% cash back on all purchases has great value.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 A notable absence of fees with this card should entice everyone, but you must be a member of the Navy Federal Credit Union to apply.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The BankAmericard Credit Card is straightforward with few rewards, but its low cost should be appealing to those with solid credit.  
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 This forgiving card won't charge you for much, making it ideal for decreasing debt.  
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Updated October 6, 2022

If you’re making credit card payments but not seeing a dent in your balance, this revelation may come as a relief: You’re not just imagining things. Part of your monthly payment goes to interest before it even touches the principal. Using a balance transfer card could help you pay off that credit card debt faster. Balance transfer cards offer a low-interest or zero-interest introductory special for balances you move from an old card to a new card. Typically, the special lasts for 12 to 18 months. During this time, you can attack the principal balance without worrying about interest getting in the way. We dug through dozens of offers to bring the best balance transfer credit cards to consider.

Best Overall: U.S. Bank Visa® Platinum Card

Citi® Double Cash Navy Federal Platinum Credit Card BankAmericard® Credit Card Citi Simplicity® Card

Wells Fargo Platinum Card

SunTrust Prime Rewards Credit Card ##Things to Know About Balance Transfer Credit Cards

Before we start, here are some things you should know about balance transfer cards:

Good credit or better is usually necessary to qualify. A credit check is typically required at application, and the hard inquiry could temporarily impact your credit score. Credit card issuers often charge a fee for transferring your balance. This fee is generally 3% of the balance you transfer. So, if you transfer $3,000 to a balance transfer card, you could expect to pay around $90 for the fee. While the fee does eat into your potential savings, it could majorly outweigh the interest you’d pay with your current card. Credit limits vary. Your credit limit is usually determined after you apply, so there’s a possibility that you might get approved for a credit limit that’s lower than the balance you want to transfer. Also, credit card issuers may set limits for how much money you can move. Chase, for example, lets you transfer up to $15,000 within a 30-day period. Transfers need to be made within a certain amount of time. Usually, only balances transferred within the first one to four months of signing up qualify for the low-interest deal. As always, read a card’s terms and conditions before you sign on the dotted line. Perhaps the most important thing to note: Interest increases after the introductory period. After the low-interest deal ends, interest jumps up to the standard interest rate that’s based on your creditworthiness. To get the most out of a balance transfer offer, get a game plan in place. You’ll want to know what monthly payments to make to pay off the transfer within the interest-free period. Otherwise, the interest you end up paying will cut into your savings.

How We Evaluated My name is Taylor, and I’m a personal finance writer who’s been reviewing credit cards and rewards programs since 2015. For this roundup, I took a look at 17 balance transfer cards to review what they had to offer. Then I compared balance transfer fees, the length of the low-interest period, and other card costs and features to come up with this “best of” list.

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Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best Overall U.S. Bank Visa Platinum Card The no-annual-fee U.S. Bank Visa Platinum Card offers the longest 0% APR balance transfer period around. If you have a high balance that you want to pay off over an extended period of time, this card gives you an interest-free vacation that lasts for almost two years before a variable rate kicks in. Balance transfer offer: 0% APR on purchases and balance transfers for 20 billing cycles. The card has a 3% balance transfer fee. Other important features: U.S. Bank lets you choose your payment due date. The card comes with TransUnion VantageScore® updates and provides cell phone protection coverage. Learn more about the U.S. Bank Visa Platinum Card Pros No annual fee Balance transfer-friendly Cons No rewards

Other Balance Transfer Credit Cards We Tested

Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby   
 Citi Double Cash The Citi Double Cash gets a lot of attention for its rewards program that gives a total of 2% cash back on all purchases—1% when you make a purchase and 1% when you pay it off. In addition, the Citi Double Cash offers 0% introductory APR for more than a year on balance transfers. After 18 months from account opening, the interest rate increases between 16.99% - 26.99% based on your creditworthiness. This is an especially appealing option if you’re looking for a card that’ll be useful after you get rid of your balance, as you can rack up unlimited cash back on future purchases. Also, for a limited time only, you'll earn $200 cash back after spending $1,500 on purchases in the first six months of your account opening. Balance transfer offer: 0% intro APR for 18 billing cycles on balance transfers made within four months of account opening. After that, the variable APR will be 16.99% - 26.99%. The balance transfer fee is 3%. Other important features: There are no restrictions or spending caps on the cash-back rewards. You can redeem cash back earned for statement credits, direct deposits, checks, or convert to points. Cardholders can take advantage of contactless payments, identity theft solutions, and more. Learn more about the Citi Double Cash Card Pros No annual fee High reward rate Cons Not many perks

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 Navy Federal Platinum Credit Card While the 0% APR offer on the no-annual-fee Navy Federal Platinum Credit Card is shorter than other cards on this list (just 12 months), there’s no balance transfer fee and it offers a low APR even after the 0% APR introductory ends. Because of this, it could be a high-value card for people who qualify for Navy Federal Credit Union membership. Just make sure you transfer balances quickly—only balances transferred within 30 days of account opening qualify for the 0% APR special. Credit union membership is open to more people than you might think. Active duty service members, Army and Air National Guard personnel, Department of Defense (DoD) civilians, government employees and contractors who work on DoD installations, and their family members are all eligible. Balance transfer offer: 0% APR for 12 billing cycles on balance transfers made within 30 days of account opening, and there’s no balance transfer fee. While credit limits vary for individuals, Navy Federal notes that balance transfers cannot exceed $30,000. Other important features: The Navy Federal Platinum Credit Card has no cash advance fee if withdrawing money from a Navy Federal branch or ATM. There’s also no foreign transaction fee. The card comes with cell phone protection, a collision damage waiver, and travel assistance. Learn more about the Navy Federal Platinum Pros No annual fee No foreign transaction fee No balance transfer fee Cons Membership exclusivity No rewards

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Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby   
 BankAmericard Credit Card The BankAmericard has no annual fee and offers a balance transfer special that gives you a year and a half to pay off your balance before the interest rate hikes up. The card doesn’t charge penalty APR if you pay late, but there is a late fee to watch out for. If you're a Bank of America customer, you have the option to connect this credit card to your bank account for overdraft protection. Balance transfer offer: 0% APR for 18 billing cycles on balance transfers made within 60 days of opening your account. The balance transfer fee is 3%. Other important features: Bank of America offers FICO credit score updates each month through online and mobile banking. With this free feature, you can see what factors are impacting your credit score. Learn more about Bank of America credit cards Pros No annual fee Gives free access to your FICO Score Cons Not many perks

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Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby   
 Citi Simplicity With the no-annual-fee Citi Simplicity, you can make interest-free payments on balance transfers for a year and a half, after which a variable APR will apply. Plus, the card touts no late fees and does not charge a penalty APR if you miss a payment. While the 0% intro APR also applies to purchases for 12 months, we recommend tackling the payment plan you've come up with. Balance transfer offer: 0% intro APR on balance transfers for 21 months from the date of the first transfer.  After that, the variable APR will be 17.74% - 27.74%. Balance transfers must be completed in the first four months of the account opening. Balance transfer fee of either $5 or 5% of the amount of each transfer, whichever is greater. Other important features: You can choose your payment due date. The card also comes with identity theft solutions, 24/7 customer service, and contactless payment capabilities. Learn more about the Citi Simplicity Pros No annual fee No late fees Gives free access to your FICO Score Cons No rewards

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Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby   
 Wells Fargo Platinum Card The Wells Fargo Platinum Card has no annual fee and comes with several cardholder benefits, including a rental collision damage waiver and roadside assistance. That’s on top of the 0% APR offer on balance transfers that lasts for a year and a half before a variable interest rate kicks in. Balance transfer offer: 0% APR for 18 billing cycles on balance transfers made within four months of account opening. The balance transfer fee is 3%. Other important features: The card comes with travel accident insurance, cell phone protection, and more. Wells Fargo Online® also offers free FICO credit scores and My Money Map, a tool that can help you budget and track spending. Learn more about this Wells Fargo card   
  
  
Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby   
 SunTrust Prime Rewards Credit Card While the no-annual-fee SunTrust Prime Rewards card doesn’t offer 0% intro APR on balance transfers, it does offer a very low rate on balance transfers for three years with no balance transfer fee (as long as you make the transfer within 60 days). If while evaluating other cards you suspect you’ll still have debt to pay off after a 0% APR deal ends, a low rate for a longer-term might offer more savings. Here’s an example: Let’s say you transfer $15,000 to a card offering 0% intro APR for 18 months on balance transfers with a 3% fee. The balance to pay off would be $15,450 including the fee. If you make payments of $500 per month, you would have a $6,450 balance remaining at the end of 18 months. If the APR jumps to 19% after the 0% intro period, the balance would take an additional 15 months to pay off, and you’d pay $823 in interest. On the other hand, if you transfer $15,000 to a credit card with no balance transfer fee and a much lower APR—say 3.25%—you would pay $665.86 in total interest over 32 months with payments of $500. Depending on how much you have to pay off and the monthly payment you can make, taking a longer low-interest period could be cost effective. Balance transfer offer: The interest rate for this card is the prime rate (currently 3.25%) for three years. Typically, credit card interest rates are the prime rate plus an additional percentage. For comparison, the current national average credit card APR is around 16%. Keep in mind that this card’s interest rate is variable and can fluctuate as the prime rate fluctuates. While in May 2021, the prime rate is at 3.25%, in May 2019 it was 5.5%. However, the Fed plans to keep rates low, so you may not have to worry about a rate increase for the time being. To get the most out of this card, transfer your balance in a timely manner: It has no fee for balances transferred within 60 days; after that, the fee increases to 3%. Other important features: SunTrust provides FICO credit score updates and has no foreign transaction fee if you find yourself abroad, though watch out for the higher APR on cash advances. Also, try to avoid new purchases. If you shop with the card, interest on new purchases will be charged to your account unless you pay off the whole balance (including the balance you transferred) by the end of the month. Learn more about the SunTrust Prime Rewards

Additional Credit Cards That Didn’t Make Our Cut For this list, we focused on the balance transfer offer and related fees. Many cards that didn’t make the cut have shorter 0% APR periods but still come with plenty of valuable benefits and rewards opportunities. (That’s why you’ll find picks from our best grocery credit cards and best no-annual-fee credit cards below.) Depending on your situation, these may still be a viable option if you can work with a tighter 0% APR timeline and want to take advantage of perks after paying off the balance. U.S. Bank Altitude® Go Visa Signature® Card While there’s no annual fee, the introductory APR is on the shorter side at 12 billing cycles. For those who can swing a tighter timeline, the rewards program offers 4X points on takeout, food delivery, and dining; 2X points at grocery stores, grocery delivery, streaming services, and gas; and 1X point on everything else. Learn more Pros No annual fee High reward rate Robust rewards program Cons Requires excellent credit

Citi® Diamond Preferred® Card This no-annual-fee card offers 0% intro APR for 21 months on balance transfers (after that the variable APR will be 17.74% - 27.74%),, though it charges a balance transfer fee: $5 or 5% of the amount transferred, whichever is greater. While it has a long no-interest period, this card had stiff competition from other sister Citi cards. The Citi Simplicity card has no late fees or penalty APR, and the Citi Double Cash has a high-value rewards offer. Learn more Pros No annual fee Gives free access to your FICO Score Cons No rewards   
  
 Citi Rewards+® Card You won’t pay an annual fee and can take advantage of 0% intro APR on qualifying balance transfers for 15 months. After that, the variable APR will be 16.49% - 26.49% A balance transfer fee applies—$5 or 3% of the amount transferred, whichever is greater. The balance fee applies to any transfer made within the first 4 months of account opening. After that, your fee will be 5% of each transfer (minimum $5). Beyond that, this card offers 2X ThankYou® Points on gas and groceries (up to $6,000 per year) and 1X points on everything else. Learn more Pros No annual fee High reward rate Cons Spending limits on rewards   
  
 Discover it® Cash Back Credit Card No annual fee here, but there’s 0% APR for 14 months on balance transfers, which is several months shorter than other cards on the list above. Also, the intro balance transfer fee is 3% only for a limited time. Afterward, the fee may be up to 5% for future balance transfers. For rewards, this card has a lot to offer: 5% cash back in revolving categories, such as groceries, drugstores, gas stations, restaurants, wholesale clubs, and more. Learn more Pros No annual fee High reward rate Robust rewards program Cons Some spending limits on rewards   
  
 Discover it® Chrome No annual fee and 0% APR for 14 months on balance transfers. The intro balance transfer fee is 3% for a limited time. Afterward, the fee may be up to 5%. For rewards, you can earn 2% cash back at gas stations and restaurants on the first $1,000 you spend per quarter. Learn more Pros No annual fee High reward rate Gives free access to your FICO Score Cons Some spending limits on rewards   
  
 Bank of America® Cash Back Rewards Credit Card This no-annual-fee card does have a nice rewards offer. You can earn up to 3% cash back in a shopping category of your choice (everything from online shopping to home improvement stores), 2% cash back at grocery stores and wholesale clubs, and 1% cash back on everything else. The balance transfer offer is 0% APR for 15 months, and the balance transfer fee is 3%. Learn more Pros No annual fee Robust rewards program High reward rate Cons Spending limits on rewards Membership required for best rewards   
  
 Wells Fargo Cash Wise Visa® Card No annual fee and 0% APR for 15 months with a balance transfer fee of 3%. The rewards offer is an unlimited 1.5% cash back on all purchases—a fair rewards rate, to be sure, though the Citi Double Cash currently offers a longer introductory period and beats it at 2% if you regularly pay your bill. Learn more   
  
 PNC Core® Visa® Credit Card No annual fee and 0% APR for 15 billing cycles with a 3% balance transfer fee. Learn more Pros No annual fee No membership fees Cons No rewards Foreign transaction fees   
  
 PNC points® Visa® Credit Card No annual fee and 0% APR for 12 billing cycles with a 3% balance transfer fee. Learn more Pros No annual fee High reward rate Robust rewards program Cons Foreign transaction fees   
  
 PenFed Gold Visa® Card No annual fee and 0% APR for 12 months on balance transfers with a 3% fee for each transfer. Learn more Pros No annual fee No foreign transaction fees Cons No rewards

Please note: The offers mentioned above are subject to change at any time and some may no longer be available. Reviewed has partnered with CardRatings for our coverage of credit card products. Reviewed and CardRatings may receive a commission from card issuers.

What to Do Before You Transfer a Balance

Break out a calculator. You’ll want to make sure that opening a new card will save you money in the long run. To start, figure out what you’d pay in interest with your current credit card debt if you were to pay it off in 18 or so billing cycles. With an introductory APR period, you’ll save on interest—but don’t forget about those fees. They typically range anywhere from 3% to 5%, though we’ve found a couple that forgo balance transfer fees. (And remember, it’s likely transfers must be completed within a set time frame, usually around 30 or 60 days.) Look at the timeline. You may not know the credit limit on a card you haven’t opened, but take the amount you’re hoping to transfer. Divide it by the interest-free period to come up with a monthly payment plan. Is it reasonable with your budget? Don’t forget: Once the introductory period ends, a variable APR based on your creditworthiness will kick in, and you’ll pay interest on anything outstanding. Consider your credit score. Opening a new card affects your credit health a few ways. For one, the application typically requires a hard inquiry that will temporarily knock your score. A new account will also lower the average age of your credit history, another factor that’s used to determine credit health. Your credit utilization will change, too. A new card with the transferred balance may nearly max out your credit limit, though it’ll increase your overall credit limit.

What Is a Good APR for a Credit Card?

Credit card annual percentage rates range from 13% to 25%, with the national average in January 2021 around 16%. Credit cards marketed for applicants with bad credit tend to be on the higher side, as do credit cards with rewards programs. Before you apply for a credit card, you can see this range in the cardmember agreement. You won’t know the rate until you’re approved, as it’s determined by the issuer based on your creditworthiness. The higher your credit score, the lower the rate you can expect. Remember that with a variable rate, an issuer can change the interest it charges at any time—and, per your cardmember agreement, it may not have to notify you. An issuer may charge a different APR for purchases, balance transfers, and cash advances. It may even offer an introductory rate that includes zero interest for a period of 12 to 18 (or 21) months. Lastly, a penalty APR may kick in if you’re late for a payment, exceed your credit limit, or break other terms and conditions laid out by the issuer. We’ll say it till we’re blue in the face: Pay off your balance each month, and you won’t have to think about interest.

How Does Credit Card Interest Work?

Despite the term “annual percentage rate,” credit card issuers calculate interest daily. The daily periodic rate is determined by dividing your APR by 365 days, which is then applied to your average daily balance. Crunch this number by adding up the total you carry each and every day of the billing cycle, and then dividing that by the number of days in the billing cycle. Let’s say your card’s APR is 16%, and this month you carried an average daily balance of $2,000. The issuer first calculates the daily periodic rate (0.16 divided by 365). That rate (0.00043) is applied to your average balance (0.00043 x $2,000), which brings us to 0.87. Over the course of the 30-day billing cycle (0.87 x 30), you’ll pay $26.30 in interest. If crunching numbers isn’t really your thing, some issuers include tools that calculate how much interest you’ll owe based on your monthly payment. Petal, for example, shares this information in a mobile app for its two credit cards. Remember: You won’t be charged interest if you pay off your balance in full and on time each billing cycle. We get that life happens. So if on occasion that’s not possible, consider paying more than the minimum amount to lessen the interest you’ll pay over time, or make more than one payment during the billing cycle to lower your average balance.

How Many Credit Cards Should You Have?

We hate to break it to you, but there’s no one-size-fits-all answer here. The right number for you depends on what you can responsibly manage. Does having a piece of shiny plastic an arm’s length away often encourage you to spend money you don’t have? You may want to think twice before applying for more credit. Carrying a balance you can’t afford contributes to interest charges, and in the long run costs you more money. If you’re financially responsible and stick to making purchases that you can pay off, there may be some upsides to adding another card to your arsenal. For instance, if you’re a jet-setter without a card that rewards you for hitting the road, a travel card may make sense for you. There are a few other things to consider before opening a new account, like adding a different payment processing network, or taking note of any annual fees.

How to Cancel a Credit Card

Pay your outstanding balance and redeem any rewards. Then, call the issuer to confirm you have no balance, and ask to close your account. But before you pick up the phone, there are a few things to consider. First, your score is based partly on the length of your credit history. Closing an older account will temporarily knock your score. If you’re applying for a mortgage in the near future—or anything else that may require a credit check—think twice about the timing. Saying goodbye to a card also means you’ll have less credit available. And that means your utilization ratio will likely go up. (If you need a refresher: That’s the balance you carry divided by your credit line—and finance experts recommend keeping this at 30% or less.) Your utilization ratio is another major factor in calculating your score. In addition to being mindful of your balance, you can ask another issuer to increase your limit to help out a little. Keep in mind, if you’re a responsible credit user, your score will eventually rebound. But there are a few other factors to consider when deciding to close an account, such as whether you’re close to hitting a rewards milestone. Closing the account could still be the right move for you, especially if you’re tempted to spend money you don’t have, or you feel you already have too much credit at your disposal. In that case, call the issuer and then destroy your physical card. In a month or two, check your credit report to confirm that the account has been closed at your request. Contact the issuer if it states otherwise.

If you’re making credit card payments but not seeing a dent in your balance, this revelation may come as a relief: You’re not just imagining things. Part of your monthly payment goes to interest before it even touches the principal. Using a balance transfer card could help you pay off that credit card debt faster.

Balance transfer cards offer a low-interest or zero-interest introductory special for balances you move from an old card to a new card. Typically, the special lasts for 12 to 18 months. During this time, you can attack the principal balance without worrying about interest getting in the way.

We dug through dozens of offers to bring the best balance transfer credit cards to consider.

Before we start, here are some things you should know about balance transfer cards:

Good credit or better is usually necessary to qualify. A credit check is typically required at application, and the hard inquiry could temporarily impact your credit score.

Credit card issuers often charge a fee for transferring your balance. This fee is generally 3% of the balance you transfer. So, if you transfer $3,000 to a balance transfer card, you could expect to pay around $90 for the fee. While the fee does eat into your potential savings, it could majorly outweigh the interest you’d pay with your current card.

Credit limits vary. Your credit limit is usually determined after you apply, so there’s a possibility that you might get approved for a credit limit that’s lower than the balance you want to transfer. Also, credit card issuers may set limits for how much money you can move. Chase, for example, lets you transfer up to $15,000 within a 30-day period.

Transfers need to be made within a certain amount of time. Usually, only balances transferred within the first one to four months of signing up qualify for the low-interest deal. As always, read a card’s terms and conditions before you sign on the dotted line.

Perhaps the most important thing to note: Interest increases after the introductory period. After the low-interest deal ends, interest jumps up to the standard interest rate that’s based on your creditworthiness. To get the most out of a balance transfer offer, get a game plan in place. You’ll want to know what monthly payments to make to pay off the transfer within the interest-free period. Otherwise, the interest you end up paying will cut into your savings.

My name is Taylor, and I’m a personal finance writer who’s been reviewing credit cards and rewards programs since 2015. For this roundup, I took a look at 17 balance transfer cards to review what they had to offer. Then I compared balance transfer fees, the length of the low-interest period, and other card costs and features to come up with this “best of” list.

The no-annual-fee U.S. Bank Visa Platinum Card offers the longest 0% APR balance transfer period around. If you have a high balance that you want to pay off over an extended period of time, this card gives you an interest-free vacation that lasts for almost two years before a variable rate kicks in.

Balance transfer offer: 0% APR on purchases and balance transfers for 20 billing cycles. The card has a 3% balance transfer fee.

Other important features: U.S. Bank lets you choose your payment due date. The card comes with TransUnion VantageScore® updates and provides cell phone protection coverage.

No annual fee   
  
 Balance transfer-friendly   
  
 No rewards

The Citi Double Cash gets a lot of attention for its rewards program that gives a total of 2% cash back on all purchases—1% when you make a purchase and 1% when you pay it off.

In addition, the Citi Double Cash offers 0% introductory APR for more than a year on balance transfers. After 18 months from account opening, the interest rate increases between 16.99% - 26.99% based on your creditworthiness. This is an especially appealing option if you’re looking for a card that’ll be useful after you get rid of your balance, as you can rack up unlimited cash back on future purchases. Also, for a limited time only, you’ll earn $200 cash back after spending $1,500 on purchases in the first six months of your account opening.

Balance transfer offer: 0% intro APR for 18 billing cycles on balance transfers made within four months of account opening. After that, the variable APR will be 16.99% - 26.99%. The balance transfer fee is 3%.

Other important features: There are no restrictions or spending caps on the cash-back rewards. You can redeem cash back earned for statement credits, direct deposits, checks, or convert to points. Cardholders can take advantage of contactless payments, identity theft solutions, and more.

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Not many perks

While the 0% APR offer on the no-annual-fee Navy Federal Platinum Credit Card is shorter than other cards on this list (just 12 months), there’s no balance transfer fee and it offers a low APR even after the 0% APR introductory ends.

Because of this, it could be a high-value card for people who qualify for Navy Federal Credit Union membership. Just make sure you transfer balances quickly—only balances transferred within 30 days of account opening qualify for the 0% APR special.

Credit union membership is open to more people than you might think. Active duty service members, Army and Air National Guard personnel, Department of Defense (DoD) civilians, government employees and contractors who work on DoD installations, and their family members are all eligible.

Balance transfer offer: 0% APR for 12 billing cycles on balance transfers made within 30 days of account opening, and there’s no balance transfer fee. While credit limits vary for individuals, Navy Federal notes that balance transfers cannot exceed $30,000.

Other important features: The Navy Federal Platinum Credit Card has no cash advance fee if withdrawing money from a Navy Federal branch or ATM. There’s also no foreign transaction fee. The card comes with cell phone protection, a collision damage waiver, and travel assistance.

No annual fee   
  
 No foreign transaction fee   
  
 No balance transfer fee   
  
 Membership exclusivity   
  
 No rewards

The BankAmericard has no annual fee and offers a balance transfer special that gives you a year and a half to pay off your balance before the interest rate hikes up. The card doesn’t charge penalty APR if you pay late, but there is a late fee to watch out for. If you’re a Bank of America customer, you have the option to connect this credit card to your bank account for overdraft protection.

Balance transfer offer: 0% APR for 18 billing cycles on balance transfers made within 60 days of opening your account. The balance transfer fee is 3%.

Other important features: Bank of America offers FICO credit score updates each month through online and mobile banking. With this free feature, you can see what factors are impacting your credit score.

No annual fee   
  
 Gives free access to your FICO Score   
  
 Not many perks

With the no-annual-fee Citi Simplicity, you can make interest-free payments on balance transfers for a year and a half, after which a variable APR will apply. Plus, the card touts no late fees and does not charge a penalty APR if you miss a payment. While the 0% intro APR also applies to purchases for 12 months, we recommend tackling the payment plan you’ve come up with.

Balance transfer offer: 0% intro APR on balance transfers for 21 months from the date of the first transfer.  After that, the variable APR will be 17.74% - 27.74%. Balance transfers must be completed in the first four months of the account opening. Balance transfer fee of either $5 or 5% of the amount of each transfer, whichever is greater.

Other important features: You can choose your payment due date. The card also comes with identity theft solutions, 24/7 customer service, and contactless payment capabilities.

No annual fee   
  
 No late fees   
  
 Gives free access to your FICO Score   
  
 No rewards

The Wells Fargo Platinum Card has no annual fee and comes with several cardholder benefits, including a rental collision damage waiver and roadside assistance. That’s on top of the 0% APR offer on balance transfers that lasts for a year and a half before a variable interest rate kicks in.

Balance transfer offer: 0% APR for 18 billing cycles on balance transfers made within four months of account opening. The balance transfer fee is 3%.

Other important features: The card comes with travel accident insurance, cell phone protection, and more. Wells Fargo Online® also offers free FICO credit scores and My Money Map, a tool that can help you budget and track spending.

While the no-annual-fee SunTrust Prime Rewards card doesn’t offer 0% intro APR on balance transfers, it does offer a very low rate on balance transfers for three years with no balance transfer fee (as long as you make the transfer within 60 days). If while evaluating other cards you suspect you’ll still have debt to pay off after a 0% APR deal ends, a low rate for a longer-term might offer more savings.

Here’s an example: Let’s say you transfer $15,000 to a card offering 0% intro APR for 18 months on balance transfers with a 3% fee. The balance to pay off would be $15,450 including the fee.

If you make payments of $500 per month, you would have a $6,450 balance remaining at the end of 18 months. If the APR jumps to 19% after the 0% intro period, the balance would take an additional 15 months to pay off, and you’d pay $823 in interest.

On the other hand, if you transfer $15,000 to a credit card with no balance transfer fee and a much lower APR—say 3.25%—you would pay $665.86 in total interest over 32 months with payments of $500.

Depending on how much you have to pay off and the monthly payment you can make, taking a longer low-interest period could be cost effective.

Balance transfer offer: The interest rate for this card is the prime rate (currently 3.25%) for three years. Typically, credit card interest rates are the prime rate plus an additional percentage. For comparison, the current national average credit card APR is around 16%.

Keep in mind that this card’s interest rate is variable and can fluctuate as the prime rate fluctuates. While in May 2021, the prime rate is at 3.25%, in May 2019 it was 5.5%. However, the Fed plans to keep rates low, so you may not have to worry about a rate increase for the time being.

To get the most out of this card, transfer your balance in a timely manner: It has no fee for balances transferred within 60 days; after that, the fee increases to 3%.

Other important features: SunTrust provides FICO credit score updates and has no foreign transaction fee if you find yourself abroad, though watch out for the higher APR on cash advances.

Also, try to avoid new purchases. If you shop with the card, interest on new purchases will be charged to your account unless you pay off the whole balance (including the balance you transferred) by the end of the month.

For this list, we focused on the balance transfer offer and related fees. Many cards that didn’t make the cut have shorter 0% APR periods but still come with plenty of valuable benefits and rewards opportunities. (That’s why you’ll find picks from our best grocery credit cards and best no-annual-fee credit cards below.)

Depending on your situation, these may still be a viable option if you can work with a tighter 0% APR timeline and want to take advantage of perks after paying off the balance.

While there’s no annual fee, the introductory APR is on the shorter side at 12 billing cycles. For those who can swing a tighter timeline, the rewards program offers 4X points on takeout, food delivery, and dining; 2X points at grocery stores, grocery delivery, streaming services, and gas; and 1X point on everything else. Learn more

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Requires excellent credit

This no-annual-fee card offers 0% intro APR for 21 months on balance transfers (after that the variable APR will be 17.74% - 27.74%),, though it charges a balance transfer fee: $5 or 5% of the amount transferred, whichever is greater. While it has a long no-interest period, this card had stiff competition from other sister Citi cards. The Citi Simplicity card has no late fees or penalty APR, and the Citi Double Cash has a high-value rewards offer. Learn more

No annual fee   
  
 Gives free access to your FICO Score   
  
 No rewards

You won’t pay an annual fee and can take advantage of 0% intro APR on qualifying balance transfers for 15 months. After that, the variable APR will be 16.49% - 26.49% A balance transfer fee applies—$5 or 3% of the amount transferred, whichever is greater. The balance fee applies to any transfer made within the first 4 months of account opening. After that, your fee will be 5% of each transfer (minimum $5). Beyond that, this card offers 2X ThankYou® Points on gas and groceries (up to $6,000 per year) and 1X points on everything else. Learn more

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Spending limits on rewards

No annual fee here, but there’s 0% APR for 14 months on balance transfers, which is several months shorter than other cards on the list above. Also, the intro balance transfer fee is 3% only for a limited time. Afterward, the fee may be up to 5% for future balance transfers. For rewards, this card has a lot to offer: 5% cash back in revolving categories, such as groceries, drugstores, gas stations, restaurants, wholesale clubs, and more. Learn more

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
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 Some spending limits on rewards

No annual fee and 0% APR for 14 months on balance transfers. The intro balance transfer fee is 3% for a limited time. Afterward, the fee may be up to 5%. For rewards, you can earn 2% cash back at gas stations and restaurants on the first $1,000 you spend per quarter. Learn more

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
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 Some spending limits on rewards

This no-annual-fee card does have a nice rewards offer. You can earn up to 3% cash back in a shopping category of your choice (everything from online shopping to home improvement stores), 2% cash back at grocery stores and wholesale clubs, and 1% cash back on everything else. The balance transfer offer is 0% APR for 15 months, and the balance transfer fee is 3%. Learn more

No annual fee   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Spending limits on rewards   
  
 Membership required for best rewards

No annual fee and 0% APR for 15 months with a balance transfer fee of 3%. The rewards offer is an unlimited 1.5% cash back on all purchases—a fair rewards rate, to be sure, though the Citi Double Cash currently offers a longer introductory period and beats it at 2% if you regularly pay your bill. Learn more

No annual fee and 0% APR for 15 billing cycles with a 3% balance transfer fee. Learn more

No annual fee   
  
 No membership fees   
  
 No rewards   
  
 Foreign transaction fees

No annual fee and 0% APR for 12 billing cycles with a 3% balance transfer fee. Learn more

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Foreign transaction fees

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No annual fee   
  
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With an introductory APR period, you’ll save on interest—but don’t forget about those fees. They typically range anywhere from 3% to 5%, though we’ve found a couple that forgo balance transfer fees. (And remember, it’s likely transfers must be completed within a set time frame, usually around 30 or 60 days.)

Look at the timeline. You may not know the credit limit on a card you haven’t opened, but take the amount you’re hoping to transfer. Divide it by the interest-free period to come up with a monthly payment plan. Is it reasonable with your budget? Don’t forget: Once the introductory period ends, a variable APR based on your creditworthiness will kick in, and you’ll pay interest on anything outstanding.

Consider your credit score. Opening a new card affects your credit health a few ways. For one, the application typically requires a hard inquiry that will temporarily knock your score. A new account will also lower the average age of your credit history, another factor that’s used to determine credit health. Your credit utilization will change, too. A new card with the transferred balance may nearly max out your credit limit, though it’ll increase your overall credit limit.

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An issuer may charge a different APR for purchases, balance transfers, and cash advances. It may even offer an introductory rate that includes zero interest for a period of 12 to 18 (or 21) months. Lastly, a penalty APR may kick in if you’re late for a payment, exceed your credit limit, or break other terms and conditions laid out by the issuer.

We’ll say it till we’re blue in the face: Pay off your balance each month, and you won’t have to think about interest.

Despite the term “annual percentage rate,” credit card issuers calculate interest daily. The daily periodic rate is determined by dividing your APR by 365 days, which is then applied to your average daily balance. Crunch this number by adding up the total you carry each and every day of the billing cycle, and then dividing that by the number of days in the billing cycle.

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If crunching numbers isn’t really your thing, some issuers include tools that calculate how much interest you’ll owe based on your monthly payment. Petal, for example, shares this information in a mobile app for its two credit cards.

Remember: You won’t be charged interest if you pay off your balance in full and on time each billing cycle. We get that life happens. So if on occasion that’s not possible, consider paying more than the minimum amount to lessen the interest you’ll pay over time, or make more than one payment during the billing cycle to lower your average balance.

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There are a few other things to consider before opening a new account, like adding a different payment processing network, or taking note of any annual fees.

Pay your outstanding balance and redeem any rewards. Then, call the issuer to confirm you have no balance, and ask to close your account. But before you pick up the phone, there are a few things to consider.

First, your score is based partly on the length of your credit history. Closing an older account will temporarily knock your score. If you’re applying for a mortgage in the near future—or anything else that may require a credit check—think twice about the timing.

Saying goodbye to a card also means you’ll have less credit available. And that means your utilization ratio will likely go up. (If you need a refresher: That’s the balance you carry divided by your credit line—and finance experts recommend keeping this at 30% or less.) Your utilization ratio is another major factor in calculating your score. In addition to being mindful of your balance, you can ask another issuer to increase your limit to help out a little.

Keep in mind, if you’re a responsible credit user, your score will eventually rebound. But there are a few other factors to consider when deciding to close an account, such as whether you’re close to hitting a rewards milestone.

Closing the account could still be the right move for you, especially if you’re tempted to spend money you don’t have, or you feel you already have too much credit at your disposal. In that case, call the issuer and then destroy your physical card.

In a month or two, check your credit report to confirm that the account has been closed at your request. Contact the issuer if it states otherwise.

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Taylor Medine is a personal finance writer with over five years of experience writing about credit, credit cards, personal loans, and money management. She’s written for Credit Karma, CompareCards, LendingTree, MagnifyMoney, Student Loan Hero, and more.

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Our team is here for one purpose: to help you buy the best stuff and love what you own. Our writers, editors, and lab technicians obsess over the products we cover to make sure you're confident and satisfied. Have a different opinion about something we recommend? Email us and we'll compare notes.  
  
  
  
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# The Best Game Consoles of 2022

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

Though not the most powerful console on the market, the Switch boasts an incredible library of games. The OLED Model also has a vibrant 7-inch screen.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 If you want maximum value, variety, next-gen performance, and plenty of great multiplayer games, the Series X is probably your best bet.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The standard PS5 comes with a 4K UHD drive; haptics built into its DualSense controller make for next-level immersion; and the games are phenomenal.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 An affordable and attractive next-gen machine, the Series S pairs perfectly with an Xbox Game Pass subscription. It offers upscaling for 4K displays.  
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 The Switch Lite comes with a couple notable compromises, like a smaller screen and less battery life. But it offers portability and years of fun.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated October 17, 2022

When shopping for a new game console, the first question to ask yourself is what you intend to use it for. Are you invested in the Mario, Pokémon, or Zelda series? Do you need hardware that can play UHD Blu-rays or stream 4K video? Are you just looking for an all-in-one entertainment system without any bells or whistles? It’s easier than ever to find a great piece of gaming hardware—though it can certainly be tricky to hunt down the latest and greatest hardware around the holidays. The good news is that you’ve got four or five incredible options on the dedicated home console market right now. The Microsoft Xbox Series X (and the smaller Xbox Series S) are both great entry points into the Xbox Game Pass ecosystem, which grants you access to hundreds of great games for the price of one monthly subscription. And it offers a ton of cross-generation compatibility in terms of both game selection and accessories like controllers, headsets, and so on.

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Sony’s PlayStation 5, meanwhile, delivers some of the best exclusive games in the industry—the Insomniac Spider-Man series, God of War, and so on. And Nintendo’s Switch has plenty to offer players as well: handheld gaming, flexibility and portability, and plenty of fun, family-friendly exclusives of its own. Each of the big three is a great choice. After years of hands-on experience, we feel more than confident in calling these the best game consoles you can buy right now.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Nintendo Switch OLED Outputs to your TV in 1080p or plays as a handheld system 7-inch OLED handheld touchscreen 64 GB of internal storage Adjustable stand for a wide variety of viewing angles Online and local multiplayer, plus wireless system link Nintendo’s flagship console got some recent quality-of-life upgrades with the arrival of the Switch OLED Model. Available in a stylish new white-and-black design and red-and-blue “neon” version, it offers a seven-inch OLED screen in handheld mode, along with 64 GB of storage—double that of the original Nintendo Switch. The catalog of games is superb, ranging from the 2017 Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild to last year’s near-perfect Super Mario 3D World remaster. Another big selling point for the hardware continues to be its playful versatility: You can play it on the go as a handheld by taking it off the dock. You can play it on your television with a controller; you can share one of your Joy-Con with a friend and enjoy hassle-free “couch co-op” in games like Mario Kart and so on. You can also use the built-in stand to prop it up for use as a shared screen when you’re playing multiplayer away from your TV. Every Switch available right now is at risk of developing the same “Joy-Con drift” problem, caused by a defective thumbstick design, but Nintendo has promised free repairs for Joy-Con controllers that stop working properly. Having a Joy-Con fail certainly isn’t ideal, but it’s a risk worth taking for a console with exclusives like Super Mario Maker 2, Pokémon Sword and Shield, and Breath of the Wild. If you just want a great video game console, and you aren’t too fussed about having it hit specific performance benchmarks or serving as a be-all-end-all entertainment system, the Nintendo Switch OLED model is a perfect choice. It offers all kinds of unforgettable gaming experiences, from single-player adventures and RPGs to Mario Kart to unique multiplayer titles like Splatoon 3 and Nintendo Switch Sports. Unless your kid wants to play Spider-Man, Elden Ring, or Destiny 2, the Switch is hard to beat. Pros Incredible games catalog Playful, ingenious design 7-inch handheld screen Cons Thumbstick drift is common Lacks 4K output $349.99 from Amazon $349.99 from Target $57.95 from Walmart

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Xbox Series X Native 4K output with a full library of 60 fps and 120 fps games Best-in-class accessibility and accessory customization 1 TB SSD for internal storage 4K UHD disc player and robust backward compatibility Online and local multiplayer The Xbox Series X is the console I use the most in my free time at home. Its social features, multiplayer systems, and game selection are great for a wide range of players—though it may seem more appropriate for teens and adults compared to the all-ages appeal of the Switch. The two newest Xbox consoles look great in any living room, they have the biggest library of games available on any one system, and they work great with all your favorite streaming services, Blu-rays, and a wide variety of entertainment apps. If you haven’t owned a Microsoft console since the Xbox 360 days, they’ve come a long way in terms of both power and dependability. If you want maximum value, Xbox has that. If you want performance, the Xbox wins that one nine times out of 10. If you want to play new multiplayer games with friends online, and you don’t want to fool around with a big expensive gaming PC, the Xbox is probably your ticket. It doesn’t have Zelda or God of War, but it’ll make you a very satisfied customer. Pros Incredibly powerful tech Hugely improved load times Future proof Cons Absolutely massive Needs more default storage space $499.00 from Amazon $499.99 from Best Buy $499.00 from Walmart $489.00 from Adorama

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Sony PlayStation 5 Native 4K output with support for up to 120 fps 4K UHD disc player and immersive controller haptics 825 GB SSD for internal storage Enhanced compatibility with loads of PS4 and VR titles Online and local multiplayer The Sony PlayStation 5 is the console of choice for many people who prefer single-player, cinematic games. If you’re looking for a good story and some peace of quiet to yourself, chances are you’ll love the PS5. It’s a significant upgrade from the PS4 Pro, it comes with a 4K UHD disc drive, the haptics built into the DualSense controller make for next-level immersion, and the games are great. It doesn’t have quite the games library that the Xbox and Switch have as of yet, but when you add in the PS4 titles that are compatible with it, there’s still a lot to keep you entertained. There’s a digital edition out there, as well, but it’s near-impossible to find, so it might be worth using the disc drive for all your movie viewing. PlayStation recently revamped their subscription service models with additional tiers and more classic games, but it lacks the backward compatibility of the Xbox ecosystem. (It’s similar to the Nintendo Switch in that way; you can play some of the classics, but you’ll have to buy them again or subscribe to one of Sony’s online services.) If either Spider-Man: Miles Morales or Final Fantasy VII Remake looks appealing to you, you’ll have a blast with the PS5 and its incredible lineup of console exclusives. Most of your favorite multiplayer titles are here, too, and they’re adding more retro classics all the time. God of War: Ragnarok looks poised to make quite a splash when it launches, and you won’t be able to play that one anywhere else. Pros Fast solid-state storage Wonderful 4K, HDR gameplay Excellent new controller Cons Bigger than previous consoles Needs more default storage space $499.99 from Amazon $710.80 from Walmart $94.96 from QVC

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Xbox Series S 4K upscaling with support for up to 120 fps Best-in-class accessibility and accessory customization 512 GB SSD for internal storage Full next-gen catalog and robust backward compatibility Online and local multiplayer If you’re looking to maximize your options—next-gen games, every generation of the Xbox catalog, 4K video playback, and all the streaming apps you can handle—the Xbox Series S is an unbeatable value. Paired with an Xbox Game Pass Ultimate subscription (and games like Forza Horizon 5 or Halo Infinite), the Series S will provide high-performance gameplay and entertainment for years to come. All your favorite video and music apps are here, along with thousands of games, and the next era of first-party Xbox titles is only just beginning. This is a great way to enjoy favorites like Call of Duty: Warzone, Fortnite, GTA Online, and Minecraft. Pros 4K upscaling and video playback Four generations of Xbox games Compatible with next-gen titles Cons Doesn’t output in native 4K $299.99 from Amazon $299.99 from Abt $299.00 from Sam's Club $298.00 from Walmart   
  
 Nintendo Switch Lite Compatible with the vast majority of Switch games Comes in violet, yellow, turquoise, and pink 32 GB of internal storage Lightweight design for maximum portability Online multiplayer (Wi-Fi) and wireless system link If you don’t need all the features of the OLED Model, you’ve got another great Nintendo option. Priced at $199 or less, the Nintendo Switch Lite is an elegant, all-in-one solution to the problem of wanting to play the latest Animal Crossing or indie-game sensation and not having a Switch. It’s a gorgeous, sturdily made system that plays almost any game—the exception being that you can’t remove the controllers from the handheld configuration, so motion controls and other features are somewhat limited. Otherwise, the other main compromises you’ll find are its somewhat smaller screen and lack of TV (“docked”) mode. And its battery may not hold up quite as long as the larger, standard OLED Switch. It’s available in a fun array of colors: turquoise, yellow, coral pink, indigo blue, gray. You’ll find yourself wanting to play this all the time, wherever you go. It offers the same 32 GB of storage as the original Switch, expandable with any standard microSD card. Pros Incredible games catalog Simple all-in-one design Cons Thumbstick drift is common Pretty small screen $199.00 from Amazon $199.99 from Target $199.99 from Abt $199.00 from Walmart

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When shopping for a new game console, the first question to ask yourself is what you intend to use it for. Are you invested in the Mario, Pokémon, or Zelda series? Do you need hardware that can play UHD Blu-rays or stream 4K video? Are you just looking for an all-in-one entertainment system without any bells or whistles?

It’s easier than ever to find a great piece of gaming hardware—though it can certainly be tricky to hunt down the latest and greatest hardware around the holidays. The good news is that you’ve got four or five incredible options on the dedicated home console market right now.

The Microsoft Xbox Series X (and the smaller Xbox Series S) are both great entry points into the Xbox Game Pass ecosystem, which grants you access to hundreds of great games for the price of one monthly subscription. And it offers a ton of cross-generation compatibility in terms of both game selection and accessories like controllers, headsets, and so on.

Sony’s PlayStation 5, meanwhile, delivers some of the best exclusive games in the industry—the Insomniac Spider-Man series, God of War, and so on. And Nintendo’s Switch has plenty to offer players as well: handheld gaming, flexibility and portability, and plenty of fun, family-friendly exclusives of its own. Each of the big three is a great choice.

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Nintendo’s flagship console got some recent quality-of-life upgrades with the arrival of the Switch OLED Model. Available in a stylish new white-and-black design and red-and-blue “neon” version, it offers a seven-inch OLED screen in handheld mode, along with 64 GB of storage—double that of the original Nintendo Switch. The catalog of games is superb, ranging from the 2017 Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild to last year’s near-perfect Super Mario 3D World remaster.

Another big selling point for the hardware continues to be its playful versatility: You can play it on the go as a handheld by taking it off the dock.

You can play it on your television with a controller; you can share one of your Joy-Con with a friend and enjoy hassle-free “couch co-op” in games like Mario Kart and so on. You can also use the built-in stand to prop it up for use as a shared screen when you’re playing multiplayer away from your TV.

Every Switch available right now is at risk of developing the same “Joy-Con drift” problem, caused by a defective thumbstick design, but Nintendo has promised free repairs for Joy-Con controllers that stop working properly. Having a Joy-Con fail certainly isn’t ideal, but it’s a risk worth taking for a console with exclusives like Super Mario Maker 2, Pokémon Sword and Shield, and Breath of the Wild.

If you just want a great video game console, and you aren’t too fussed about having it hit specific performance benchmarks or serving as a be-all-end-all entertainment system, the Nintendo Switch OLED model is a perfect choice.

It offers all kinds of unforgettable gaming experiences, from single-player adventures and RPGs to Mario Kart to unique multiplayer titles like Splatoon 3 and Nintendo Switch Sports. Unless your kid wants to play Spider-Man, Elden Ring, or Destiny 2, the Switch is hard to beat.

Incredible games catalog   
  
 Playful, ingenious design   
  
 7-inch handheld screen   
  
 Thumbstick drift is common   
  
 Lacks 4K output

The Xbox Series X is the console I use the most in my free time at home. Its social features, multiplayer systems, and game selection are great for a wide range of players—though it may seem more appropriate for teens and adults compared to the all-ages appeal of the Switch.

The two newest Xbox consoles look great in any living room, they have the biggest library of games available on any one system, and they work great with all your favorite streaming services, Blu-rays, and a wide variety of entertainment apps. If you haven’t owned a Microsoft console since the Xbox 360 days, they’ve come a long way in terms of both power and dependability.

If you want maximum value, Xbox has that. If you want performance, the Xbox wins that one nine times out of 10. If you want to play new multiplayer games with friends online, and you don’t want to fool around with a big expensive gaming PC, the Xbox is probably your ticket. It doesn’t have Zelda or God of War, but it’ll make you a very satisfied customer.

Incredibly powerful tech   
  
 Hugely improved load times   
  
 Future proof   
  
 Absolutely massive   
  
 Needs more default storage space

The Sony PlayStation 5 is the console of choice for many people who prefer single-player, cinematic games. If you’re looking for a good story and some peace of quiet to yourself, chances are you’ll love the PS5. It’s a significant upgrade from the PS4 Pro, it comes with a 4K UHD disc drive, the haptics built into the DualSense controller make for next-level immersion, and the games are great.

It doesn’t have quite the games library that the Xbox and Switch have as of yet, but when you add in the PS4 titles that are compatible with it, there’s still a lot to keep you entertained. There’s a digital edition out there, as well, but it’s near-impossible to find, so it might be worth using the disc drive for all your movie viewing.

PlayStation recently revamped their subscription service models with additional tiers and more classic games, but it lacks the backward compatibility of the Xbox ecosystem. (It’s similar to the Nintendo Switch in that way; you can play some of the classics, but you’ll have to buy them again or subscribe to one of Sony’s online services.)

If either Spider-Man: Miles Morales or Final Fantasy VII Remake looks appealing to you, you’ll have a blast with the PS5 and its incredible lineup of console exclusives. Most of your favorite multiplayer titles are here, too, and they’re adding more retro classics all the time. God of War: Ragnarok looks poised to make quite a splash when it launches, and you won’t be able to play that one anywhere else.

Fast solid-state storage   
  
 Wonderful 4K, HDR gameplay   
  
 Excellent new controller   
  
 Bigger than previous consoles   
  
 Needs more default storage space

If you’re looking to maximize your options—next-gen games, every generation of the Xbox catalog, 4K video playback, and all the streaming apps you can handle—the Xbox Series S is an unbeatable value. Paired with an Xbox Game Pass Ultimate subscription (and games like Forza Horizon 5 or Halo Infinite), the Series S will provide high-performance gameplay and entertainment for years to come.

All your favorite video and music apps are here, along with thousands of games, and the next era of first-party Xbox titles is only just beginning. This is a great way to enjoy favorites like Call of Duty: Warzone, Fortnite, GTA Online, and Minecraft.

4K upscaling and video playback   
  
 Four generations of Xbox games   
  
 Compatible with next-gen titles   
  
 Doesn’t output in native 4K

If you don’t need all the features of the OLED Model, you’ve got another great Nintendo option. Priced at $199 or less, the Nintendo Switch Lite is an elegant, all-in-one solution to the problem of wanting to play the latest Animal Crossing or indie-game sensation and not having a Switch.

It’s a gorgeous, sturdily made system that plays almost any game—the exception being that you can’t remove the controllers from the handheld configuration, so motion controls and other features are somewhat limited.

Otherwise, the other main compromises you’ll find are its somewhat smaller screen and lack of TV (“docked”) mode. And its battery may not hold up quite as long as the larger, standard OLED Switch. It’s available in a fun array of colors: turquoise, yellow, coral pink, indigo blue, gray.

You’ll find yourself wanting to play this all the time, wherever you go. It offers the same 32 GB of storage as the original Switch, expandable with any standard microSD card.

Incredible games catalog   
  
 Simple all-in-one design   
  
 Thumbstick drift is common   
  
 Pretty small screen   
  
  
 Alex Kane  
   
  
  
 Sr. Editor, Search & Updates

Alex Kane is a senior editor at USA Today’s Reviewed and the author of the Boss Fight Books volume on Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic. He has written for Fangoria, PC Gamer, Polygon, Rolling Stone, StarWars.com, and Variety. He lives in west-central Illinois.

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# The Best Countertop Microwaves of 2022

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

This mid-sized, mid-powered microwave is well-designed and performed well in our tests.  
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 This microwave performed well in most tests and came with a variety of special features.   
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 This affordable microwave comes with 10 power levels and essential presets, as well as offering multi-stage cooking and three stylish finishes.   
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 This extra-large microwave offers multi-stage cooking, sensor cooking, and a few presets, making it straightforward and easy to use—although the panel isn’t always easy to see in the dark.  
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 This sleek stainless-steel microwave is meant for the precision cooker, uses cyclonic inverter technology to heat food from three directions, but takes up a lot of countertop space.  
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Updated October 6, 2022

You probably don’t think about how your microwave works often—you just want it to reheat your food quickly. The truth is, most microwaves are made by the same few manufacturers and perform almost identically to one another. Since they’re so similar, it took us a while to do a microwave roundup. However, we realized many shoppers still want to know how evenly a microwave will reheat their dinner plate, how well it will fit into their kitchen, and how features differ. That’s why we put the best mid-priced countertop microwaves to the test. After looking at a dozen microwaves and comparing features, prices, user ratings, and more, we found the highly-rated Cuisinart CMW-100 Microwave Oven (available at Amazon for $179.95) is the best for most people, balancing size, wattage, and features. Ultimately, you should pick the countertop model with the wattage you need and the control panel that makes sense to you, in the size that fits. But if you don’t know where to start, our recommendations are here to help.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar The Cuisinart CMW-100 is our favorite countertop microwave for most people.

Best Overall Cuisinart CMW-100 Dimensions: 20.5 x 15.25 x 12.8 inches Capacity: 1 cubic feet Power: 1000 watts In a sea of average microwaves, the Cuisinart CMW-100 stands out. It hit almost every mark in testing and perfectly balances power, size, and features, making it the best countertop microwave for most people. The first thing you’ll notice is its sleek stainless-steel-and-black exterior and convenient, elegant pull handle. It also has a bright interior light, so you won’t be fumbling around to see your food. Although not overloaded with features, this Cuisinart has multi-stage cooking and a number of extra presets including bacon, rice, and baked potatoes. It excelled in our popcorn test, popping kernels evenly without burning. However, the control panel can be difficult to see in dim lighting, and the frozen dinner test left a few parts of the meal colder than we’d like despite following the box’s instructions. Still, the Cuisinart is much more impressive and distinct than almost every other microwave we’ve tested, and it would make a worthy addition to your kitchen counter. Pros Great performance Bright interior light Good size Cons Doesn’t heat as quickly as some microwaves Dim panel $179.95 from Amazon $218.47 from Walmart $199.99 from Best Buy Buy now at Home Depot

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Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar The Magic Chef 1.1 Cubic-Foot Countertop Microwave is our favorite affordable countertop microwave.

Best Value Black and Decker Digital Microwave Oven Dimensions: 19.1 x 14.8 x 11.5 inches Capacity: 0.9 cubic feet Power: 900 watts The Black and Decker EM925AB9 Digital Microwave Oven is very similar to the Magic Chef MCM990ST, but with a more modern exterior and more features. It has a child lock, multi-stage cooking, and a variety of presets. It performed well in every test except for the tomato sauce test. Pros Useful presets Modern look Cons Slightly small Not very quick at heating $114.99 from Amazon

Magic Chef HMM1110B Dimensions: ‎23 x 18.5 x 14.5 inches Capacity: 1.1 cubic feet Power: 1000 watts The surprisingly sturdy Magic Chef passed all our food tests with flying colors, and it's one of the few microwaves at this low price point that also offers multi-stage cooking. While it's a pretty typical microwave, its average power and space is enough to handle most microwave tasks. With 10 power levels and essential presets, this model has everything you need. It is available in black, white, and stainless steel finishes, and it has almost retro-looking control panel. Pros Affordable 10 power levels Multiple finishes Cons None that we could find Buy now at Amazon $125.84 from Walmart Buy now at Home Depot

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Toshiba ML-EM45P Dimensions: 17.91 x 21.77 x 12.87 inches Capacity: 1.6 cubic feet Power: 1200 watts The Toshiba EM45P Countertop Microwave Oven with Smart Sensor is the next-best performing microwave after our badge winners, and except for its size, it’s very similar to the rest of the mid-ranking units in this roundup. Its size may be useful to some, but it may be too large for people with small kitchens. This unit excelled in the popcorn and frozen dinner tests, although it couldn’t heat tomato sauce to a suitable temperature in the recommended time. It offers multi-stage cooking, sensor cooking, and a few presets, making it straightforward and easy to use—but the panel isn’t always easy to see in the dark. Its aesthetic could be described as functional, rather than beautiful. Ultimately, this is a quality model, considering its size and price. Pros Sensor cooking Fine performance Attractive design Cons Too large Not the most even heating $149.99 from Amazon   
  
 Panasonic NN-SD975S Countertop Cyclonic Wave Inverter Microwave Dimensions: 23.88 x 19.44 x 14 inches Capacity: 2.2 cubic feet Power: 1250 watts We were excited to test the Panasonic NN-SD975S after several Reviewed readers asked us about cyclonic wave inverter technology. The patented technology means the microwave heats foods using radio waves that cover three directions—up/down, left/right, and front/back—rather than the usual two—left/right and up/down. It's meant to help food heat evenly, and offer more consistent microwaving performance while heating multiple things in quick succession, like several bags of popcorn. However, our food tests didn't prove any real differences in successfully heating our food than models that rely on single inverter technology. This stainless-steel microwave is a beauty though, and it's one of the best-looking kitchen appliances to come into the Reviewed labs. It includes three stages of multi-stage cooking and has more sensor cooking options than other microwaves we've tested. However, it is meant for the precision cooker, rather than your average user who just wants to quickly heat up leftovers, make a cup of tea, or pop some popcorn. Its control panel includes actual buttons that depress, and it features a responsive dial that rotates smoothly. If you haven’t used a microwave with a dial instead of a numeric keypad, it may take a moment to get used to. Be aware that this microwave oven will require more countertop real estate than most. Pros Beautifully designed Responsive buttons and dial Heats food evenly Cons Takes up a lot of countertop space $381.29 from Amazon $546.14 from Walmart

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Magic Chef MCM990ST Dimensions: 14.6 x 19.1 x 11.3 inches Capacity: 0.9 cubic feet Power: 900 watts The Magic Chef MCM990ST Countertop Oven has a stainless steel front, but its looks are still on the dated side. It popped popcorn well and adequately heated frozen dinners and tomato sauce. It’s a fine, basic microwave at an affordable price, but it’s too small for more substantial cooking. Pros Fine performance Affordable Cons Old-fashioned design Slightly small Buy now at Amazon $121.54 from Walmart $119.99 from BuyDig.com

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The Best Toaster Ovens The Best Popcorn Poppers The Best Air Fryers Here’s why you should never waste your money on an expensive microwave

You probably don’t think about how your microwave works often—you just want it to reheat your food quickly. The truth is, most microwaves are made by the same few manufacturers and perform almost identically to one another. Since they’re so similar, it took us a while to do a microwave roundup. However, we realized many shoppers still want to know how evenly a microwave will reheat their dinner plate, how well it will fit into their kitchen, and how features differ. That’s why we put the best mid-priced countertop microwaves to the test.

After looking at a dozen microwaves and comparing features, prices, user ratings, and more, we found the highly-rated Cuisinart CMW-100 Microwave Oven (available at Amazon for $179.95) is the best for most people, balancing size, wattage, and features. Ultimately, you should pick the countertop model with the wattage you need and the control panel that makes sense to you, in the size that fits. But if you don’t know where to start, our recommendations are here to help.

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The first thing you’ll notice is its sleek stainless-steel-and-black exterior and convenient, elegant pull handle. It also has a bright interior light, so you won’t be fumbling around to see your food. Although not overloaded with features, this Cuisinart has multi-stage cooking and a number of extra presets including bacon, rice, and baked potatoes. It excelled in our popcorn test, popping kernels evenly without burning.

However, the control panel can be difficult to see in dim lighting, and the frozen dinner test left a few parts of the meal colder than we’d like despite following the box’s instructions. Still, the Cuisinart is much more impressive and distinct than almost every other microwave we’ve tested, and it would make a worthy addition to your kitchen counter.

Great performance   
  
 Bright interior light   
  
 Good size   
  
 Doesn't heat as quickly as some microwaves   
  
 Dim panel

The Magic Chef 1.1 Cubic-Foot Countertop Microwave is our favorite affordable countertop microwave.

The Black and Decker EM925AB9 Digital Microwave Oven is very similar to the Magic Chef MCM990ST, but with a more modern exterior and more features. It has a child lock, multi-stage cooking, and a variety of presets. It performed well in every test except for the tomato sauce test.

Useful presets   
  
 Modern look   
  
 Slightly small   
  
 Not very quick at heating

The surprisingly sturdy Magic Chef passed all our food tests with flying colors, and it’s one of the few microwaves at this low price point that also offers multi-stage cooking.

While it’s a pretty typical microwave, its average power and space is enough to handle most microwave tasks. With 10 power levels and essential presets, this model has everything you need. It is available in black, white, and stainless steel finishes, and it has almost retro-looking control panel.

Affordable   
  
 10 power levels   
  
 Multiple finishes   
  
 None that we could find

The Toshiba EM45P Countertop Microwave Oven with Smart Sensor is the next-best performing microwave after our badge winners, and except for its size, it’s very similar to the rest of the mid-ranking units in this roundup. Its size may be useful to some, but it may be too large for people with small kitchens.

This unit excelled in the popcorn and frozen dinner tests, although it couldn’t heat tomato sauce to a suitable temperature in the recommended time. It offers multi-stage cooking, sensor cooking, and a few presets, making it straightforward and easy to use—but the panel isn’t always easy to see in the dark. Its aesthetic could be described as functional, rather than beautiful. Ultimately, this is a quality model, considering its size and price.

Sensor cooking   
  
 Fine performance   
  
 Attractive design   
  
 Too large   
  
 Not the most even heating

We were excited to test the Panasonic NN-SD975S after several Reviewed readers asked us about cyclonic wave inverter technology. The patented technology means the microwave heats foods using radio waves that cover three directions—up/down, left/right, and front/back—rather than the usual two—left/right and up/down.

It’s meant to help food heat evenly, and offer more consistent microwaving performance while heating multiple things in quick succession, like several bags of popcorn. However, our food tests didn’t prove any real differences in successfully heating our food than models that rely on single inverter technology.

This stainless-steel microwave is a beauty though, and it’s one of the best-looking kitchen appliances to come into the Reviewed labs. It includes three stages of multi-stage cooking and has more sensor cooking options than other microwaves we’ve tested. However, it is meant for the precision cooker, rather than your average user who just wants to quickly heat up leftovers, make a cup of tea, or pop some popcorn.

Its control panel includes actual buttons that depress, and it features a responsive dial that rotates smoothly. If you haven’t used a microwave with a dial instead of a numeric keypad, it may take a moment to get used to. Be aware that this microwave oven will require more countertop real estate than most.

Beautifully designed   
  
 Responsive buttons and dial   
  
 Heats food evenly   
  
 Takes up a lot of countertop space

The Magic Chef MCM990ST Countertop Oven has a stainless steel front, but its looks are still on the dated side. It popped popcorn well and adequately heated frozen dinners and tomato sauce. It’s a fine, basic microwave at an affordable price, but it’s too small for more substantial cooking.

Fine performance   
  
 Affordable   
  
 Old-fashioned design   
  
 Slightly small   
  
  
 Julia MacDougall  
   
  
  
 Senior Scientist

Julia is the Senior Scientist at Reviewed, which means that she oversees (and continually updates) the testing of products in Reviewed’s core categories such as televisions, washing machines, refrigerators, and more. She also determines the testing methods and standards for Reviewed’s “The Best Right Now” articles.

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Cassidy Olsen  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Cassidy covered all things cooking as the kitchen editor for Reviewed from 2018 to 2020. An experimental home chef with a healthy distrust of recipes, Cassidy lives by the “Ratatouille” philosophy that, with a few techniques and key tools, anyone can cook. She’s produced in-depth reviews and guides on everything from meal kits to stand mixers and the right way to cook an egg.

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# The Best Kids’ Audio Players of 2022

## The Tester

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

This audio player is brimming with kid-friendly features, including an interactive pixel display, a clock, a nightlight, and more.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This compact kids' audio player is portable, durable, and has the longest battery life of any player we tested.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This kids' speaker is cute and cuddly; thanks to interactive content features, it's our favorite pick for inquisitive kids and those learning to read!  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This splash-proof portable speaker easily downloads Spotify playlists that kids can customize themselves. Our favorite pick for young audiophiles!  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 With its fun, intuitive controls that include squeezing and tapping, this audio player is our favorite choice for the tactile child.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated September 23, 2022

The world of kids’ audio has come a long way since the days of sitting on the floor with a Fisher-Price record player. Today it’s hard to find such easy entertainment that kids can use independently and securely, while also giving them a break from their screens. Enter kids’ music players and kids’ audio players. In recent years we’ve been flooded with options for these screen-free entertainment options. From Toniebox to Yoto Player—all seem to have their strengths, making for a daunting choice when you’re trying to pick the best one for your kid. That’s why we decided to dig deep and heavily test all of the top-selling kids’ music players and audio players to determine which one is truly best and why. It was a hard choice. Almost all of the players we tried had their own strengths but, the robust book library and dynamic usability of the Yoto Player (available at Amazon) made it our favorite choice and won it the Best Overall slot. For our Best Value winner, we picked the Yoto Mini (available on Amazon) based on its ability to perfectly blend portability and affordability. This is a rare list, however, where there is something for everyone. Depending on your child, you may find one of our other recommendations that may better suit their needs. Read on for what we liked—and didn’t like—about each. Credit: Reviewed / Lisa Lawrence The Yoto Player had the best content selection of all the kids’ audio players and kids’ music players we tried. Best Overall Yoto Size: 4.3 x 4.3 x 4 inches Battery life: Up to 10 hours Weight: 2.44 lbs Best for ages: 3 to 12 Our absolute favorite kids’ audio player, the Yoto Player is a multi-tasking kid’s music player, podcast player, mini-radio, and storybook reader that is bursting with kid-friendly features. It—and the Yoto Player Mini—also stood out as being the two best grow-with-them options for audio players that kids would truly use from ages 3 to 12. This futuristic-looking audio player was up against some seriously stiff competition. What set it apart as our must-have choice, however, was that it seems to do everything—and it does it well—and that it has the best selection of content of all the audio players we tested. Designed for kids ages 3 to 12, the Yoto Player works with preloaded content cards that you can purchase separately. Once you play the cards while connected to Wi-Fi they are forever loaded into your Yoto, so you can access them even when you are far from the internet. If you lose the cards, never fear! They are also loaded onto your Yoto app, so you can play them via Bluetooth. The Yoto Player also delivers a lot of usefulness beyond its content card-reading function. When connected to Wi-Fi you can access a curated list of popular kid-friendly podcasts, many of which your child may already be a fan of. There are also Yoto-only offerings, like the Yoto Daily Podcast, evening meditations, and Yoto Radio. Also available through the app is a monthly rotation of free stories that you can download to blank Yoto cards, load onto your device, and own forever. We also loved that the Yoto Player functions as a Bluetooth speaker that you can connect to your phone to play any kid-friendly content you may have on it. What’s more, the Yoto Player also has a nightlight function, as well as a big, bold digital clock face that transforms into a pixel display screen that displays images while stories play, which elevates it from a static speaker to a mini entertainment system for kids. Our one complaint with the Yoto Player and the Yoto Player Mini are confusing controls. They aren’t marked in any way, so they take a dip into the online directions and a bit of trial and error. I found them to be annoying the first month of owning the Yoto, but six months in I’m feeling like a pro. Pros Cool night light feature Doubles as a clock Excellent exclusive content Inexpensive blank content cards Cons Confusing controls Buy now at Amazon

Credit: Reviewed / Janelle Randazza The Yoto Mini is a tiny little powerhouse of a screen-free audio player.

Best Value Yoto Mini Size: 1.57 x 2.76 x 2.76 inches Battery life: Up to 20 hours Weight: 9.9 ounces Best for ages: 3 to 12 The Yoto Player and the Yoto Player Mini scored exactly the same in our testing. But, when a kids’ audio player is $30 to $40 less than the competition, yet is still bursting with all of the same well-thought-out features of the original, you’ve got a serious value on your hands. The Yoto Player Mini literally fits in your pocket and its cute, transistor radio-reminiscent design makes it a fun, retro-looking player for a new generation. Our older testers loved the look of the Yoto Player Mini. The 20-hour battery life made it a great choice for long drives and trips, and the diminutive size made it perfect portable entertainment for kids that want a little bit of independence—and who want to listen to their own content while being held captive with their family members. Like the original Yoto Player, this mini version delivers a lot of usefulness beyond its content card-reading function. It connects to all of the same Yoto-only content that the Yoto Player does, and it also functions as a Bluetooth speaker and a mini clock, just like the original Yoto Player. Where it differs is that it fits in a jacket pocket, has an unbelievable 20-hour battery life, and it’s about $30 cheaper than the original. This is our favorite best-value choice, but we’d also recommend it for slightly older kids, who you want to keep off screens but want to give independent entertainment options to—particularly when traveling. Pros Super portable Excellent exclusive content Easy to set up Inexpensive blank content cards Cons Confusing controls Buy now at Amazon

Credit: Reviewed / Lisa Lawrence Storypod had the most interactive elements of all the players tested.

Best for Early Readers Storypod Size: 8.62 x 6.69 x 6.54 inches Battery life: Up to 7 hours Weight: 2.07 lbs Best for ages: 3 to 8 The snuggliest of all the speakers we tried, Storypod is a soft, pillow of a speaker, with rounded and cushiony edges. It plays stories, games, trivia, and more by way of cuddly “Crafties,” which are knit figurines that include a preprogrammed content chip. Like the Yoto, once content is loaded onto Storypod it can be played again without WiFi, so this is another great choice for long car rides and is a perfect foil for the “are we there yet” whines. Unlike with the Yoto, however, if a Crafty gets lost its content can’t be replayed or reloaded—so keep track of those toys. The only way to access that content again is by purchasing a new Crafty. What sets this speaker apart is not only the cuddly, perfect-for-bedtime feel and aesthetic, but the highly interactive content Storypod offers. There are certainly plenty of options for passive listeners, but for kids who want to dive in and be a more engaged part of the listening process, there are loads of knowledge-building Crafties with interactive quizzes and games. For kids who might not have the attention span to listen to long passages from books, this speaker will keep them engaged and entertained. This is also a terrific audio player for early readers. Their quiz card sets and read-a-long books are reminiscent of the read-along book and record sets we had in the 80s and would be a great way to help establish pre-reading skills and encourage reluctant readers. Pros Interactive content Cuddly design Good range of content Encourages learning Cons Bulky Lost Craftie results in lost content Buy now at Amazon

Credit: Reviewed / Janelle Randazza The Jooki allows users to download Spotify playlists and podcasts to their tokens and figurines.

Best for Audiophiles Jooki Size: 7.5 x 5 x 2 inches Battery life: Up to 8 hours Weight: 15.7 ounces Best for ages: 3 to 11 If you’re missing the days of the mixtape and want to expose your kid to that kind of magic, you’re going to like the Jooki. It was our favorite choice for listening to music and for budding audiophiles. Primarily a kids’ music player, this device is a sturdy little beast and truly feels indestructible. Unlike all of the other kids’ music players and kids’ audio players tested, the Jooki does not have any pre-loaded content. Instead, it allows you to create and upload either Spotify or MP3 playlists to “tokens” or figurines. The figurines are geared towards little kids, while the tokens are great for older kids. We like that the tokens are compact and portable and resemble keychain tiles. The only real issue we had with the Jooki is we missed having some options for pre-loaded content, but the ease of being able to create and load playlists so easily was fun for our testers and made it great for older kids who want to take a bit of ownership in creating the content they listen to. Pros Spotify partnership makes for excellent music content Easy-to-customize Well-priced blank content tokens Cons No preloaded content Buy now at Jooki

Credit: Reviewed / Lisa Lawrence The Toniebox inspires kids to really listen to what they're hearing.

Best for Tactile Learners Toniebox Size: 4.7 x 4.7 x 4.7 inches Battery life: Up to 7 hours Weight: 21 ounces Best for ages: 3 to 8 Credit: Reviewed / Lisa Lawrence The Toniebox inspires kids to really listen to what they’re hearing. Colorful, cute, and easy to use, the Toniebox is a great choice for kids who love a tactile experience. A vibrant, squeezable, cloth-covered cube, Toniebox is fun to hold and fun to control for smaller kids. Volume is lowered or raised by squeezing rubbery ears on the top of the unit while tapping the sides of the Toniebox allows listeners to rewind or skip ahead. We have very few complaints about the Toniebox, but the large charging port was not only bulky, it has a peg sticking out that made it tougher to pack for travel than most. The other thing that we didn’t love is—like the Storypod’s Crafties—if you lose one of the Tonies, you’ve lost the content of that Tonie until you repurchase it. Because the Tonies are so beautifully crafted and attractive to kids, we experienced little testers taking them for outings around the playroom. We can see this being a problem: It’s hard to keep your hands off of them, so we recommend storing them on a high shelf. Pros Fun tactile design Intuitive controls Adorable Tonies Excellent content selection Cons Large charging port Inability to access content if Tonies are lost Buy now at Amazon $99.99 from Best Buy

Other Audio Players for Kids We Tested Credit: Reviewed / Janelle Randazza We loved the “choose your own adventure” element to the Lunii. Lunii Size: 6.5 x 1.5 x 3.5 inches Battery life: Up to 6 hours Weight: 11.7 ounces Best for ages: 3 to 10 The Lunii is an interactive, choose-your-own-adventure device, dressed up to look like a retro radio. The Lunii is the only device we tried that has contained content, meaning there are no content cards, figurines, or pieces to lose—everything is either online waiting to be downloaded on the device or already stored within it. Given that the Lunii is super lightweight and portable, this is a great option for road trips and long flights. We appreciated that this audio player was the only one we tested that was ready to go with zero setup required. The Lunii doesn’t require Wi-Fi to work and the chunky yellow buttons and dials were easy to figure out in seconds. All it took was a quick charge before our son was on the couch with a huge smile on his face as he experimented with being the co-creator of different storylines. Unfortunately, an outdated USB-style attachment made us scramble for an old laptop to try to download fresh stories. We also found the desktop app a bit slow and glitchy. Neither of those are dealbreakers for us, but they are things to be aware of. Pros Lightweight Cute retro design Interactive story-telling model Lots of bilingual content Easy controls Cons Outdated USB attachment Glitchy app Buy now at Amazon $84.00 from Walmart

Echo Dot Size: 3.9 x 3.9 x 3.5 inches Battery life: Plug-in only Weight: 12 ounces Best for ages: 3 to teen Does your kid ask "why" about all things, all of the time? If so the Amazon Echo Dot+ Kids’ Edition may be the right audio player for your kid. Alexa is a treasure trove of information. Between parental controls and the kid-friendly Alexa skills and audio offerings, Amazon’s kid-friendly smart speaker constantly gets high marks from reviewers. Unfortunately, for my family, it was a whole world of frustration. We spent a week trying to figure out how to add audiobooks that my son was actually interested in to his Alexa bookshelf, only to have Alexa repeatedly respond that she couldn’t find the title even after we purchased it. We eventually gave up. A cursory view of complaints online confirms this frustration is not unique, and there is no easy explanation on Amazon to help users experiencing similar frustrations. Additionally, there seems to be a reliance on tablets and other display devices for setup and usage. Since the point is screen-free time, our family just wasn’t into this one. We don’t feel comfortable with having a live microphone in our kids’ space. It can be turned off, but it doesn’t change the fact that we hate leaving our kid alone with big brother listening in. Pros Free subscription to Amazon Kids Alexa trivia, jokes, and more Cons Hard to add selected books and audio Not portable Lacks visual and tactile experience Seems to require screen access to manage content Buy now at Amazon $59.99 from Target Buy now at Home Depot $58.99 from Newegg

— How We Tested Kids’ Audio Players Credit: Reviewed / Janelle Randazza Truth be told: We loved most of the audio players we tested. The appeal of these portable speakers is simplicity. Were they easy to use? Could children figure them out without the aid of an adult? The easier one of these gadgets was for kids to use on their own, the higher they ranked in our testing. We solicited the expertise of our 7-year-old and a few of his friends, ranging from ages 3 to 8. They tested the players for ease of use and for user experience and gave us their unbiased and unfiltered feedback. To round things out, we also consulted parents. An informal poll told us that parents wanted an audio player that, first and foremost, kids could use themselves with minimal adult assistance and supervision. If there is anything we learned in our research, it’s that parents are desperate for technology that they feel is safe and that doesn’t require a ton of setup, supervision, safety features, or troubleshooting. The Tester Hi, I’m Janelle Randazza, and I’m a parenting writer at Reviewed, where I’ve reviewed everything from water guns to kids’ bikes. A child of the 80s, I searched far and wide for a modern upgrade on the portable tape deck I had as a kid, as a screen-free way to give my son independent access to media. These screen-free audio players have been a long time coming. I was excited to try them out and finally find the perfect player for my kid. The Tests Beyond the initial setup, kids needed to be able to work these music players and story-telling devices on their own. Once the adults got things up and running, we gave the audio players to the kids and observed how easy it was for them to use them and work through each of their features. Durability also ranked high. Since these players are going to get a lot of use, they needed to withstand drops, spills, and all sorts of hard knocks that little kids can put them through. To test that, we dropped each off of our dining table at a height of 2 feet and 7 inches. Because we also have a real 7-year-old at our disposal, each player got a few extra unintended drops in real-life situations as well. We then monitored for cracks and played the devices immediately after to determine durability. The content was also important. No matter how cute or durable an audio player may be, there needed to be easy access to a variety of interesting content that keeps kids engaged. We not only perused each company’s website to see what they had to offer, we requested and ordered comparable-level content to ensure that there was a level playing field when determining the children’s interest levels. Finally, we scored based on ease of portability, both around the house and for those long drives and plane rides when we are desperate for ways to keep our kids entertained. Each of these audio players was car-tested for battery life and for remote content offerings on car rides of varying lengths.

What You Should Know About Buying a Kids’ Audio Player Kids audiobook players vs kids music players Credit: Reviewed / Janelle Randazza Each audio player was kid-tested. In truth, many of the audio players we tested are dual-purpose, but some do one job better than others. If your kid is a bibliophile, you’re going to want the Yoto for its illustrious literary catalog that just keeps growing. If you have an audiophile, the Jooki is basically a traveling jukebox that downloads kids’ Spotify playlists as seamlessly as you could hope for. If you have a kiddo who loves trivia and is just learning to read, the Storypod may be your best bet. Check for battery life An 8-hour charge may sound great, but—for my family—it’s about a 12-hour ordeal to travel to visit family. Since our kid will either listen (or forget to turn off his device) during this travel time, we need a device with over 10 hours of battery life. Nothing is worse than an audio player dying mid-way through a story. Trust us on this one.  
Consider the content selection One of the things that made it tough to pick a winner was that content selection is really subjective. For my family, we wanted content that skewed a bit older and had more long-form stories to keep our son entertained. We recommend you visit each product website and search for content by age. If this is a device you only want to entertain your child until they are reading on their own, your selection may differ. However, know that kids who love to read love being read to, so finding a kids’ audio player that will still keep your 10-year-old reader engaged is a good investment in their lifelong love of reading. Kids will likely enjoy these audio players for much longer than you anticipate, so we do recommend checking the content available for their upper age range. Are you going to travel with it? A large part of our testing was with travel and portability in mind. When our kid is at home, books and Legos can always keep him occupied. When we are on the road is when we really need some good screen-free entertainment. If your main focus is to find something to occupy a young child when they wake in the middle of the night, you may want to consider a figurine-based audio reader. Those of us who like to travel light, however, will have different preferences. More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best Headphones for Kids The Best Kids’ Scooters Toniebox offers kids screen-free storytime This one gadget keeps my kids occupied for hours

The world of kids’ audio has come a long way since the days of sitting on the floor with a Fisher-Price record player. Today it’s hard to find such easy entertainment that kids can use independently and securely, while also giving them a break from their screens.

Enter kids’ music players and kids’ audio players. In recent years we’ve been flooded with options for these screen-free entertainment options. From Toniebox to Yoto Player—all seem to have their strengths, making for a daunting choice when you’re trying to pick the best one for your kid. That’s why we decided to dig deep and heavily test all of the top-selling kids’ music players and audio players to determine which one is truly best and why.

It was a hard choice. Almost all of the players we tried had their own strengths but, the robust book library and dynamic usability of the Yoto Player (available at Amazon) made it our favorite choice and won it the Best Overall slot.

For our Best Value winner, we picked the Yoto Mini (available on Amazon) based on its ability to perfectly blend portability and affordability.

This is a rare list, however, where there is something for everyone. Depending on your child, you may find one of our other recommendations that may better suit their needs. Read on for what we liked—and didn’t like—about each.

The Yoto Player had the best content selection of all the kids’ audio players and kids’ music players we tried.

Size: 4.3 x 4.3 x 4 inches Battery life: Up to 10 hours Weight: 2.44 lbs Best for ages: 3 to 12

Our absolute favorite kids’ audio player, the Yoto Player is a multi-tasking kid’s music player, podcast player, mini-radio, and storybook reader that is bursting with kid-friendly features. It—and the Yoto Player Mini—also stood out as being the two best grow-with-them options for audio players that kids would truly use from ages 3 to 12.

This futuristic-looking audio player was up against some seriously stiff competition. What set it apart as our must-have choice, however, was that it seems to do everything—and it does it well—and that it has the best selection of content of all the audio players we tested.

Designed for kids ages 3 to 12, the Yoto Player works with preloaded content cards that you can purchase separately. Once you play the cards while connected to Wi-Fi they are forever loaded into your Yoto, so you can access them even when you are far from the internet. If you lose the cards, never fear! They are also loaded onto your Yoto app, so you can play them via Bluetooth.

The Yoto Player also delivers a lot of usefulness beyond its content card-reading function. When connected to Wi-Fi you can access a curated list of popular kid-friendly podcasts, many of which your child may already be a fan of. There are also Yoto-only offerings, like the Yoto Daily Podcast, evening meditations, and Yoto Radio. Also available through the app is a monthly rotation of free stories that you can download to blank Yoto cards, load onto your device, and own forever.

We also loved that the Yoto Player functions as a Bluetooth speaker that you can connect to your phone to play any kid-friendly content you may have on it. What’s more, the Yoto Player also has a nightlight function, as well as a big, bold digital clock face that transforms into a pixel display screen that displays images while stories play, which elevates it from a static speaker to a mini entertainment system for kids.

Our one complaint with the Yoto Player and the Yoto Player Mini are confusing controls. They aren’t marked in any way, so they take a dip into the online directions and a bit of trial and error. I found them to be annoying the first month of owning the Yoto, but six months in I’m feeling like a pro.

Cool night light feature   
  
 Doubles as a clock   
  
 Excellent exclusive content   
  
 Inexpensive blank content cards   
  
 Confusing controls

The Yoto Mini is a tiny little powerhouse of a screen-free audio player.

Size: 1.57 x 2.76 x 2.76 inches Battery life: Up to 20 hours Weight: 9.9 ounces Best for ages: 3 to 12

The Yoto Player and the Yoto Player Mini scored exactly the same in our testing. But, when a kids’ audio player is $30 to $40 less than the competition, yet is still bursting with all of the same well-thought-out features of the original, you’ve got a serious value on your hands.

The Yoto Player Mini literally fits in your pocket and its cute, transistor radio-reminiscent design makes it a fun, retro-looking player for a new generation. Our older testers loved the look of the Yoto Player Mini. The 20-hour battery life made it a great choice for long drives and trips, and the diminutive size made it perfect portable entertainment for kids that want a little bit of independence—and who want to listen to their own content while being held captive with their family members.

Like the original Yoto Player, this mini version delivers a lot of usefulness beyond its content card-reading function. It connects to all of the same Yoto-only content that the Yoto Player does, and it also functions as a Bluetooth speaker and a mini clock, just like the original Yoto Player. Where it differs is that it fits in a jacket pocket, has an unbelievable 20-hour battery life, and it’s about $30 cheaper than the original.

This is our favorite best-value choice, but we’d also recommend it for slightly older kids, who you want to keep off screens but want to give independent entertainment options to—particularly when traveling.

Super portable   
  
 Excellent exclusive content   
  
 Easy to set up   
  
 Inexpensive blank content cards   
  
 Confusing controls

Storypod had the most interactive elements of all the players tested.

Size: 8.62 x 6.69 x 6.54 inches Battery life: Up to 7 hours Weight: 2.07 lbs Best for ages: 3 to 8

The snuggliest of all the speakers we tried, Storypod is a soft, pillow of a speaker, with rounded and cushiony edges. It plays stories, games, trivia, and more by way of cuddly “Crafties,” which are knit figurines that include a preprogrammed content chip. Like the Yoto, once content is loaded onto Storypod it can be played again without WiFi, so this is another great choice for long car rides and is a perfect foil for the “are we there yet” whines. Unlike with the Yoto, however, if a Crafty gets lost its content can’t be replayed or reloaded—so keep track of those toys. The only way to access that content again is by purchasing a new Crafty.

What sets this speaker apart is not only the cuddly, perfect-for-bedtime feel and aesthetic, but the highly interactive content Storypod offers. There are certainly plenty of options for passive listeners, but for kids who want to dive in and be a more engaged part of the listening process, there are loads of knowledge-building Crafties with interactive quizzes and games. For kids who might not have the attention span to listen to long passages from books, this speaker will keep them engaged and entertained.

This is also a terrific audio player for early readers. Their quiz card sets and read-a-long books are reminiscent of the read-along book and record sets we had in the 80s and would be a great way to help establish pre-reading skills and encourage reluctant readers.

Interactive content   
  
 Cuddly design   
  
 Good range of content   
  
 Encourages learning   
  
 Bulky   
  
 Lost Craftie results in lost content

The Jooki allows users to download Spotify playlists and podcasts to their tokens and figurines.

Size: 7.5 x 5 x 2 inches Battery life: Up to 8 hours Weight: 15.7 ounces Best for ages: 3 to 11

If you’re missing the days of the mixtape and want to expose your kid to that kind of magic, you’re going to like the Jooki. It was our favorite choice for listening to music and for budding audiophiles.

Primarily a kids’ music player, this device is a sturdy little beast and truly feels indestructible. Unlike all of the other kids’ music players and kids’ audio players tested, the Jooki does not have any pre-loaded content. Instead, it allows you to create and upload either Spotify or MP3 playlists to “tokens” or figurines. The figurines are geared towards little kids, while the tokens are great for older kids. We like that the tokens are compact and portable and resemble keychain tiles.

The only real issue we had with the Jooki is we missed having some options for pre-loaded content, but the ease of being able to create and load playlists so easily was fun for our testers and made it great for older kids who want to take a bit of ownership in creating the content they listen to.

Spotify partnership makes for excellent music content   
  
 Easy-to-customize   
  
 Well-priced blank content tokens   
  
 No preloaded content

The Toniebox inspires kids to really listen to what they’re hearing.

Size: 4.7 x 4.7 x 4.7 inches Battery life: Up to 7 hours Weight: 21 ounces Best for ages: 3 to 8 Credit: Reviewed / Lisa Lawrence The Toniebox inspires kids to really listen to what they’re hearing. Colorful, cute, and easy to use, the Toniebox is a great choice for kids who love a tactile experience. A vibrant, squeezable, cloth-covered cube, Toniebox is fun to hold and fun to control for smaller kids. Volume is lowered or raised by squeezing rubbery ears on the top of the unit while tapping the sides of the Toniebox allows listeners to rewind or skip ahead.

The Toniebox inspires kids to really listen to what they’re hearing.

We have very few complaints about the Toniebox, but the large charging port was not only bulky, it has a peg sticking out that made it tougher to pack for travel than most. The other thing that we didn’t love is—like the Storypod’s Crafties—if you lose one of the Tonies, you’ve lost the content of that Tonie until you repurchase it.

Because the Tonies are so beautifully crafted and attractive to kids, we experienced little testers taking them for outings around the playroom. We can see this being a problem: It’s hard to keep your hands off of them, so we recommend storing them on a high shelf.

Fun tactile design   
  
 Intuitive controls   
  
 Adorable Tonies   
  
 Excellent content selection   
  
 Large charging port   
  
 Inability to access content if Tonies are lost

We loved the “choose your own adventure” element to the Lunii.

Size: 6.5 x 1.5 x 3.5 inches Battery life: Up to 6 hours Weight: 11.7 ounces Best for ages: 3 to 10

The Lunii is an interactive, choose-your-own-adventure device, dressed up to look like a retro radio. The Lunii is the only device we tried that has contained content, meaning there are no content cards, figurines, or pieces to lose—everything is either online waiting to be downloaded on the device or already stored within it. Given that the Lunii is super lightweight and portable, this is a great option for road trips and long flights.

We appreciated that this audio player was the only one we tested that was ready to go with zero setup required. The Lunii doesn’t require Wi-Fi to work and the chunky yellow buttons and dials were easy to figure out in seconds. All it took was a quick charge before our son was on the couch with a huge smile on his face as he experimented with being the co-creator of different storylines.

Unfortunately, an outdated USB-style attachment made us scramble for an old laptop to try to download fresh stories. We also found the desktop app a bit slow and glitchy. Neither of those are dealbreakers for us, but they are things to be aware of.

Lightweight   
  
 Cute retro design   
  
 Interactive story-telling model   
  
 Lots of bilingual content   
  
 Easy controls   
  
 Outdated USB attachment   
  
 Glitchy app

Size: 3.9 x 3.9 x 3.5 inches Battery life: Plug-in only Weight: 12 ounces Best for ages: 3 to teen

Does your kid ask “why” about all things, all of the time? If so the Amazon Echo Dot+ Kids’ Edition may be the right audio player for your kid. Alexa is a treasure trove of information. Between parental controls and the kid-friendly Alexa skills and audio offerings, Amazon’s kid-friendly smart speaker constantly gets high marks from reviewers.

Unfortunately, for my family, it was a whole world of frustration. We spent a week trying to figure out how to add audiobooks that my son was actually interested in to his Alexa bookshelf, only to have Alexa repeatedly respond that she couldn’t find the title even after we purchased it. We eventually gave up. A cursory view of complaints online confirms this frustration is not unique, and there is no easy explanation on Amazon to help users experiencing similar frustrations.

Additionally, there seems to be a reliance on tablets and other display devices for setup and usage. Since the point is screen-free time, our family just wasn’t into this one. We don’t feel comfortable with having a live microphone in our kids’ space. It can be turned off, but it doesn’t change the fact that we hate leaving our kid alone with big brother listening in.

Free subscription to Amazon Kids   
  
 Alexa trivia, jokes, and more   
  
 Hard to add selected books and audio   
  
 Not portable   
  
 Lacks visual and tactile experience   
  
 Seems to require screen access to manage content

—

Truth be told: We loved most of the audio players we tested.

The appeal of these portable speakers is simplicity. Were they easy to use? Could children figure them out without the aid of an adult? The easier one of these gadgets was for kids to use on their own, the higher they ranked in our testing.

We solicited the expertise of our 7-year-old and a few of his friends, ranging from ages 3 to 8. They tested the players for ease of use and for user experience and gave us their unbiased and unfiltered feedback.

To round things out, we also consulted parents. An informal poll told us that parents wanted an audio player that, first and foremost, kids could use themselves with minimal adult assistance and supervision. If there is anything we learned in our research, it’s that parents are desperate for technology that they feel is safe and that doesn’t require a ton of setup, supervision, safety features, or troubleshooting.

Hi, I’m Janelle Randazza, and I’m a parenting writer at Reviewed, where I’ve reviewed everything from water guns to kids’ bikes.

A child of the 80s, I searched far and wide for a modern upgrade on the portable tape deck I had as a kid, as a screen-free way to give my son independent access to media. These screen-free audio players have been a long time coming. I was excited to try them out and finally find the perfect player for my kid.

Beyond the initial setup, kids needed to be able to work these music players and story-telling devices on their own. Once the adults got things up and running, we gave the audio players to the kids and observed how easy it was for them to use them and work through each of their features.

Durability also ranked high. Since these players are going to get a lot of use, they needed to withstand drops, spills, and all sorts of hard knocks that little kids can put them through. To test that, we dropped each off of our dining table at a height of 2 feet and 7 inches. Because we also have a real 7-year-old at our disposal, each player got a few extra unintended drops in real-life situations as well. We then monitored for cracks and played the devices immediately after to determine durability.

The content was also important. No matter how cute or durable an audio player may be, there needed to be easy access to a variety of interesting content that keeps kids engaged. We not only perused each company’s website to see what they had to offer, we requested and ordered comparable-level content to ensure that there was a level playing field when determining the children’s interest levels.

Finally, we scored based on ease of portability, both around the house and for those long drives and plane rides when we are desperate for ways to keep our kids entertained. Each of these audio players was car-tested for battery life and for remote content offerings on car rides of varying lengths.

Each audio player was kid-tested.

In truth, many of the audio players we tested are dual-purpose, but some do one job better than others. If your kid is a bibliophile, you’re going to want the Yoto for its illustrious literary catalog that just keeps growing. If you have an audiophile, the Jooki is basically a traveling jukebox that downloads kids’ Spotify playlists as seamlessly as you could hope for. If you have a kiddo who loves trivia and is just learning to read, the Storypod may be your best bet.

An 8-hour charge may sound great, but—for my family—it’s about a 12-hour ordeal to travel to visit family. Since our kid will either listen (or forget to turn off his device) during this travel time, we need a device with over 10 hours of battery life. Nothing is worse than an audio player dying mid-way through a story. Trust us on this one.

One of the things that made it tough to pick a winner was that content selection is really subjective. For my family, we wanted content that skewed a bit older and had more long-form stories to keep our son entertained. We recommend you visit each product website and search for content by age. If this is a device you only want to entertain your child until they are reading on their own, your selection may differ.

However, know that kids who love to read love being read to, so finding a kids’ audio player that will still keep your 10-year-old reader engaged is a good investment in their lifelong love of reading.

A large part of our testing was with travel and portability in mind. When our kid is at home, books and Legos can always keep him occupied. When we are on the road is when we really need some good screen-free entertainment. If your main focus is to find something to occupy a young child when they wake in the middle of the night, you may want to consider a figurine-based audio reader. Those of us who like to travel light, however, will have different preferences.

Janelle Randazza  
   
  
  
 Staff Writer, Parenting

Janelle Randazza is a writer/mother hybrid and taco enthusiast based out of Los Angeles, California.

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# The Best Pedal Kayaks of 2022

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

The lightweight Lynx is built for ease of transport without compromising all the bells and whistles of other Hobie models.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This is an excellent entry-level pedal kayak. It lacks some of the niceties of high-end models, but at a third the price, it's a great deal.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This compass brings all Hobie has to offer in a two-seat configuration. Both riders can pedal and/or paddle from comfortable mesh seats.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Lono Aero is cool looking and comes with lots of bells and whistles, but durability could be a concern. The pedal drive is not included.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 With four built-in rod holders and a camouflage design, the Pilot 12 is built for fishing, but is also makes a great recreational pedal kayak.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated August 6, 2022

In 1997, Hobie changed water sports with the introduction of the first pedal drive made for kayaks: the MirageDrive. Since then, the design has been riffed on by several other brands, but the MirageDrive remains at the forefront of this technology. The benefits of a pedal drive are numerous, but the common-sung praises are enhanced speed, freed-up hands for fishing, and a good leg workout. Pedal drives are also a great option for those with limited upper body strength, flexibility, or dexterity. With these advantages in mind, it’s easy to see why pedal kayaks are growing in popularity, and the Hobie Mirage Lynx (available at eBay) has brought something new to a fairly predictable line of kayaks. We’ve rounded up six of the best pedal kayaks you can get right now, so let’s dive in.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Best Overall: Hobie Mirage Lynx Hobie Mirage Lynx Given the brand’s 25-plus years of experience making pedal drives, it comes as no surprise that Hobie makes our favorite pedal kayaks. The design of the Lynx is a departure from their other models, as it’s built for ease of transport. The Lynx only weighs 47 pounds, which makes it the lightest kayak on this list—even lighter than the inflatable Lono Aero. It also has rear skid pads and a stackable design to make loading it onto the roof rack or garage storage much easier. As with most newer Hobie Mirage kayaks, the Lynx comes with the MirageDrive 180 with kick-up fins and rudder, which is a major upgrade from previous drives. The fins fold up and out of the way when you inevitably hit something in shallow water, and they also allow for propulsion in both forward and reverse. And let’s not forget the many upgrades Hobie makes available, expensive though they are. The Lynx is compatible with the accessory mount, Bimini Sunshade, the very cool Hobie Mirage Sail Kit, and more. Pros Lightweight Can move in reverse Sail Kit and Bimini compatible Cons None that we could find Buy now at eBay  
Credit: Reviewed / Sarah Kovac Hobie’s MirageDrive makes kayaking possible for people who can’t use a paddle. Pelican Getaway 110 HDII The Pelican Getaway 110’s design is shockingly similar to that of the Hobie Lynx, and it sells for a third of the price. However, at 65 pounds, the Getaway 110 is 20 pounds heavier than the Lynx, and its weight capacity is 50 pounds less, at 300. The pedals cannot move the kayak in reverse, there is no included paddle, and there’s no easy way to raise and lower the rudder from your seat. Oh, and you also don’t have cupholders or holes for a kayak cart. But, people do love this model as an affordable way to get into pedal kayaking. It’s reasonably priced and has very similar basic functions to some of the higher-end models currently on the market. You’ll sacrifice the little niceties Hobie offers, but their absence won’t keep you from getting out on the water, so the Getaway 110 might be the best budget pedal kayak to start with if you’re not ready to go all-in just yet. Pros Great value Similar design to Lynx Lightweight Cons Can’t lift or lower rudder from seat No add-ons $999.99 from Amazon $999.99 from Walmart

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Hobie Mirage Compass Duo If you see kayaking as more of a team sport, it might be worth the extra money to upsize to a tandem kayak. They’re generally less expensive than buying two single kayaks of similar quality, and, in most cases, it’s easier to transport one tandem than two singles. Hobie’s Mirage Compass Duo is one such tandem kayak that integrates many of the features we love from other Mirage models: the kick-up fins and rudder protect your MirageDrive from shallow-water damage, pedaling can move the kayak forward or backward, there’s a decent amount of storage, and it has Mirage Sail Kit compatibility. Pros Holds two kayakers Compatible with Hobie accessories Dual MirageDrives Cons None that we could find Buy now at REI   
  
 Bote Lono Aero Though we’re convinced that Hobie takes the crown in the pedal kayak category, we admit we were drooling over the Bote Lono Aero inflatable kayak. You’d be hard pressed to find another kayak that looks quite this cool. But the Lono Aero is more than a pretty face. It has an impressive feature set as well: it can move forward and backward, the Apex Pedal Drive articulates in and out of the water easily, it has an opening to hold Bote’s Kula cooler behind the seat, there’s an accessory-mounting port on the nose of the boat, and it’s made of four separate air chambers (which is comforting if you’re worried about air leaks). Speaking of durability, Bote offers a two-year warranty, but we found its fine print didn’t inspire much confidence. Some items the warranty does not cover: Any puncture, cut, or abrasion sustained in normal use or damage from unreasonable uses or improper storage. Damage by extreme weather or environmental conditions. Normal wear and tear and aging of product. These exceptions could leave you high and (not so) dry in most situations where damage and punctures could occur. We haven’t dealt with Bote’s customer service, and it could be that they’re more helpful than these stipulations imply, but it’s always good to know what guarantees you have—or don’t have—when buying an expensive product. Also note that the Apex pedal drive is sold separately from the kayak itself for nearly $900. Pros Easy to transport Unique design Plenty of accessories Cons Pedal drive not included Lots of warranty fine print Buy now at Amazon $1,399.00 from Walmart

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Perception Pescador Pilot 12.0 The Pescador (or “fisherman,” in Portuguese) Pilot is a solid, no-frills kayak built for—you guessed it—fishing. It can reverse back out of that sweet little cove you couldn’t quite cast to before, and you can stay hidden with your choice of three different camouflage designs. The four molded-in rod holders are always ready to catch The Big One. The Pilot Drive propeller system on the Pilot is powered by moving the pedals in a bicycling motion (as opposed to the stair-stepper motion of the Hobie pedals), and the kayak has a max weight capacity of 475 pounds. The only other kayak we reviewed that has a weight limit at or above 450 pounds is the tandem Hobie Compass Duo. Though the Perception Pescador Pilot 12 is the best pedal kayak for fishing, it's also much beloved as a recreational pedal kayak for its stability, comfort, and value. Pros Molded-in rod holders 475-pound weight capacity Cons Heavy $2,129.00 from Amazon

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Wilderness Systems Radar 115 As with the Lono Aero, the pedal drive is sold separately from the Radar 115, so keep that in mind when you see the kayak’s low price. With the pedal drive, it ends up being one of the most expensive rigs on this list. Be that as it may, there are some things to love about the Radar 115. If you want some power to back you up when you’re tired, Wilderness Systems makes the Helix MD Motor Drive, which locks into the same spot the Helix MD Pedal Drive does, and it can motor you across the water effortlessly. The company also makes a Silent Traction Kit that keeps your paddle, poles, and other gear from making noise when they tap or rub the boat’s hull. The pedal drive is even designed for stealth, with the ability to lock the drive in a zero-draft position without removing it completely. The Helix Pedal Drive nearly doubles the price of this kayak. For not a whole lot more, you could get our top pick, the Hobie Lynx. But if you want the option of the Helix MD Motor Drive or prefer the Radar 115’s 450-pound capacity to the Lynx’s 350-pound limit, it might be better to go this route and forego Hobie’s cool add-ons. Pros Compatible with motor drive Zero-draft pedal drive Cons Expensive with pedal drive Heavy $1,045.78 from Amazon

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In 1997, Hobie changed water sports with the introduction of the first pedal drive made for kayaks: the MirageDrive. Since then, the design has been riffed on by several other brands, but the MirageDrive remains at the forefront of this technology.

The benefits of a pedal drive are numerous, but the common-sung praises are enhanced speed, freed-up hands for fishing, and a good leg workout. Pedal drives are also a great option for those with limited upper body strength, flexibility, or dexterity. With these advantages in mind, it’s easy to see why pedal kayaks are growing in popularity, and the Hobie Mirage Lynx (available at eBay) has brought something new to a fairly predictable line of kayaks.

We’ve rounded up six of the best pedal kayaks you can get right now, so let’s dive in.

The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Given the brand’s 25-plus years of experience making pedal drives, it comes as no surprise that Hobie makes our favorite pedal kayaks. The design of the Lynx is a departure from their other models, as it’s built for ease of transport.

The Lynx only weighs 47 pounds, which makes it the lightest kayak on this list—even lighter than the inflatable Lono Aero. It also has rear skid pads and a stackable design to make loading it onto the roof rack or garage storage much easier.

As with most newer Hobie Mirage kayaks, the Lynx comes with the MirageDrive 180 with kick-up fins and rudder, which is a major upgrade from previous drives. The fins fold up and out of the way when you inevitably hit something in shallow water, and they also allow for propulsion in both forward and reverse.

And let’s not forget the many upgrades Hobie makes available, expensive though they are. The Lynx is compatible with the accessory mount, Bimini Sunshade, the very cool Hobie Mirage Sail Kit, and more.

Lightweight   
  
 Can move in reverse   
  
 Sail Kit and Bimini compatible   
  
 None that we could find

Hobie’s MirageDrive makes kayaking possible for people who can’t use a paddle.

The Pelican Getaway 110’s design is shockingly similar to that of the Hobie Lynx, and it sells for a third of the price. However, at 65 pounds, the Getaway 110 is 20 pounds heavier than the Lynx, and its weight capacity is 50 pounds less, at 300. The pedals cannot move the kayak in reverse, there is no included paddle, and there’s no easy way to raise and lower the rudder from your seat. Oh, and you also don’t have cupholders or holes for a kayak cart.

But, people do love this model as an affordable way to get into pedal kayaking. It’s reasonably priced and has very similar basic functions to some of the higher-end models currently on the market. You’ll sacrifice the little niceties Hobie offers, but their absence won’t keep you from getting out on the water, so the Getaway 110 might be the best budget pedal kayak to start with if you’re not ready to go all-in just yet.

Great value   
  
 Similar design to Lynx   
  
 Lightweight   
  
 Can't lift or lower rudder from seat   
  
 No add-ons

If you see kayaking as more of a team sport, it might be worth the extra money to upsize to a tandem kayak. They’re generally less expensive than buying two single kayaks of similar quality, and, in most cases, it’s easier to transport one tandem than two singles.

Hobie’s Mirage Compass Duo is one such tandem kayak that integrates many of the features we love from other Mirage models: the kick-up fins and rudder protect your MirageDrive from shallow-water damage, pedaling can move the kayak forward or backward, there’s a decent amount of storage, and it has Mirage Sail Kit compatibility.

Holds two kayakers   
  
 Compatible with Hobie accessories   
  
 Dual MirageDrives   
  
 None that we could find

Though we’re convinced that Hobie takes the crown in the pedal kayak category, we admit we were drooling over the Bote Lono Aero inflatable kayak. You’d be hard pressed to find another kayak that looks quite this cool.

But the Lono Aero is more than a pretty face. It has an impressive feature set as well: it can move forward and backward, the Apex Pedal Drive articulates in and out of the water easily, it has an opening to hold Bote’s Kula cooler behind the seat, there’s an accessory-mounting port on the nose of the boat, and it’s made of four separate air chambers (which is comforting if you’re worried about air leaks).

Speaking of durability, Bote offers a two-year warranty, but we found its fine print didn’t inspire much confidence. Some items the warranty does not cover:

Any puncture, cut, or abrasion sustained in normal use or damage from unreasonable uses or improper storage.

Damage by extreme weather or environmental conditions.

Normal wear and tear and aging of product.

These exceptions could leave you high and (not so) dry in most situations where damage and punctures could occur. We haven’t dealt with Bote’s customer service, and it could be that they’re more helpful than these stipulations imply, but it’s always good to know what guarantees you have—or don’t have—when buying an expensive product.

Also note that the Apex pedal drive is sold separately from the kayak itself for nearly $900.

Easy to transport   
  
 Unique design   
  
 Plenty of accessories   
  
 Pedal drive not included   
  
 Lots of warranty fine print

The Pescador (or “fisherman,” in Portuguese) Pilot is a solid, no-frills kayak built for—you guessed it—fishing. It can reverse back out of that sweet little cove you couldn’t quite cast to before, and you can stay hidden with your choice of three different camouflage designs. The four molded-in rod holders are always ready to catch The Big One.

The Pilot Drive propeller system on the Pilot is powered by moving the pedals in a bicycling motion (as opposed to the stair-stepper motion of the Hobie pedals), and the kayak has a max weight capacity of 475 pounds. The only other kayak we reviewed that has a weight limit at or above 450 pounds is the tandem Hobie Compass Duo.

Though the Perception Pescador Pilot 12 is the best pedal kayak for fishing, it’s also much beloved as a recreational pedal kayak for its stability, comfort, and value.

Molded-in rod holders   
  
 475-pound weight capacity   
  
 Heavy

As with the Lono Aero, the pedal drive is sold separately from the Radar 115, so keep that in mind when you see the kayak’s low price. With the pedal drive, it ends up being one of the most expensive rigs on this list.

Be that as it may, there are some things to love about the Radar 115. If you want some power to back you up when you’re tired, Wilderness Systems makes the Helix MD Motor Drive, which locks into the same spot the Helix MD Pedal Drive does, and it can motor you across the water effortlessly.

The company also makes a Silent Traction Kit that keeps your paddle, poles, and other gear from making noise when they tap or rub the boat’s hull. The pedal drive is even designed for stealth, with the ability to lock the drive in a zero-draft position without removing it completely.

The Helix Pedal Drive nearly doubles the price of this kayak. For not a whole lot more, you could get our top pick, the Hobie Lynx. But if you want the option of the Helix MD Motor Drive or prefer the Radar 115’s 450-pound capacity to the Lynx’s 350-pound limit, it might be better to go this route and forego Hobie’s cool add-ons.

Compatible with motor drive   
  
 Zero-draft pedal drive   
  
 Expensive with pedal drive   
  
 Heavy   
  
  
 Sarah Kovac  
   
  
  
 Editor, Accessibility

Sarah Kovac is an award-winning author and accessibility editor for Reviewed. Previously, she worked with a multitude of outlets such as Wirecutter, TIME, PCMag, Prevention, The Atlantic, Reviews.com, CNN, GOOD, Upworthy, Mom.me, and SheKnows.

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# 9 Best Dog Harnesses for Walks and Car Rides of 2022

## What Are the Best Types of Dog Harnesses?

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

The vest-shaped harness is made of breathable, water-resistant neoprene and is padded for comfort, with a removable breastplate. It's easy to maneuver on and off and fits snugly without being too tight.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This comfortable harness, which comes in colorful choices, lets you transmit clear corrections to your small dog.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This truly multi-use harness is designed and sized to see your dog through any and all life stages, from rambunctious puppy to active adult, to mobility-impaired senior.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This harness includes a sturdy build, comfortable soft padding, customizable fit with multiple points of adjustment—plus the ability to attach a leash to either the back or the front.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Originally marketed for small breeds, this harness is sturdy enough for a larger dog. However, it's not very intuitive to fit.  
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Updated October 24, 2022

Some dog owners swear by nothing more than a leash and collar, while others are lost without the more supportive dog harness. Whether you have a large dog or a small dog, a good harness can keep a frisky pup from pulling on a walk, offer aid to a limited-mobility dog, or serve as a system for keeping your pet safely seat-belted in the car (which is the law in many states). Here are some of the best dog harnesses available online now.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The Dogline Unimax Multi-Purpose Harness is our best-tested dog harness.

Best Overall Dogline Unimax Multi-Purpose Harness Full disclosure: we’ve personally used a (now off-the-market) harness practically identical to the Dogline Unimax for years. And after using this model directly next to so many competitors, we’re reaffirming our allegiance to this particular design. A streamlined happy medium between an all-enveloping shell and scratchy tangle of straps, the vest-shaped harness is made of breathable, water-resistant neoprene (which scores extra credit for being washing machine safe) and is padded for comfort, with a removable breastplate. It’s easy to maneuver on and off with a simple click under each front leg, the Dogline harness fits snugly without being too tight. A heavy-duty D-ring on the back provides good leverage for either casual walks, giving corrections, or communicating with service dogs. Incidentally, since Velcro strips on the side allow for the attachment of signage, ID’s or tags, this harness is especially useful for working/service dogs, dogs in training, or in any instance when you need to transmit info about your dog to the outside world (such as “Do Not Pet,” or “Adopt Me.”) A built-in, generously-sized handle allows you to grab the dog if needed, help them up and around obstacles, or provide extra support in the case of injury or impaired mobility. The only downsides are the lack of a front-facing D-ring, and the fact that the thick adjustable straps take some muscle to use. Pros Includes a handle Comfortable Easy to put on and take off Cons Straps difficult to use Lack of front-facing D-ring Buy now at Dogline $33.94 from Amazon

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Credit: Best Pet Supplies Inc. The Voyager Step-In Harness is our favorite dog harness for small dogs.

Best for Small Dogs Best Pet Supplies Voyager Step-In Air Dog Harness Made of soft, flexible, breathable mesh, the Voyager should provide unparalleled comfort to your small dog. And while it looks like a fashion statement (it comes in 29 cute colors!) rather than a functional tool, this product received the highest praise possible from one of colleagues. She’s able to transmit clear corrections through the leash, and her terrier-type pup stopped pulling for the very first time in their walking history. And while there is limited opportunity for adjustment, we appreciate the addition of double D-rings on the back, which provide extra security on the leash. Pros Material is soft and breathable Comes in 29 colors Includes 2 D-rings Cons Limited adjustability $14.75 from Amazon $20.65 from Walmart

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Ruffwear Web Master Harness This Ruffwear product was so close to being our top pick. This truly multi-use harness is designed and sized to see your dog through any and all life stages, from rambunctious puppy to active adult, to mobility-impaired senior. Five points of adjustment and a padded web design not only ensure a perfect, chafe-free fit, but keep wriggly, Houdini-esque youngsters from wiggling loose. A large, secure, grippable handle is ideal for either helping sporty dogs up and around obstacles or guiding older or infirm doggos into cars or up sets of stairs. Reflective strips on the trim is useful for nighttime outings or reduced visibility situations, and there’s a loop for attaching an additional safety light, sold separately. The few downsides of this dog safety harness are a lack of a front-facing D-ring, the fact that it’s meant to be hand-washed, and that it may be a bit too bulky or cumbersome for some dogs. Pros Large, secure handle Includes reflective trim Cons A bit bulky for some dogs Buy now at Backcountry Buy now at Amazon

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Ruffwear Front Range Dog Harness This Ruffwear harness is a great option if you’re looking for all of the features we appreciate in the brand's Web Master harness—sturdy build, comfortable soft padding, customizable fit with multiple points of adjustment—plus a couple attachment points for a leash on either the back or the front. The webbing is further reinforced at the breastplate, so it stands up to any pulling action. It doesn’t include the supportive handle, however, so the two Ruffwear harnesses really run parallel in our rankings. Dogs that yank on the leash would be better served by the Front Range, while the Web Master is ideal for sporty or senior dogs. Pros Good for dogs who yank the leash Comfortable and sturdy Leash can attach Cons Lacks supportive handle Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Joyride Pug Life Harness The popular Joyride Harness gives a portion of proceeds to dog rescue, which is always an upside in our book. Originally marketed as Pug Life, it was a top-selling model for owners of small breeds. However, it has a sturdy enough build and durable hardware (a D ring on the back and one on each side, plus a small handle) for a larger dog. We also appreciate the reflective trim and one-year warranty with free exchanges. With one adjustable Velcro strap around the chest plate and an adjustable clip around the belly, it’s not especially intuitive to fit, however, and has a tendency to loosen and slip from side to side on a walk. Pros Good for small and large dogs Includes reflective trim Cons Difficult to fit Buy now at Joyride Harness

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Kurgo Tru-Fit Smart Dog Walking Harness There are definite upsides to the Kurgo Tru-Fit Smart Dog Walking Harness. It boasts both a back and front D-ring, 5 points of adjustment, and comes with a 10-inch tether that can be used as a seatbelt. It’s made of heavy-duty materials that feel durable and long-lasting, provides good leverage against pulling, and transmits corrections effectively through the leash. But the D-rings are a bit small, making it trickier to clip the leash on. There’s no padding, no reflective stitching or trim and the straps—which connect through a triangle-shaped clasp on the front—tend to shift around and twist, which can catch in a dog’s fur, lead to chafing, and cause overall discomfort. Pros Includes tether for seatbelt Adjustable Durable Cons No padding Clasp could catch on dog's fur Buy now at Chewy $16.75 from Amazon   
  
 Puppia RiteFit Harness Super lightweight and made of all-weather mesh, the Puppia Authentic RiteFit vest-style harness scores points for comfort and flexibility. Owners may find the amount of hardware cumbersome—there are three clasps, two D-rings, and Velcro fasteners around the neck and straps under the belly—so it doesn’t exactly slip on and off. That said, it adds an element of security and opportunities for adjustment and a customized fit, that aren’t often found in basic mesh vests. Pros Comfortable Flexible Adjustable Cons Cumbersome hardware $19.20 from Amazon $20.59 from Chewy

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2 Hounds Design Freedom No-Pull Dog Harness Front-facing no pull dog harnesses like the 2 Hounds Design Freedom are specifically geared towards problem pullers, by allowing owners to give sideways corrections (instead of playing tug of war with the dog from behind, you angle their body towards you). They also tighten across the chest, as a form of correction when yanked. And this model actually comes with a few options, since a double-ended leash can be attached to either the front or back D-rings or even both at the same time for extra control. Bonus points for the lifetime warranty against chewing. But besides being frustrating to fit (the Freedom is a rather complicated jumble of interlocking straps, with a bare minimum of padding) we wouldn’t recommend this harness for anyone other than experienced handlers or dog trainers. If used incorrectly, you could wind up encouraging the very behaviors you’re trying to avoid or even cause bodily injury. Pros Several correction options Lifetime warranty Cons Frustrating to fit Lacks padding Buy now at Chewy Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Noxgear LightHound The Noxgear Lighthound Reflective definitely delivers on its selling point—unrivaled illumination. With the push of a button, it transitions between eight solid and flashing LED fiber optic lights, that are water-resistant, run on a 12-hour battery charge, and are visible from half a mile away. But while it would be fun as a novelty outfit, we could never recommend this harness for actual walking. No matter how we adjusted it, the front strap pulls and compresses dangerously against the trachea. Pros Fun novelty lights Cons Front strap pulls dangerously against dog Buy now at Amazon $59.95 from Walmart

How We Tested Why Use a Dog Harness? Many dog owners turn to harnesses in order to maintain better control of their pups on a walk and help obtain leverage against pulling behaviors. Small breed owners often favor them, as they guard against injury by dispersing leash pressure from a dog’s neck to larger parts of the body. Harnesses also have uses beyond walking. They can be used to help secure a dog safely in cars, offer support to dogs with injuries and mobility issues, and can accommodate tags for service dogs. What Are the Best Types of Dog Harnesses? Back Clip Harness: The most common harness configuration, it has a D-ring on the back for connecting to the leash. It’s generally comfortable for dogs, directing pressure away from the trachea, but doesn’t necessarily offer a great deal of control. Front Clip Harness: Geared towards addressing pulling, the D-ring is positioned on the chest plate, instead of the back. So when a dog pulls, or a correction is given on the leash, it draws a dog’s body towards the owner instead of away from them. There is an increased chance of injury when not properly fitted and used, however. Multi-Clip Harness: As indicated, this design has D-rings on the front and the back, providing more options to the owner and dog. They tend to be more expensive, though, and contain more material, which can be hot or chafe against the dog’s skin. These three basic harnesses break down further, by the method used to put them on. Over-the-Head Harness: Since it has a full head enclosure (which offers good weight distribution and control) it slips over the dog head-first, before being adjusted and clipped around the legs. This motion may be intimidating to dogs who are hand shy, or difficult to perform with high energy/unwilling dogs. Step-In Harness: Since it maneuvers over the legs first, dogs can literally step right in, before having the harness snapped over their back. That said, it can be tricky with dogs who don’t like having their legs manipulated. Which Harness Is Right for My Dog? Take stock of your dog’s size (do you have a big dog or a tiny pup), needs and temperament, to determine what your harness would be primarily used for. Calm companions are probably best served by back-clip harnesses, while exuberant pullers may benefit from a front-clip. Sporty dogs will appreciate harnesses made of lightweight material with fewer clips, while senior or decreased mobility dogs require harnesses that distribute weight for added support. What Do I Look for When Buying a Harness? Once you’ve determined the style of harness, there are other factors to consider. What material is it made out of? Will my dog be able to chew through it, or will it scratch against their skin? Can it be easily washed and dried? What about the buckles and rings? Are they sturdy? Will they give way or snap? Ideally, a harness will offer four to five adjustment points for a perfect fit, otherwise, the harness can chafe a dog, rotate side to side and impede walking (or cause injury) or offer opportunities to escape. Finally, there are special features to consider. Reflective harnesses that include reflective stitching or a reflective strip are useful for walking dogs at night, or in reduced visibility situations. Vest-style harnesses with handles are good for added support. And some harnesses have Velcro strips allowing you to attach stickers, like “Service Dog” or “Therapy Dog.” How to Measure a Dog for a Harness Brands all use similar measurements to create different sizes. To find out which size is best for your dog, measure the circumference of the broadest part of their chest, the thinnest part of their neck, and the length of their back from the base of the neck to the base of the tail, and take their weight. If your dog falls somewhere in the middle of recommended sizes, opt for the larger one, as long as it can be effectively adjusted for a proper fit. More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best Dog Leashes The Best Dog Poop Bags The Best Dog Nail Clippers

The Best Dog Beds The Best Pet Carriers

Some dog owners swear by nothing more than a leash and collar, while others are lost without the more supportive dog harness. Whether you have a large dog or a small dog, a good harness can keep a frisky pup from pulling on a walk, offer aid to a limited-mobility dog, or serve as a system for keeping your pet safely seat-belted in the car (which is the law in many states).

Here are some of the best dog harnesses available online now.

The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

The Dogline Unimax Multi-Purpose Harness is our best-tested dog harness.

Full disclosure: we’ve personally used a (now off-the-market) harness practically identical to the Dogline Unimax for years. And after using this model directly next to so many competitors, we’re reaffirming our allegiance to this particular design.

A streamlined happy medium between an all-enveloping shell and scratchy tangle of straps, the vest-shaped harness is made of breathable, water-resistant neoprene (which scores extra credit for being washing machine safe) and is padded for comfort, with a removable breastplate.

It’s easy to maneuver on and off with a simple click under each front leg, the Dogline harness fits snugly without being too tight. A heavy-duty D-ring on the back provides good leverage for either casual walks, giving corrections, or communicating with service dogs.

Incidentally, since Velcro strips on the side allow for the attachment of signage, ID’s or tags, this harness is especially useful for working/service dogs, dogs in training, or in any instance when you need to transmit info about your dog to the outside world (such as “Do Not Pet,” or “Adopt Me.”)

A built-in, generously-sized handle allows you to grab the dog if needed, help them up and around obstacles, or provide extra support in the case of injury or impaired mobility. The only downsides are the lack of a front-facing D-ring, and the fact that the thick adjustable straps take some muscle to use.

Includes a handle   
  
 Comfortable   
  
 Easy to put on and take off   
  
 Straps difficult to use   
  
 Lack of front-facing D-ring

The Voyager Step-In Harness is our favorite dog harness for small dogs.

Made of soft, flexible, breathable mesh, the Voyager should provide unparalleled comfort to your small dog. And while it looks like a fashion statement (it comes in 29 cute colors!) rather than a functional tool, this product received the highest praise possible from one of colleagues.

She’s able to transmit clear corrections through the leash, and her terrier-type pup stopped pulling for the very first time in their walking history.

And while there is limited opportunity for adjustment, we appreciate the addition of double D-rings on the back, which provide extra security on the leash.

Material is soft and breathable   
  
 Comes in 29 colors   
  
 Includes 2 D-rings   
  
 Limited adjustability

This Ruffwear product was so close to being our top pick. This truly multi-use harness is designed and sized to see your dog through any and all life stages, from rambunctious puppy to active adult, to mobility-impaired senior. Five points of adjustment and a padded web design not only ensure a perfect, chafe-free fit, but keep wriggly, Houdini-esque youngsters from wiggling loose.

A large, secure, grippable handle is ideal for either helping sporty dogs up and around obstacles or guiding older or infirm doggos into cars or up sets of stairs.

Reflective strips on the trim is useful for nighttime outings or reduced visibility situations, and there’s a loop for attaching an additional safety light, sold separately.

The few downsides of this dog safety harness are a lack of a front-facing D-ring, the fact that it’s meant to be hand-washed, and that it may be a bit too bulky or cumbersome for some dogs.

Large, secure handle   
  
 Includes reflective trim   
  
 A bit bulky for some dogs

This Ruffwear harness is a great option if you’re looking for all of the features we appreciate in the brand’s Web Master harness—sturdy build, comfortable soft padding, customizable fit with multiple points of adjustment—plus a couple attachment points for a leash on either the back or the front.

The webbing is further reinforced at the breastplate, so it stands up to any pulling action. It doesn’t include the supportive handle, however, so the two Ruffwear harnesses really run parallel in our rankings. Dogs that yank on the leash would be better served by the Front Range, while the Web Master is ideal for sporty or senior dogs.

Good for dogs who yank the leash   
  
 Comfortable and sturdy   
  
 Leash can attach   
  
 Lacks supportive handle

The popular Joyride Harness gives a portion of proceeds to dog rescue, which is always an upside in our book. Originally marketed as Pug Life, it was a top-selling model for owners of small breeds. However, it has a sturdy enough build and durable hardware (a D ring on the back and one on each side, plus a small handle) for a larger dog.

We also appreciate the reflective trim and one-year warranty with free exchanges. With one adjustable Velcro strap around the chest plate and an adjustable clip around the belly, it’s not especially intuitive to fit, however, and has a tendency to loosen and slip from side to side on a walk.

Good for small and large dogs   
  
 Includes reflective trim   
  
 Difficult to fit

There are definite upsides to the Kurgo Tru-Fit Smart Dog Walking Harness. It boasts both a back and front D-ring, 5 points of adjustment, and comes with a 10-inch tether that can be used as a seatbelt. It’s made of heavy-duty materials that feel durable and long-lasting, provides good leverage against pulling, and transmits corrections effectively through the leash.

But the D-rings are a bit small, making it trickier to clip the leash on. There’s no padding, no reflective stitching or trim and the straps—which connect through a triangle-shaped clasp on the front—tend to shift around and twist, which can catch in a dog’s fur, lead to chafing, and cause overall discomfort.

Includes tether for seatbelt   
  
 Adjustable   
  
 Durable   
  
 No padding   
  
 Clasp could catch on dog's fur

Super lightweight and made of all-weather mesh, the Puppia Authentic RiteFit vest-style harness scores points for comfort and flexibility.

Owners may find the amount of hardware cumbersome—there are three clasps, two D-rings, and Velcro fasteners around the neck and straps under the belly—so it doesn’t exactly slip on and off.

That said, it adds an element of security and opportunities for adjustment and a customized fit, that aren’t often found in basic mesh vests.

Comfortable   
  
 Flexible   
  
 Adjustable   
  
 Cumbersome hardware

Front-facing no pull dog harnesses like the 2 Hounds Design Freedom are specifically geared towards problem pullers, by allowing owners to give sideways corrections (instead of playing tug of war with the dog from behind, you angle their body towards you).

They also tighten across the chest, as a form of correction when yanked. And this model actually comes with a few options, since a double-ended leash can be attached to either the front or back D-rings or even both at the same time for extra control. Bonus points for the lifetime warranty against chewing.

But besides being frustrating to fit (the Freedom is a rather complicated jumble of interlocking straps, with a bare minimum of padding) we wouldn’t recommend this harness for anyone other than experienced handlers or dog trainers. If used incorrectly, you could wind up encouraging the very behaviors you’re trying to avoid or even cause bodily injury.

Several correction options   
  
 Lifetime warranty   
  
 Frustrating to fit   
  
 Lacks padding

The Noxgear Lighthound Reflective definitely delivers on its selling point—unrivaled illumination. With the push of a button, it transitions between eight solid and flashing LED fiber optic lights, that are water-resistant, run on a 12-hour battery charge, and are visible from half a mile away.

But while it would be fun as a novelty outfit, we could never recommend this harness for actual walking. No matter how we adjusted it, the front strap pulls and compresses dangerously against the trachea.

Fun novelty lights   
  
 Front strap pulls dangerously against dog

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Take stock of your dog’s size (do you have a big dog or a tiny pup), needs and temperament, to determine what your harness would be primarily used for. Calm companions are probably best served by back-clip harnesses, while exuberant pullers may benefit from a front-clip. Sporty dogs will appreciate harnesses made of lightweight material with fewer clips, while senior or decreased mobility dogs require harnesses that distribute weight for added support.

Once you’ve determined the style of harness, there are other factors to consider. What material is it made out of? Will my dog be able to chew through it, or will it scratch against their skin? Can it be easily washed and dried? What about the buckles and rings? Are they sturdy? Will they give way or snap? Ideally, a harness will offer four to five adjustment points for a perfect fit, otherwise, the harness can chafe a dog, rotate side to side and impede walking (or cause injury) or offer opportunities to escape.

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Sarah Zorn  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Sarah Zorn is a food writer, cookbook author, and product tester for Reviewed, Wirecutter and the Food Network. She regularly contributes to outlets such as Saveur, Esquire, and Civil Eats, and has very much passed her food obsessions down, as her beloved rescue hound, Rowdy, regularly deglazes his kibble bowl.

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# The Best Karaoke Machines of 2022

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

With nine color options, built-in LEDs, and on-mic controls, the Bonaok wireless karaoke microphone is a wonderful choice for on-the-go karaoke.  
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 On-mic controls offer a bevy of options including LED lights, four magic sound modes to alter your voice, and the ability to adjust vocal volume.  
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 At a mere 7.39 pounds, this karaoke machine is easy to set up and comes with a microphone stand to hold your mic, lyrics sheet, or phone.  
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 While this isn’t the flashiest karaoke machine, it is the best long-range option on our list, with a transmission range of 196 feet in open space.  
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 Built-in Bluetooth offers stable transmissions at long distances; it also supports a Micro TF memory card and Flash USB connectivity.  
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Updated April 15, 2022

Fun for all ages, karaoke machines are a great way to kick off any celebration. However, with a wide range of functions and effects, it can be easy to lose sight of what features are important when picking one out. Karaoke machine options can come in a number of different setups, each with their own pros and cons. The ability to use one or more microphones, add vocal effects, and pairing capabilities all play a part in usability and satisfaction when it comes to this at-home party starter. And the number of machines available on the market can be intimidating when you’re just looking to have fun. No matter your needs, we’ve found the best karaoke machine options for the ultimate performance, all available on Amazon now.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Bonaok Wireless Bluetooth Karaoke Microphone With nine color options, built-in LEDs, and on-mic controls, the Bonaok wireless Bluetooth karaoke microphone is a wonderful choice for an on-the-go karaoke experience. Unlike larger karaoke options, the Bonaok wireless microphone makes it easy to take your show on the road, complete with its own carrying case and a long 10-hour use time when fully charged. Built-in LED lights, and voice and volume functions, keep everything you need in one place, so there’s no need to worry about long, frustrating setup times. Long-pressing the M button on this microphone controls the LED function if you’re looking for a more somber solo but when engaged the louder you sing the brighter the light you’ll get. Working easily with Bluetooth and audio-connect capabilities, the Bonaok karaoke microphone can be used as a speaker or recorder and is compatible with both smartphones and outside speakers. Though some users would prefer a reverb option, this karaoke microphone only offers a slight echo, and is definitely an at home option rather than recommended for use at larger parties. Pros Lightweight Comes with carrying case Variety of color options Cons No reverb (echo instead) Not for large gatherings Buy now at Amazon

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Amazmic Kids Karaoke Microphone Made of aluminum alloy, the Amazmic Kids Karaoke Microphone is the kid-friendly option on our list. Another option with a full range of colors, this Bluetooth microphone is inexpensive and has a range of up to 33 feet. While usage time is about half as long as other options, a single charge can carry your voice from four to six hours. Weighing in at .55 pounds, this lightweight karaoke microphone is easily transported while still feeling heavy enough so as not to feel cheap. On-mic controls offer a bevy of options including LED lights, four magic sound modes to alter your voice, and the ability to adjust vocal volume making it easier to sing along to your favorite tunes. While this microphone does have three-layer noise reduction, it should be noted that reviewers do mention that the microphone on its own is not very loud, making for lessened sound quality. Although this option is made for children, kids might need help setting it up for the first couple of uses. Pros Long Bluetooth range Inexpensive Cons So-so sound quality Doesn’t get very loud May require an adult’s help Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Singsation All-in-One Karaoke Station If you’re in the market for a full stage setup, then the Singstation all-in-one karaoke station is the perfect pick for you. At a mere 7.39 pounds, this karaoke machine is easy to set up and comes with a microphone stand to hold your mic, lyrics sheet, or phone, making your performances that much more dynamic. Bluetooth capability makes it easy to connect to external speakers, and built-in lighting ensures all eyes on your performance. Ten voice effects and eight sound effects enhance even the worst singer’s vocal range. Though this is the ultimate all-in-one, some users don’t like the inability to adjust the bass in the microphone, and say that the sound output could be higher. The Singstation karaoke machine comes with one microphone, but a second can be purchased separately, along with a $6 three-year manufacturer’s warranty. Pros Easy to set up Plenty of voice and sound effects Cons May not be very loud Can’t adjust microphone and speaker volume separately Buy now at Amazon

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Tonor Wireless Microphone Don’t be fooled by the simplicity of the Tonor wireless microphone; while this isn’t the flashiest karaoke machine, it is the best long-range option on our list, with a long transmission range of 196 feet in open space. Sturdy and durable with an all metal microphone, the receiver box of the Tonor has a separate volume control for each wireless microphone. An easy setup is ensured, as the user has only to turn on the receiver and microphones in order to automatically pair. Unfortunately, the Tonor wireless microphone is not compatible with laptops, iPads, cellphones, or AV receivers, making it a more limited option as karaoke machines go. Double-A batteries ensure about a half day of usage from this professional-grade microphone system. This system would be best utilized at smaller gatherings if you’re looking for quality without the bells and whistles of other options. Pros Great for long distance use Expandable to 15 microphones Cons Not Bluetooth capable No mute button Buy now at Amazon   
  
 JYX Karaoke Machine JYX offers a few different karaoke machines, but their best-rated model is the JYX-66. Built-in Bluetooth is said to provide a more stable transmission with longer distance; it also offers the ability to support a Micro TF memory card and Flash USB connectivity. Connectivity doesn’t end there—the JYX Karaoke Machine can connect with smartphones, tablets, and PCs without cumbersome cables. This karaoke machine has built-in stereo sound and a bass speaker to provide a high-performance, optimized sound and full-range stereo reproduction. With a 6.5-inch woofer and two-inch tweeters, capabilities include voice amplification, radio play and song streaming without audio distortion at higher volumes. Included is a rechargeable battery, guaranteeing non-stop music playback for up to eight hours’ playtime on maximum volume. Separate control for battery-powered microphones as well as separate music controls are a big plus here, too, giving the user more control over their perfect performance. Users seem pleased with the versatility and ease of use with the JYX karaoke machine, calling it “better than expected” in their reviews. While the majority of comments on the JYX karaoke machine are positive, there are some mentions of microphones glitching, and some say that the speaker quality outweighs that of the microphone. If you decide to go with the affordable JYX karaoke machine, you’re sure to be pleased with the easy setup and usability. Pros Lightweight for easy transportation Comes with a remote Cons Smaller, 10-foot range So-so microphone quality Buy now at Amazon

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Fun for all ages, karaoke machines are a great way to kick off any celebration. However, with a wide range of functions and effects, it can be easy to lose sight of what features are important when picking one out. Karaoke machine options can come in a number of different setups, each with their own pros and cons. The ability to use one or more microphones, add vocal effects, and pairing capabilities all play a part in usability and satisfaction when it comes to this at-home party starter. And the number of machines available on the market can be intimidating when you’re just looking to have fun.

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With nine color options, built-in LEDs, and on-mic controls, the Bonaok wireless Bluetooth karaoke microphone is a wonderful choice for an on-the-go karaoke experience. Unlike larger karaoke options, the Bonaok wireless microphone makes it easy to take your show on the road, complete with its own carrying case and a long 10-hour use time when fully charged. Built-in LED lights, and voice and volume functions, keep everything you need in one place, so there’s no need to worry about long, frustrating setup times. Long-pressing the M button on this microphone controls the LED function if you’re looking for a more somber solo but when engaged the louder you sing the brighter the light you’ll get.

Working easily with Bluetooth and audio-connect capabilities, the Bonaok karaoke microphone can be used as a speaker or recorder and is compatible with both smartphones and outside speakers. Though some users would prefer a reverb option, this karaoke microphone only offers a slight echo, and is definitely an at home option rather than recommended for use at larger parties.

Lightweight   
  
 Comes with carrying case   
  
 Variety of color options   
  
 No reverb (echo instead)   
  
 Not for large gatherings

Made of aluminum alloy, the Amazmic Kids Karaoke Microphone is the kid-friendly option on our list. Another option with a full range of colors, this Bluetooth microphone is inexpensive and has a range of up to 33 feet. While usage time is about half as long as other options, a single charge can carry your voice from four to six hours. Weighing in at .55 pounds, this lightweight karaoke microphone is easily transported while still feeling heavy enough so as not to feel cheap.

On-mic controls offer a bevy of options including LED lights, four magic sound modes to alter your voice, and the ability to adjust vocal volume making it easier to sing along to your favorite tunes. While this microphone does have three-layer noise reduction, it should be noted that reviewers do mention that the microphone on its own is not very loud, making for lessened sound quality. Although this option is made for children, kids might need help setting it up for the first couple of uses.

Long Bluetooth range   
  
 Inexpensive   
  
 So-so sound quality   
  
 Doesn’t get very loud   
  
 May require an adult’s help

If you’re in the market for a full stage setup, then the Singstation all-in-one karaoke station is the perfect pick for you. At a mere 7.39 pounds, this karaoke machine is easy to set up and comes with a microphone stand to hold your mic, lyrics sheet, or phone, making your performances that much more dynamic. Bluetooth capability makes it easy to connect to external speakers, and built-in lighting ensures all eyes on your performance. Ten voice effects and eight sound effects enhance even the worst singer’s vocal range.

Though this is the ultimate all-in-one, some users don’t like the inability to adjust the bass in the microphone, and say that the sound output could be higher. The Singstation karaoke machine comes with one microphone, but a second can be purchased separately, along with a $6 three-year manufacturer’s warranty.

Easy to set up   
  
 Plenty of voice and sound effects   
  
 May not be very loud   
  
 Can’t adjust microphone and speaker volume separately

Don’t be fooled by the simplicity of the Tonor wireless microphone; while this isn’t the flashiest karaoke machine, it is the best long-range option on our list, with a long transmission range of 196 feet in open space. Sturdy and durable with an all metal microphone, the receiver box of the Tonor has a separate volume control for each wireless microphone. An easy setup is ensured, as the user has only to turn on the receiver and microphones in order to automatically pair.

Unfortunately, the Tonor wireless microphone is not compatible with laptops, iPads, cellphones, or AV receivers, making it a more limited option as karaoke machines go. Double-A batteries ensure about a half day of usage from this professional-grade microphone system. This system would be best utilized at smaller gatherings if you’re looking for quality without the bells and whistles of other options.

Great for long distance use   
  
 Expandable to 15 microphones   
  
 Not Bluetooth capable   
  
 No mute button

JYX offers a few different karaoke machines, but their best-rated model is the JYX-66. Built-in Bluetooth is said to provide a more stable transmission with longer distance; it also offers the ability to support a Micro TF memory card and Flash USB connectivity. Connectivity doesn’t end there—the JYX Karaoke Machine can connect with smartphones, tablets, and PCs without cumbersome cables. This karaoke machine has built-in stereo sound and a bass speaker to provide a high-performance, optimized sound and full-range stereo reproduction.

With a 6.5-inch woofer and two-inch tweeters, capabilities include voice amplification, radio play and song streaming without audio distortion at higher volumes. Included is a rechargeable battery, guaranteeing non-stop music playback for up to eight hours’ playtime on maximum volume. Separate control for battery-powered microphones as well as separate music controls are a big plus here, too, giving the user more control over their perfect performance.

Users seem pleased with the versatility and ease of use with the JYX karaoke machine, calling it “better than expected” in their reviews. While the majority of comments on the JYX karaoke machine are positive, there are some mentions of microphones glitching, and some say that the speaker quality outweighs that of the microphone. If you decide to go with the affordable JYX karaoke machine, you’re sure to be pleased with the easy setup and usability.

Lightweight for easy transportation   
  
 Comes with a remote   
  
 Smaller, 10-foot range   
  
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 Ceara Perez-Murphy  
   
  
  
 Staff Writer, Search

Ceara Perez-Murphy is a staff writer at Reviewed.

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# The Best Travel Credit Cards of 2022

## Learn more about the Chase Sapphire Preferred

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With this card, a boatload of points and rewards are in your future. You'll earn via a wide variety of purchases and receive additional point bonuses.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This travel card avoids costly fees and earns miles with every purchase, but at a lesser rate than other credit cards meant for globe-trotting.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 When it comes to shopping, dining, and other everyday purchases, Amex’s Gold Card offers plenty of points and annual rewards.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 With rewards galore, this luxury card has points for every step of the travel process. It also provides points on dining and premium subscriptions.  
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 If you want to travel at a fast and frequent pace, this rewarding card has just the thing with miles earned on every purchase and available credit for TSA PreCheck and other benefits.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated October 27, 2022

The best travel credit card will get you where you want to go with plenty of perks and rewards on purchases. Whether you’re looking for airline miles, a Global Entry or TSA PreCheck credit, or a flexible rewards program that doesn’t box you in, there’s a travel credit card for every type of traveler. Even the ones who only cash in on their vacation days every once in a blue moon. Reviewed’s experts pored through dozens of credit card terms to find the best travel rewards credit cards.

Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best Overall Chase Sapphire Preferred Card The Chase Sapphire Preferred has been a favorite travel credit card for its top-notch benefits and flexible points since it was introduced more than a decade ago. And today it’s still the No. 1 credit card for many types of travelers and it is the best card for travel points. Cardholders earn Chase Ultimate Rewards points that can be redeemed for nearly any type of excursion: flights, hotel stays, car rentals, cruises, and more. It can meet your travel whims for a reasonable $95 annual fee. Plus, Chase currently offers a welcome offer that’s worth up to $900 in its travel portal. Points: The Sapphire Preferred Card earns 2 points per dollar spent on travel, and that category has a broad definition. Think airfare, hotels, motels, car rentals, cruises, camping excursions, and help from travel agents. It also covers transportation such as trains, buses, taxis, and even tolls and parking. And if you book your getaway in the Chase portal, these purchases earn 5 points per dollar. Dining racks up 3 points per dollar, and extends to fast food joints, fine restaurants, coffee shops, takeout, and eligible delivery services. Chase also introduced perks for groceries: Online orders earn 3 points per dollar (except at Target, Walmart, and wholesale clubs, which is typical among the best credit cards for groceries). For everything between, purchases earn 1 point per dollar. If you just want cash back, Ultimate Rewards points can be redeemed at a rate of 1 point for $0.01. But take note: You’ll get your most bang for your buck using Ultimate Rewards through Chase’s travel portal where you can book hotels, cruises, car rentals, vacation rentals, and more with a value of 1.25 cents per point ($0.0125). So, 10,000 points could put a cool $100 back in your bank account or cover a $125 night in an eligible hotel. If you want to transfer points to another loyalty program, you have that option, too. And the good news is that points have the same value at a wide range of Ultimate Rewards partners such as JetBlue, Southwest, and United, and hotels include popular chains like Hyatt, IHG, and Marriott. Perks: At the moment, Chase offers a sweet welcome offer for new cardholders: Spend $4,000 on purchases within the first three months of account opening, and you’ll earn 60,000 bonus points. That’s $900 if you book travel through the issuer’s portal. Year-round, there’s a laundry list of perks, including travel accident insurance and trip cancellation/interruption insurance. You can be reimbursed for toiletries, clothing, and other essentials if your baggage is delayed more than six hours. And if your suitcase arrives damaged or is lost, there’s coverage for that, too. The Sapphire Preferred also offers primary car rental insurance coverage, so you can avoid paying extra for insurance with the rental company. If something happens to your rental car, you won’t have to first make a claim with your own insurance policy. Last but not least, it does not have foreign transaction fees, which is key to saving up to 3% when traveling internationally. Learn more about the Chase Sapphire Preferred Pros High reward rate Robust rewards program Good travel perks Cons Annual fee

Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best no-annual-fee Capital One VentureOne Credit Card The VentureOne has an uncomplicated program that rewards you with miles for every purchase, and there’s even an introductory bonus that can offer a windfall for your next trip. Best of all, it’s one of the few no-annual-fee cards that doesn’t charge foreign transaction fees. Points: Cardholders earn 1.25 miles per dollar spent across the board and 5 miles per dollar on hotels and car rentals through Capital One’s portal. There’s a few ways to redeem rewards: You can arrange for flights, hotels, and car rentals through Capital One’s Rewards Center. Transfer your miles to more than a dozen loyalty programs such as Air Canada and British Airways. Capital One recently introduced new 1:1 partners, including Wyndham Rewards. Perks: There’s 0% introductory APR for 15 months on new purchases and balance transfers. Any balance transfer includes a 3% fee on the amounts transferred within the first 15 months. After the introductory period ends a variable rate (17.99% - 27.99%) applies. Cardholders can also rack up 20,000 miles if they spend $500 on purchases within the first three months. If you like what you’re reading, you may also want to consider the Capital One Venture Rewards Credit Card. It does carry a $95 annual fee, but it comes with a higher rewards rate and credit for Global Entry or TSA PreCheck applications. Learn more about the Capital One VentureOne Rewards Credit Card Pros No annual fee No foreign transaction fees Cons Not many travel perks Low reward rate

Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best Upgrade American Express Gold Card Are you willing to pay a little more than the $95 per year but don’t want to go all in on a card with a $500 annual fee? Enter the AmEx Gold. It comes with a $250 price tag, but you can virtually knock out the annual fee if you take advantage of various credits. Plus, you’ll have access to sweet travel perks, including professionals who can help square away hotel reservations and transportation. See rates and fees. Points: The AmEx Gold earns 4X points on restaurants anywhere in the world, and 4X points at U.S. supermarkets—a great rate any day of the year, whether you’re at home or stocking a vacation rental’s fridge. (There’s a spending cap, but it’s fairly high at $25,000 per year. You can spend nearly $500 on the weekly errand and fit under it.) You’ll also earn 3X points on travel booked directly with an airline as well as airfare purchased through the issuer’s rewards portal. For everything between, you’re looking at 1X points. When it comes to redemption options, travelers can transfer to airline or hotel partners such as Aer Lingus, Etihad Guest, and Hawaiian Airlines or as a statement credit or gift card. There’s always the option to book through AmEx Travel, too. Perks: If you run into any trouble, there’s coverage for lost or damaged baggage, credits for meals and lodging if your trip is delayed more than 12 hours, and car rental damage insurance. Plus, when you’re more than 100 miles away from home, the Global Assist hotline is a phone call away to help with replacing passports and medical or legal emergencies. There are no foreign transaction fees, though of course, American Express cards are not accepted everywhere overseas. As always, terms apply. See rates and fees. Learn more about the American Express Gold Card Pros Robust rewards program No foreign transaction fees Cons Annual fee

Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best Luxury Chase Sapphire Reserve The Chase Sapphire Reserve is a premium travel credit card with incredibly valuable benefits. No surprise: It has a high annual fee of $550, but its excellent returns quickly make it worthwhile for those who like to travel in style. Points: The Sapphire Reserve offers 3 Chase Ultimate Rewards points per $1 spent on travel after you spend $300 in the category (which is reimbursed with an annual credit). It also earns 3 Ultimate Rewards points on dining (restaurants, casual eateries, and coffee shops) and 1 point per $1 spent on all other purchases. Ultimate Rewards points can be used to book hotels, cruises, car rentals, vacation rentals, and tourist activities directly through Chase’s travel portal where they’re worth 1.5 cents each ($0.015). So, a cross country flight that would cost $500 on an airline’s website could equal 37,500 points (worth $375 if redeemed for cash) if you bought it through Chase’s travel portal. For additional flexibility, you can combine points with frequent flyer miles at certain programs, including Emirates, Singapore Airlines, and JetBlue. There’s three hotel partners: Hyatt, IHG, and Marriott. For a rewards boost, cardholders can book excursions through the Chase travel portal to rack up 10 points per dollar on dining, hotel stays, and car rentals, and 5 points per dollar on flights. It’s also possible to earn 80,000 bonus points if you spend $4,000 on purchases in the first 3 months of opening an account. That translates to $1,200 that can be used towards travel costs when redeemed through the Chase Ultimate Rewards program. Perks: The Sapphire Reserve offers a $300 travel credit each year, where the first $300 in travel purchases (from taxi fares to hotels and flights) made on your card will be refunded via a statement credit, effectively reducing the annual fee to $250. You’ll benefit from trip delay coverage, trip cancellation coverage, and lost and damaged baggage coverage. In other words, you may be able to get away without purchasing additional travel insurance, including when renting a car. Primary car rental insurance covers up to $75,000 in physical damages or theft, meaning you don’t have to make a claim to your own insurance policy first. You’ll also receive credit for a Global Entry or TSA PreCheck application every four years, and a Priority Pass Select Membership that gives you access to more than 1,200 airport lounges across the world. These travel benefits can save you time and hassle, and maybe keep you a little saner, when you’re dealing with the madness of an airport. Finally, the Chase Sapphire Reserve doesn’t charge foreign transaction fees for purchases made abroad, an absolute must if you plan to travel internationally. Learn more about the Chase Sapphire Reserve Pros High reward rate Robust rewards program Good travel perks Cons Annual fee Requires excellent credit

Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best for everyday purchases Capital One Venture Rewards Credit Card The Capital One Venture Rewards Credit Card is a straightforward travel rewards credit card, and it should serve you well whether you’re on the go or at home. We’re especially encouraged by recent developments, as the issuer has announced new hotel and airline partners, introduced a 1:1 transfer tier, and it’s slated to open its own airport lounges in Dallas Fort Worth and Dulles. Points: You’ll earn an unlimited 2X miles for every purchase you make—or 5X miles on hotels and rental cars booked through Capital One’s portal. Those miles can be redeemed on airfare, hotel stays, or transferred to more than a dozen loyalty programs. Some partners are at a lower rate, but others carry the same value. Perks: Enjoy two complimentary visits per year to Capital One Lounges or to 100+ Plaza Premium Lounges through our Partner Lounge Network. Plus, every four years you can be reimbursed for up to $100 on Global Entry or TSA PreCheck fees to breeze through the airport. Renting a car? There’s an auto damage waiver that covers collision and theft. Learn more about the Capital One Venture Rewards Credit Card Pros High reward rate Robust rewards program Cons Annual fee

Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best for Jet-Setters The Platinum Card from American Express The Platinum Card plugs you into AmEx’s excellent travel concierge service, which is like having a personal travel agent a phone call away, no matter where you are in the world. Likewise, this card is a good option for frequent flyers who’d like to make use of American Express’s best-in-class Centurion Lounges, with a dozen U.S. locations and more opening across the globe. The high-end perks unsurprisingly come with a high price tag: a $695 annual fee. You’ll definitely want to use it often to make it worthwhile. Thankfully, there are plenty of credits that can help soften the blow. American Express cards aren’t widely accepted outside of the U.S.—typically only at international locations of U.S.-based hotel and restaurant chains and sometimes high-end stores. That said, wherever you can use it, the Platinum avoids foreign transaction fees. See rates and fees as terms apply. Points: The Platinum Card offers 5 Membership Rewards points per dollar on airfare purchased directly from airlines or through AmEx Travel. (There’s a $500,000 spending cap for this category.) Cardholders also earn 5 points per dollar when booking prepaid hotel stays through amextravel.com. These points can be redeemed through AmEx Travel with a value of 1 cent each ($0.01) or they can be transferred to American Express partners like British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, and Marriott Bonvoy. Perks: As you’d expect, a Global Entry or TSA PreCheck application fee is covered when it’s paid for with the card, and you can enroll in a Priority Pass Select membership to gain entry to more than 1,300 airport lounges worldwide. You’ll also have access to American Express’ Centurion Lounges (currently 12 within the U.S., plus several international lounges, with more opening every year) and Delta’s lounges when you fly with the airline. Travel concierges can assist Platinum cardholders with restaurant reservations, concert tickets, and more anywhere in the world. And with the Fine Hotels + Resorts programs, cardholders receive an average of $550 worth of complimentary perks such as late check-out and room upgrades. Learn more about the Platinum Card from American Express Pros High reward rate Robust rewards program No foreign transaction fees Cons Annual fee Requires excellent credit

Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best for Hotels IHG Rewards Premier If you hop from hotel to hotel, there are plenty of cards that will accommodate your needs. IHG loyalists have their pick of more than 5,000 properties at a range of price points. The brand includes chains like the luxe Kimpton and InterContinental hotels and more budget-friendly options like Holiday Inns. If these are your go-to hotels, the IHG Rewards Premier credit card stands out for its perks. It has an $99 annual fee, though one benefit alone—the free annual reward night certificate—can easily cover the cost. Not to mention, it includes a Global Entry, TSA PreCheck or NEXUS Statement reimbursement. Points: You’ll get up to 26 points per dollar spent at IHG hotels and 5 points at gas stations, travel, and restaurants. All other purchases earn 3 points per dollar. When you redeem your IHG points for a stay that’s three consecutive nights or longer, you’ll get your fourth night free (in effect, a 25% discount). This can be applied to an unlimited number of trips in one year. Perks: This Chase card automatically gives you high-level Platinum Elite status with InterContinental Hotels Group. That means you get benefits like late checkout, 50% more points when you stay at IHG hotels, and room upgrades. While this isn’t the chain’s highest tier, we’re not ones to complain about a few more hours to lounge in a hotel bed. The IHG Premier Card also offers a TSA PreCheck, Global Entry or NEXUS Statement credit of up to $100 every four years. Simply charge your application fee to your card, and you’ll be reimbursed with a statement credit. And you don’t need to worry about foreign transaction fees either. Finally, every year you’ll be given an anniversary credit for a free night. It can be used for rooms that cost up to 40,000 points, which can easily be worth $200 per night. Just by using this certificate each year, this card could pay for itself. Learn more about the IHG Rewards Premier Pros High reward rate Good travel perks No foreign transaction fees Cons Annual fee

Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best for Road Trips Citi Premier Experts and consumers regularly mention the Citi Premier as a worthy travel credit card, but it also is valuable when you’re filling up at the pump. Plus, it earns flexible rewards that can be redeemed for cash back, used to book travel directly through Citi, or transferred to Citi’s airline partners, including JetBlue and Virgin Atlantic. All this is yours for a $95 annual fee. Points: The Citi Premier earns 3 ThankYou points per dollar spent on airline travel, hotel stays, and at gas stations. You’ll get that top rate at restaurants and supermarkets, too, and 1 ThankYou point per dollar spent on all other purchases. If you redeem your ThankYou points for cash back, they are worth one cent each ($0.01). Transfer your points to Citi’s partners and the value can be significantly more or less, depending on the current dollar cost of the flight. The mile cost for flights booked with travel partners is generally static, so if the dollar cost is up, you could save with transferred miles. Perks: For one, you’ll never be charged foreign transaction fees when you travel abroad. And once a year, you can receive $100 off an eligible hotel stay that’s booked through Citi. Cardholders can also earn 80,000 bonus points after spending $4,000 within three months of opening their account. Learn more about the Citi Premier Pros High reward rate Robust rewards program No foreign transaction fees Cons Annual fee

Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best for Infrequent Travelers Chase Freedom Unlimited Perhaps now that you’ve dug deeper into the world of travel credit cards, you’ve realized you don’t spend enough on airfare or hotel nights to rack up rewards. In that case, we think the Freedom Flex is a worthy option. It pays to use for everyday shopping and adds a boost when booking travel through Chase. And because there’s no annual fee, you won’t have to pay for adding it to your wallet—as long as you pay your bill on time and in full, that is. Points: When cardholders book travel through Chase Ultimate Rewards, they typically earn 5% on those flights, hotel stays, car rentals and more. To up the ante, the issuer currently has an intro offer that adds 1.5% to that rate on everything (including travel) on up to $20,000 spent in the first year. That means the usual 3% at restaurants is bumped to 4.5%, whether you’re trying a hot spot around the corner from your hotel or headed to your local haunt. The rate also applies to takeout and eligible delivery services as well as drugstore purchases. That’s money in your pocket when you’re stocking up on TSA-compliant toiletries on the eve of a flight, buying SPF once you’ve touched down at a resort or even a weeknight run for toilet paper. During the intro offer, any other purchases will earn 3%, which returns to a respectable 1.5% after the first year, or if you meet the spending cap beforehand. Perks: Despite not being a travel card, the Freedom Flex does come with a few benefits for when you’re on the road. Take advantage of an auto rental collision damage waiver, trip cancellation/interruption insurance, and travel emergency services for legal and medical assistance. This is the only card on the list with a foreign transaction fee, but the Freedom Unlimited is a low maintenance, straightforward option that may work for infrequent travelers who stick to exploring the U.S. Learn more about the Chase Freedom Unlimited Pros No annual fee High reward rate Robust rewards program Cons Requires excellent credit

Other Travel Credit Cards We Tested Bank of America Travel Rewards Credit Card This no-annual-fee card earns 2 points on every purchase, and there’s no foreign transaction fees—but that’s about it in the way of travel-specific perks. Cardholders redeem rewards as a statement, so there’s no option to transfer points like with Capital One VentureOne Rewards Credit Card, even though it earns a slightly lower rate. Learn more Pros No annual fee No foreign transaction fees Cons Not many perks

U.S. Bank Altitude® Connect Visa Signature® Card This card carries a $95 annual feel, though U.S. Bank waives it for the first year. It doesn’t charge foreign transaction fees and offers a credit for Global Entry or TSA PreCheck applications every four years. While the 5X points on prepaid hotels and car rentals sounds impressive, it strictly applies to purchases made through U.S. Bank’s rewards center. That said, there’s 4X on travel and at gas stations, which can certainly add up. It’s a solid card to be sure, though we find the Citi Premier a more flexible, straightforward choice. Learn more Pros High reward rate Robust rewards program No foreign transaction fees Cons Deferred annual fee   
  
 Citi Prestige With a $495 annual fee, this luxury credit card will cost you less than the comparable Chase Sapphire Reserve—but it comes with less perks, too. If you’re comfortable with the high price tag, you may be better suited to our other slightly more expensive recommendations. Learn more   
  
 Chase Freedom Flex Cardholders earn 5% on travel booked through Chase Ultimate Rewards, plus 3% on dining and drugstore purchases. These rates are tier for tier what you’ll receive with the Chase Freedom Unlimited, though the Flex has a slightly lower 1% cash back on everything else. The main difference: The Freedom Flex has rotating bonus categories that change every quarter. While cardholders can score big on the category du jour, you’ll have to keep track of what’s what and remember to activate the rewards rate. It’s a great card—in fact, it’s our best no-annual-fee credit card—but it’s higher maintenance compared to the nearly identical Freedom Unlimited. It also carries a foreign transaction fee. Learn more Pros No annual fee High reward rate Robust rewards program Cons Requires excellent credit

Please note: The offers mentioned above were valid at time of publication but are subject to change at any time. Some may no longer be available. Reviewed has partnered with CardRatings for our coverage of credit card products. Reviewed and CardRatings may receive a commission from card issuers. See rates and fees for the American Express Gold Card. See rates and fees for The Platinum Card from American Express. Things to Know About Travel Credit Cards

Big-time rewards can mean big-time annual fees. If you’re paying to keep a travel credit card in your wallet, its benefits should outweigh the cost. With travel rewards credit cards, the annual fees are often wiped out by annual travel credits—as an example, see the Chase Sapphire Preferred Card—but take a look to make sure you find them relevant. Credit cards often carry foreign transaction fees. They’re usually around 3% and can add a significant cost to international trips. All but one of the travel rewards credit cards on this list—our pick for infrequent travelers—skip this charge to save you money.

Travel cards are marketed to those with good-to-excellent credit scores because of the high rewards potential. We put together these recommendations with that in mind. Banks have final say on who they accept for a credit card, and APR rates and credit limits vary based on your creditworthiness. \*As with any credit card, we recommend paying your balance on time and in full each month. This avoids interest charges and late payment fees and maintains a healthy credit history. Always read a credit card card’s full terms and conditions before applying. ##How We Evaluated

We looked at dozens of travel credit cards’ earning potential and redemption options, prioritizing flexibility and the ability to transfer rewards to partner airlines and hotels at valuable rates. We also considered other perks that make sense while you’re traveling, from travel accident insurance to coverage for delayed, damaged, or lost baggage. Dining benefits also scored big in our book, for those who enjoy exploring the restaurant scene when away from home. Lastly, we looked into foreign transaction fees, as they can add 3% to purchases made abroad. What to Consider When Looking for a Travel Credit Card? Check first for annual fees and then consider the rate of rewards and how long it will take for you to earn a free flight or hotel stay. Some of the best travel credit cards offer travel credits that wipe out the cost of the card’s annual fee. So don’t let an annual fee dissuade you from a travel card. Check for travel credits before you say “no.” How Do Travel Credit Cards Work? With the best travel credit cards, you earn rewards points for purchases and these points get applied to travel rewards ranging from airfares to hotel stays to cruises from the travel card’s partners. In a hurry to earn a reward? You may get a credit straight away that you can use for travel. Otherwise, you’ll have to earn the travel reward you want with the purchases that you make with the card. When you earn enough travel points, you can redeem them by signing on to your travel card’s online portal or calling an 800 number on the back of your travel card. Some issuers also allow you to redeem points through the travel card’s app. Is a Travel Credit Card Right for Me? If you love to travel and are a frequent flyer, a travel credit card is great for you. You’ll enjoy travel perks and earn travel rewards that you cash in for free flights and hotel stays. But if you only travel once in a new moon, all the travel perks and rewards may be lost on you. But you do have options. For example, the Chase Freedom Unlimited is an affordable credit card and may be a good option for people who like to travel but only a little. More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best Credit Cards The Best Luggage The Best Packing Cubes The Best Travel Pillows The Best Travel Cameras

The best travel credit card will get you where you want to go with plenty of perks and rewards on purchases.

Whether you’re looking for airline miles, a Global Entry or TSA PreCheck credit, or a flexible rewards program that doesn’t box you in, there’s a travel credit card for every type of traveler. Even the ones who only cash in on their vacation days every once in a blue moon.

Reviewed’s experts pored through dozens of credit card terms to find the best travel rewards credit cards.

The Chase Sapphire Preferred has been a favorite travel credit card for its top-notch benefits and flexible points since it was introduced more than a decade ago. And today it’s still the No. 1 credit card for many types of travelers and it is the best card for travel points.

Cardholders earn Chase Ultimate Rewards points that can be redeemed for nearly any type of excursion: flights, hotel stays, car rentals, cruises, and more. It can meet your travel whims for a reasonable $95 annual fee. Plus, Chase currently offers a welcome offer that’s worth up to $900 in its travel portal.

Points: The Sapphire Preferred Card earns 2 points per dollar spent on travel, and that category has a broad definition. Think airfare, hotels, motels, car rentals, cruises, camping excursions, and help from travel agents. It also covers transportation such as trains, buses, taxis, and even tolls and parking. And if you book your getaway in the Chase portal, these purchases earn 5 points per dollar.

Dining racks up 3 points per dollar, and extends to fast food joints, fine restaurants, coffee shops, takeout, and eligible delivery services. Chase also introduced perks for groceries: Online orders earn 3 points per dollar (except at Target, Walmart, and wholesale clubs, which is typical among the best credit cards for groceries). For everything between, purchases earn 1 point per dollar.

If you just want cash back, Ultimate Rewards points can be redeemed at a rate of 1 point for $0.01. But take note: You’ll get your most bang for your buck using Ultimate Rewards through Chase’s travel portal where you can book hotels, cruises, car rentals, vacation rentals, and more with a value of 1.25 cents per point ($0.0125). So, 10,000 points could put a cool $100 back in your bank account or cover a $125 night in an eligible hotel.

If you want to transfer points to another loyalty program, you have that option, too. And the good news is that points have the same value at a wide range of Ultimate Rewards partners such as JetBlue, Southwest, and United, and hotels include popular chains like Hyatt, IHG, and Marriott.

Perks: At the moment, Chase offers a sweet welcome offer for new cardholders: Spend $4,000 on purchases within the first three months of account opening, and you’ll earn 60,000 bonus points. That’s $900 if you book travel through the issuer’s portal.

Year-round, there’s a laundry list of perks, including travel accident insurance and trip cancellation/interruption insurance. You can be reimbursed for toiletries, clothing, and other essentials if your baggage is delayed more than six hours. And if your suitcase arrives damaged or is lost, there’s coverage for that, too.

The Sapphire Preferred also offers primary car rental insurance coverage, so you can avoid paying extra for insurance with the rental company. If something happens to your rental car, you won’t have to first make a claim with your own insurance policy.

Last but not least, it does not have foreign transaction fees, which is key to saving up to 3% when traveling internationally.

High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Good travel perks   
  
 Annual fee

The VentureOne has an uncomplicated program that rewards you with miles for every purchase, and there’s even an introductory bonus that can offer a windfall for your next trip. Best of all, it’s one of the few no-annual-fee cards that doesn’t charge foreign transaction fees.

Points: Cardholders earn 1.25 miles per dollar spent across the board and 5 miles per dollar on hotels and car rentals through Capital One’s portal.

There’s a few ways to redeem rewards:

You can arrange for flights, hotels, and car rentals through Capital One’s Rewards Center.

Transfer your miles to more than a dozen loyalty programs such as Air Canada and British Airways. Capital One recently introduced new 1:1 partners, including Wyndham Rewards.

Perks: There’s 0% introductory APR for 15 months on new purchases and balance transfers. Any balance transfer includes a 3% fee on the amounts transferred within the first 15 months. After the introductory period ends a variable rate (17.99% - 27.99%) applies. Cardholders can also rack up 20,000 miles if they spend $500 on purchases within the first three months.

If you like what you’re reading, you may also want to consider the Capital One Venture Rewards Credit Card. It does carry a $95 annual fee, but it comes with a higher rewards rate and credit for Global Entry or TSA PreCheck applications.

No annual fee   
  
 No foreign transaction fees   
  
 Not many travel perks   
  
 Low reward rate

Are you willing to pay a little more than the $95 per year but don’t want to go all in on a card with a $500 annual fee? Enter the AmEx Gold. It comes with a $250 price tag, but you can virtually knock out the annual fee if you take advantage of various credits. Plus, you’ll have access to sweet travel perks, including professionals who can help square away hotel reservations and transportation. See rates and fees.

Points: The AmEx Gold earns 4X points on restaurants anywhere in the world, and 4X points at U.S. supermarkets—a great rate any day of the year, whether you’re at home or stocking a vacation rental’s fridge. (There’s a spending cap, but it’s fairly high at $25,000 per year. You can spend nearly $500 on the weekly errand and fit under it.)

You’ll also earn 3X points on travel booked directly with an airline as well as airfare purchased through the issuer’s rewards portal. For everything between, you’re looking at 1X points.

When it comes to redemption options, travelers can transfer to airline or hotel partners such as Aer Lingus, Etihad Guest, and Hawaiian Airlines or as a statement credit or gift card. There’s always the option to book through AmEx Travel, too.

Perks: If you run into any trouble, there’s coverage for lost or damaged baggage, credits for meals and lodging if your trip is delayed more than 12 hours, and car rental damage insurance. Plus, when you’re more than 100 miles away from home, the Global Assist hotline is a phone call away to help with replacing passports and medical or legal emergencies.

There are no foreign transaction fees, though of course, American Express cards are not accepted everywhere overseas. As always, terms apply. See rates and fees.

Robust rewards program   
  
 No foreign transaction fees   
  
 Annual fee

The Chase Sapphire Reserve is a premium travel credit card with incredibly valuable benefits. No surprise: It has a high annual fee of $550, but its excellent returns quickly make it worthwhile for those who like to travel in style.

Points: The Sapphire Reserve offers 3 Chase Ultimate Rewards points per $1 spent on travel after you spend $300 in the category (which is reimbursed with an annual credit). It also earns 3 Ultimate Rewards points on dining (restaurants, casual eateries, and coffee shops) and 1 point per $1 spent on all other purchases.

Ultimate Rewards points can be used to book hotels, cruises, car rentals, vacation rentals, and tourist activities directly through Chase’s travel portal where they’re worth 1.5 cents each ($0.015).

So, a cross country flight that would cost $500 on an airline’s website could equal 37,500 points (worth $375 if redeemed for cash) if you bought it through Chase’s travel portal. For additional flexibility, you can combine points with frequent flyer miles at certain programs, including Emirates, Singapore Airlines, and JetBlue. There’s three hotel partners: Hyatt, IHG, and Marriott.

For a rewards boost, cardholders can book excursions through the Chase travel portal to rack up 10 points per dollar on dining, hotel stays, and car rentals, and 5 points per dollar on flights.

It’s also possible to earn 80,000 bonus points if you spend $4,000 on purchases in the first 3 months of opening an account. That translates to $1,200 that can be used towards travel costs when redeemed through the Chase Ultimate Rewards program.

Perks: The Sapphire Reserve offers a $300 travel credit each year, where the first $300 in travel purchases (from taxi fares to hotels and flights) made on your card will be refunded via a statement credit, effectively reducing the annual fee to $250.

You’ll benefit from trip delay coverage, trip cancellation coverage, and lost and damaged baggage coverage. In other words, you may be able to get away without purchasing additional travel insurance, including when renting a car. Primary car rental insurance covers up to $75,000 in physical damages or theft, meaning you don’t have to make a claim to your own insurance policy first.

You’ll also receive credit for a Global Entry or TSA PreCheck application every four years, and a Priority Pass Select Membership that gives you access to more than 1,200 airport lounges across the world. These travel benefits can save you time and hassle, and maybe keep you a little saner, when you’re dealing with the madness of an airport.

Finally, the Chase Sapphire Reserve doesn’t charge foreign transaction fees for purchases made abroad, an absolute must if you plan to travel internationally.

High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Good travel perks   
  
 Annual fee   
  
 Requires excellent credit

The Capital One Venture Rewards Credit Card is a straightforward travel rewards credit card, and it should serve you well whether you’re on the go or at home.

We’re especially encouraged by recent developments, as the issuer has announced new hotel and airline partners, introduced a 1:1 transfer tier, and it’s slated to open its own airport lounges in Dallas Fort Worth and Dulles.

Points: You’ll earn an unlimited 2X miles for every purchase you make—or 5X miles on hotels and rental cars booked through Capital One’s portal. Those miles can be redeemed on airfare, hotel stays, or transferred to more than a dozen loyalty programs. Some partners are at a lower rate, but others carry the same value.

Perks: Enjoy two complimentary visits per year to Capital One Lounges or to 100+ Plaza Premium Lounges through our Partner Lounge Network. Plus, every four years you can be reimbursed for up to $100 on Global Entry or TSA PreCheck fees to breeze through the airport. Renting a car? There’s an auto damage waiver that covers collision and theft.

High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Annual fee

The Platinum Card plugs you into AmEx’s excellent travel concierge service, which is like having a personal travel agent a phone call away, no matter where you are in the world. Likewise, this card is a good option for frequent flyers who’d like to make use of American Express’s best-in-class Centurion Lounges, with a dozen U.S. locations and more opening across the globe.

The high-end perks unsurprisingly come with a high price tag: a $695 annual fee. You’ll definitely want to use it often to make it worthwhile. Thankfully, there are plenty of credits that can help soften the blow.

American Express cards aren’t widely accepted outside of the U.S.—typically only at international locations of U.S.-based hotel and restaurant chains and sometimes high-end stores. That said, wherever you can use it, the Platinum avoids foreign transaction fees. See rates and fees as terms apply.

Points: The Platinum Card offers 5 Membership Rewards points per dollar on airfare purchased directly from airlines or through AmEx Travel. (There’s a $500,000 spending cap for this category.) Cardholders also earn 5 points per dollar when booking prepaid hotel stays through amextravel.com.

These points can be redeemed through AmEx Travel with a value of 1 cent each ($0.01) or they can be transferred to American Express partners like British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, and Marriott Bonvoy.

Perks: As you’d expect, a Global Entry or TSA PreCheck application fee is covered when it’s paid for with the card, and you can enroll in a Priority Pass Select membership to gain entry to more than 1,300 airport lounges worldwide. You’ll also have access to American Express’ Centurion Lounges (currently 12 within the U.S., plus several international lounges, with more opening every year) and Delta’s lounges when you fly with the airline.

Travel concierges can assist Platinum cardholders with restaurant reservations, concert tickets, and more anywhere in the world. And with the Fine Hotels + Resorts programs, cardholders receive an average of $550 worth of complimentary perks such as late check-out and room upgrades.

High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 No foreign transaction fees   
  
 Annual fee   
  
 Requires excellent credit

If you hop from hotel to hotel, there are plenty of cards that will accommodate your needs. IHG loyalists have their pick of more than 5,000 properties at a range of price points. The brand includes chains like the luxe Kimpton and InterContinental hotels and more budget-friendly options like Holiday Inns.

If these are your go-to hotels, the IHG Rewards Premier credit card stands out for its perks. It has an $99 annual fee, though one benefit alone—the free annual reward night certificate—can easily cover the cost. Not to mention, it includes a Global Entry, TSA PreCheck or NEXUS Statement reimbursement.

Points: You’ll get up to 26 points per dollar spent at IHG hotels and 5 points at gas stations, travel, and restaurants. All other purchases earn 3 points per dollar.

When you redeem your IHG points for a stay that’s three consecutive nights or longer, you’ll get your fourth night free (in effect, a 25% discount). This can be applied to an unlimited number of trips in one year.

Perks: This Chase card automatically gives you high-level Platinum Elite status with InterContinental Hotels Group. That means you get benefits like late checkout, 50% more points when you stay at IHG hotels, and room upgrades. While this isn’t the chain’s highest tier, we’re not ones to complain about a few more hours to lounge in a hotel bed.

The IHG Premier Card also offers a TSA PreCheck, Global Entry or NEXUS Statement credit of up to $100 every four years. Simply charge your application fee to your card, and you’ll be reimbursed with a statement credit. And you don’t need to worry about foreign transaction fees either.

Finally, every year you’ll be given an anniversary credit for a free night. It can be used for rooms that cost up to 40,000 points, which can easily be worth $200 per night. Just by using this certificate each year, this card could pay for itself.

High reward rate   
  
 Good travel perks   
  
 No foreign transaction fees   
  
 Annual fee

Experts and consumers regularly mention the Citi Premier as a worthy travel credit card, but it also is valuable when you’re filling up at the pump. Plus, it earns flexible rewards that can be redeemed for cash back, used to book travel directly through Citi, or transferred to Citi’s airline partners, including JetBlue and Virgin Atlantic. All this is yours for a $95 annual fee.

Points: The Citi Premier earns 3 ThankYou points per dollar spent on airline travel, hotel stays, and at gas stations. You’ll get that top rate at restaurants and supermarkets, too, and 1 ThankYou point per dollar spent on all other purchases.

If you redeem your ThankYou points for cash back, they are worth one cent each ($0.01). Transfer your points to Citi’s partners and the value can be significantly more or less, depending on the current dollar cost of the flight. The mile cost for flights booked with travel partners is generally static, so if the dollar cost is up, you could save with transferred miles.

Perks: For one, you’ll never be charged foreign transaction fees when you travel abroad. And once a year, you can receive $100 off an eligible hotel stay that’s booked through Citi. Cardholders can also earn 80,000 bonus points after spending $4,000 within three months of opening their account.

High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 No foreign transaction fees   
  
 Annual fee

Perhaps now that you’ve dug deeper into the world of travel credit cards, you’ve realized you don’t spend enough on airfare or hotel nights to rack up rewards. In that case, we think the Freedom Flex is a worthy option.

It pays to use for everyday shopping and adds a boost when booking travel through Chase. And because there’s no annual fee, you won’t have to pay for adding it to your wallet—as long as you pay your bill on time and in full, that is.

Points: When cardholders book travel through Chase Ultimate Rewards, they typically earn 5% on those flights, hotel stays, car rentals and more. To up the ante, the issuer currently has an intro offer that adds 1.5% to that rate on everything (including travel) on up to $20,000 spent in the first year.

That means the usual 3% at restaurants is bumped to 4.5%, whether you’re trying a hot spot around the corner from your hotel or headed to your local haunt. The rate also applies to takeout and eligible delivery services as well as drugstore purchases. That’s money in your pocket when you’re stocking up on TSA-compliant toiletries on the eve of a flight, buying SPF once you’ve touched down at a resort or even a weeknight run for toilet paper.

During the intro offer, any other purchases will earn 3%, which returns to a respectable 1.5% after the first year, or if you meet the spending cap beforehand.

Perks: Despite not being a travel card, the Freedom Flex does come with a few benefits for when you’re on the road. Take advantage of an auto rental collision damage waiver, trip cancellation/interruption insurance, and travel emergency services for legal and medical assistance.

This is the only card on the list with a foreign transaction fee, but the Freedom Unlimited is a low maintenance, straightforward option that may work for infrequent travelers who stick to exploring the U.S.

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Requires excellent credit

This no-annual-fee card earns 2 points on every purchase, and there’s no foreign transaction fees—but that’s about it in the way of travel-specific perks. Cardholders redeem rewards as a statement, so there’s no option to transfer points like with Capital One VentureOne Rewards Credit Card, even though it earns a slightly lower rate. Learn more

No annual fee   
  
 No foreign transaction fees   
  
 Not many perks

This card carries a $95 annual feel, though U.S. Bank waives it for the first year. It doesn’t charge foreign transaction fees and offers a credit for Global Entry or TSA PreCheck applications every four years. While the 5X points on prepaid hotels and car rentals sounds impressive, it strictly applies to purchases made through U.S. Bank’s rewards center. That said, there’s 4X on travel and at gas stations, which can certainly add up. It’s a solid card to be sure, though we find the Citi Premier a more flexible, straightforward choice. Learn more

High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 No foreign transaction fees   
  
 Deferred annual fee

With a $495 annual fee, this luxury credit card will cost you less than the comparable Chase Sapphire Reserve—but it comes with less perks, too. If you’re comfortable with the high price tag, you may be better suited to our other slightly more expensive recommendations. Learn more

Cardholders earn 5% on travel booked through Chase Ultimate Rewards, plus 3% on dining and drugstore purchases. These rates are tier for tier what you’ll receive with the Chase Freedom Unlimited, though the Flex has a slightly lower 1% cash back on everything else.

The main difference: The Freedom Flex has rotating bonus categories that change every quarter. While cardholders can score big on the category du jour, you’ll have to keep track of what’s what and remember to activate the rewards rate. It’s a great card—in fact, it’s our best no-annual-fee credit card—but it’s higher maintenance compared to the nearly identical Freedom Unlimited. It also carries a foreign transaction fee. Learn more

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Requires excellent credit

Please note: The offers mentioned above were valid at time of publication but are subject to change at any time. Some may no longer be available.

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See rates and fees for the American Express Gold Card. See rates and fees for The Platinum Card from American Express.

We looked at dozens of travel credit cards’ earning potential and redemption options, prioritizing flexibility and the ability to transfer rewards to partner airlines and hotels at valuable rates.

We also considered other perks that make sense while you’re traveling, from travel accident insurance to coverage for delayed, damaged, or lost baggage. Dining benefits also scored big in our book, for those who enjoy exploring the restaurant scene when away from home.

Lastly, we looked into foreign transaction fees, as they can add 3% to purchases made abroad.

Check first for annual fees and then consider the rate of rewards and how long it will take for you to earn a free flight or hotel stay. Some of the best travel credit cards offer travel credits that wipe out the cost of the card’s annual fee. So don’t let an annual fee dissuade you from a travel card. Check for travel credits before you say “no.”

With the best travel credit cards, you earn rewards points for purchases and these points get applied to travel rewards ranging from airfares to hotel stays to cruises from the travel card’s partners. In a hurry to earn a reward? You may get a credit straight away that you can use for travel. Otherwise, you’ll have to earn the travel reward you want with the purchases that you make with the card. When you earn enough travel points, you can redeem them by signing on to your travel card’s online portal or calling an 800 number on the back of your travel card. Some issuers also allow you to redeem points through the travel card’s app.

If you love to travel and are a frequent flyer, a travel credit card is great for you. You’ll enjoy travel perks and earn travel rewards that you cash in for free flights and hotel stays. But if you only travel once in a new moon, all the travel perks and rewards may be lost on you. But you do have options. For example, the Chase Freedom Unlimited is an affordable credit card and may be a good option for people who like to travel but only a little.

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# The Best Cat Litter Mats of 2022

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

The PetFusion ToughGrip mat was impressively easy to shake out, vacuum or wash to keep clean.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Fresh Kitty Jumbo Foam mat was surprisingly effective at capturing litter and looked good on the floor.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Vivaglory Microfiber mat is available in multiple colors and sizes, and was popular with the cat testers.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The iPrimo mat uses honeycomb holes to contain litter then opens like a book to easily shake out material.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 A double layer mat with a honeycomb pattern, the Pieviev opens like an envelope to shake litter out.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated October 21, 2022

No matter how much you love your cat, you probably don’t love stepping in litter scatter that’s been kicked out of the box. Even the staunchest cat lover likely still employs a cat litter box mat to help trap bits that escape whenever kitty exits the box. And while there is no best litter mat in existence that’ll collect every grain of litter, there are some that are much, much better at the job than others. The main goal of a cat litter mat is to get your cat to walk across it after exiting the box in order to collect litter; the material used for a mat is often designed to get your cats to spread their toes or wipe their feet to release errant granules of cat litter. When looking for a new litter mat for your cat, keep in mind that some cats are willing to walk across any mat you place in front of them, while others may jump entirely over a mat they don’t approve of.

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The perfect litter mat is one that is a good size for your cat litter box, is easy to clean with soap and water, captures the most cat litter, and, more importantly, one that your cat will actually use to wipe their little cat paws. After researching thousands of products and user reviews, we found the best cat litter mats for you and your pet.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Credit: Reviewed/ Betsey Goldwasser Of all the mats we tested, the PetFusion ToughGrip was the easiest to clean.

Best Overall PetFusion ToughGrip Cat Litter Mat Offers a sturdy, tough grip Soft enough for sensitive paws Fully waterproof mat Available in two sizes: 30” x 23” large and 38” x 26” XL Silicone is ideal for use in cat litter mats because it’s antimicrobial, has a tough grip, and is very easy to clean or wipe down. The PetFusion ToughGrip cat litter mat is gray FDA-grade silicone with a raised wave pattern and an outer lip. The pattern should be placed in a portrait orientation from the front of the litter box to trap litter and encourage paw wiping, while the outer lip keeps litter collected within the mat. The ToughGrip cat litter mat does a great job of staying in place on both hardwood and carpet. It’s comfortable to walk on with bare feet, and was met with approval from two of our cats, who mainly ignored it. However, where the ToughGrip really shines is cleanup—at 5.3 pounds, the extra-large litter mat can be a tad heavy to pick up and shake out, but the method does get rid of all the litter easily. The ToughGrip is also a piece of cake to vacuum, wipe down, wash with soap and water. Following the grooves with a handheld car vacuum helps to collect almost all the litter on a single pass. In a waterproof test we conducted, the mat held all its liquid for well over an hour without leaking or spilling. Aesthetically, the mat is a little utilitarian, and we’ve noticed that it’s prone to picking up bits of dust and debris from the floor. But it does exactly what it’s there to do with a minimum amount of hassle or fuss. This mat is a bit higher in price for a cat litter mat. But for the ease of maintenance alone, it’s well worth it, particularly if you have an older cat or one with health issues who regularly misses the box. Pros Catches and holds a lot of litter Remarkably easy to clean Anti-microbial Cons Heavy Attracts household debris and dust $25.29 from Amazon $43.66 from Chewy $72.07 from Walmart

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Credit: Reviewed/ Betsey Goldwasser The Fresh Kitty Jumbo Foam Cat Litter Mat was effective at collecting litter and looked good on the floor.

Best Value Fresh Kitty Jumbo Foam Litter Mat Soft enough for sensitive paws Machine washable Generous in size Has a waterproof bottom layer The Fresh Kitty Jumbo Foam mat impressed us with how it collected litter and how easy it was to clean with soap and water. Not to mention its low price. Made from a memory-foam layer design, it’s soft and pliant when walked on—which is great for cats with sensitive paws. It also captures lots of litter in its groove pattern, which is also easy to clean up. In a lab test, we found that the mat itself stayed waterproof, though the ribbed surface did channel liquid off of the mat, and it took very little wiping and rinsing to clean it in gunky-mess tests. It’s also machine washable, though it needs to be air dried. At 40 by 24 by 2.75 inches, it’s big enough to fit all three litter boxes in our real-use tests, and the black and gray pattern looks attractive against the floor. Pros Catches a lot of litter Easy to clean Pretty patterns Cons Not entirely waterproof Skids easily Comes with creases that need to be worked out $9.99 from Amazon $9.99 from Chewy $26.03 from Walmart

Vivaglory Cat Litter Mat Neatly collects the majority of the litter Soft enough for sensitive paws Has a waterproof bottom layer Available in two sizes: 31" x 20" large and 35" x 25" XL Microfiber cat litter mats offer a solution that closely resembles your standard bath mat: they’re soft enough for sensitive-pawed cats, have a textured layer design, and feature waterproof backing. The 3D microfiber nubs in the Vivaglory mat are a bit smaller than others. In testing, this litter collector was popular with our cats, who liked stepping on it as well as sleeping on it. The mat also managed to collect an impressive amount of litter. It performed well during waterproof tests, and the tough-grip backing does a great job of a holding it in place. While it was easy and effective to shake the kitty litter out of the mat to clean it, putting it in the washing machine involved setting aside lots of time for it to dry. The Vivaglory mat is available in multiple colors: gray, blue, brown, and beige. Pros Multiple sizes and colors Very comfortable Machine washable Cons Hard to vacuum Takes a very long time to air dry Not great for gunky messes Buy now at Amazon

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iPrimio Cat Litter Trapper Neatly collects the majority of the litter Has a waterproof bottom layer Available in multiple size options Made in the BlackHole style, the iPrimio is a double-layer cat litter mat that features a top-layer design molded into a honeycomb pattern of hourglass holes, with a waterproof bottom layer. The holes trap litter and funnel it between the two layers. To clean the mat, you simply separate the layers and shake them. It has more space between its plastic honeycomb holes than others, and it opens on three sides like a book for easy cleaning. In our lab tests, this mat did well at collecting litter, but we lost more in transit because of the open sides. The ability to pull back the entire top layer made it easier to clean liquids from, but also easier for liquids to spread on the mat, and gunky messes are still going to require some scrubbing with soap and water. iPrimio makes this style of mat in multiple sizes and in black or brown. Pros Effectively collects litter Waterproof Easy to clean litter and liquids Cons Not great for gunky messes Prone to spilling Buy now at Amazon $29.99 from Chewy $29.99 from Walmart   
  
 Pieviev Cat Litter Mat Neatly collects the majority of the litter Has a waterproof bottom layer Available in two sizes: 30" x 24" and 24" x 15" The Pieviev Trapping Mat is another BlackHole-style option with a top layer of EVA foam molded into a honeycomb design of 10 mm hourglass holes, plus a waterproof bottom layer. The patterned foam material is fairly comfortable in bare feet, but did slide a good amount in our lab's "kick tests." The mat managed to capture a lot of litter, and it contained liquids well, but it could get awkward trying to dump the contents without spilling. Another thing about this mat is that it takes a good amount of scrubbing to rid the honeycomb holes of gunkier messes. The Pieviev comes in three different colors: black, gray, and brown. Pros Can absorb a lot of litter Waterproof Easy to shake clean Cons Not great for gunky messes Easy to spill Tends to curl up at the sides Buy now at Amazon

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Gorilla Grip Cat Litter Trapping Mat Among loop-enclosure-style mats, the Gorilla Grip is extremely popular, and it’s easy to see why. The mat, which uses a mesh pattern of thick coils to trap litter, is available in eighteen colors and seven sizes from a 24-by-17-inch small to a 47-by-35-inch jumbo capable of fitting two litter boxes. The diamond pattern of coiled mesh loops and the grooves dividing them is capable of trapping a lot of litter, and the material encourages cats to wipe their feet. However, our feline testers did not like the mat much; they either bit and kicked at it or jumped over it entirely. While it did well in our real-use tests, where it caught litter well, the jumbo mat is unwieldly to shake out, and never seemed to come entirely clean; despite shaking for several minutes, litter was still being released. Loop enclosure mats are often difficult to get entirely clean, as grains of litter are held tightly by the coil. The Gorilla Grip mat also performed poorly during the waterproof tests, where liquid seeped through breaks in the bottom layer and took a while to air dry. Pros Effective at collecting litter Available in many sizes and colors Cons Not good for gunky messes Backing material is subject to tears Cat testers did not like Buy now at Amazon

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Pawkin Cat Litter Mat Another loop-enclosure-style mat, the Pawkin was unexpectedly soft to the touch. The pattern of loops and channels did well collecting litter during testing. But it was difficult to shake clean and a pain to vacuum thoroughly. The grooves helped channel and contain liquid during our lab's scent test, but during our mess testing we accidentally tore a fingertip-sized hole in the mat as we tried to work our gunky material out of the loops. It’s also prone to creasing and is difficult to air dry. The Pawkin mat is available in one extra-large size, 35 by 23 by 0.9 inches, and only comes in gray. Pros Effective at collecting litter Impressively comfortable for loop enclosure Cons Backing material is flimsy Difficult to clean Buy now at Amazon $18.99 from Walmart   
  
 Petlinks Purr-fect Paws Cat Litter Mat Combining features from a few other cat litter mats in this guide, the Purr-Fect Paws mat is easy to clean with soap and water and uses tiny recessed cups to trap litter. This is unexpectedly effective, but moving the litter box mat to shake it off was awkward, as its flexibility made it easy to spill the litter. It does quite well at holding liquids without seeping or spilling, but certainly isn’t easy to clean gunky messes out of. In testing, we found a bit of material stuck inside a cup the day after cleaning. It’s not unpleasant to the touch, but is fairly industrial in appearance. The Purr-Fect Paws litter box mat comes in blue, tan, and gray colors as well as medium, large, and extra-large sizes. Pros Effective at containing litter Waterproof Multiple sizes and colors Cons Hard to clean gunky messes Flexible rubber is awkward to move and clean Creases $11.99 from Amazon   
  
 Frisco Sisal Mat Sisal is a natural plant fiber that’s often used on cat trees for its stiff texture. That makes the Frisco Sisal mat ideal for cats who like to scratch upon exiting the litter box. This is also more environmentally friendly, since it’s made of renewable and sustainable material. As a litter mat, it's merely all right. The sisal material doesn’t grab or capture litter the same way a rubber mat with loops or holes can; the majority of the scattered litter sits on the surface of the mat, which makes it easy to end up with some on the floor. It's easy to shake off, and pretty easy to clean, but difficult to vacuum. Our cats enjoyed scratching at it during testing, but the available sizes—a 24-by-15-inch medium or 15-by-12-inch small—were too slight to be very effective. Additionally, it's not at all waterproof, as liquids soaked through immediately. Pros Natural fibers Great for scratching Cons Small sizes Not waterproof Doesn’t contain litter well Buy now at Chewy   
Credit: Reviewed / Amber Bouman A close-up of how litter collects on the Pieviev, CatGuru, and Gorilla Grip litter mats.

What You Should Know About Buying Cat Litter Mats Cats are at least as picky and individual as people, so finding an across-the-board, perfect top pick among litter mats is difficult. Some cats will avoid certain textures or materials without any real reason, while others seem amenable to put their paws on almost anything. A cat’s preferences towards a given litter mat can change for health reasons, or be the result of other changes in their environment. When shopping for the best cat litter box mat, consider the size of the mat, the materials, and how easy it might be to clean.  
The ideal mat should be large enough to guarantee your cat will walk across it after exiting the kitty litter box; for front access, that’s going to be directly in front of the opening, while open-top boxes will get placed in the middle of a mat. Some mats are available in a variety of sizes or shapes, such as a half-circle for boxes in corners. Most materials we’ve examined do at least a decent job of collecting litter, so much of this will come down to your—and your cat’s—preference. Cat litter mats are often made from PVC, plastic, silicone, or rubber, but there are also ones made of microfiber, sisal, jute, or polyester. The materials themselves determine the method by which the mat collects litter; many of the mats made from PVC feature thousands of tiny loop enclosures to trap litter granules, while silicone and rubber mats often have a pattern of cups or ridges to capture litter. Plastic mats have tapered holes to collect scattered material. How to Clean Cat Litter Mats One of the most important factors to consider is how easy the cat litter mat is to clean; if your cat only kicks up a bit of litter, you might be able to simply shake the mat out. But if you have an older cat or a cat with health issues, you may want something that rinses with soap and water and then dries quickly. Microfiber mats can often be washed in a machine, but also may need to air dry, while other materials can usually be washed with soap and water or hosed down. More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best Cat Litter

The Best Cat Litter Boxes

This is the only cat brush that works on my Maine Coon mix Your cat will go crazy for this toy-packed goody box from Chewy

No matter how much you love your cat, you probably don’t love stepping in litter scatter that’s been kicked out of the box. Even the staunchest cat lover likely still employs a cat litter box mat to help trap bits that escape whenever kitty exits the box. And while there is no best litter mat in existence that’ll collect every grain of litter, there are some that are much, much better at the job than others.

The main goal of a cat litter mat is to get your cat to walk across it after exiting the box in order to collect litter; the material used for a mat is often designed to get your cats to spread their toes or wipe their feet to release errant granules of cat litter.

When looking for a new litter mat for your cat, keep in mind that some cats are willing to walk across any mat you place in front of them, while others may jump entirely over a mat they don’t approve of.

The perfect litter mat is one that is a good size for your cat litter box, is easy to clean with soap and water, captures the most cat litter, and, more importantly, one that your cat will actually use to wipe their little cat paws.

After researching thousands of products and user reviews, we found the best cat litter mats for you and your pet.

The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Of all the mats we tested, the PetFusion ToughGrip was the easiest to clean.

Silicone is ideal for use in cat litter mats because it’s antimicrobial, has a tough grip, and is very easy to clean or wipe down. The PetFusion ToughGrip cat litter mat is gray FDA-grade silicone with a raised wave pattern and an outer lip. The pattern should be placed in a portrait orientation from the front of the litter box to trap litter and encourage paw wiping, while the outer lip keeps litter collected within the mat.

The ToughGrip cat litter mat does a great job of staying in place on both hardwood and carpet. It’s comfortable to walk on with bare feet, and was met with approval from two of our cats, who mainly ignored it. However, where the ToughGrip really shines is cleanup—at 5.3 pounds, the extra-large litter mat can be a tad heavy to pick up and shake out, but the method does get rid of all the litter easily.

The ToughGrip is also a piece of cake to vacuum, wipe down, wash with soap and water. Following the grooves with a handheld car vacuum helps to collect almost all the litter on a single pass. In a waterproof test we conducted, the mat held all its liquid for well over an hour without leaking or spilling.

Aesthetically, the mat is a little utilitarian, and we’ve noticed that it’s prone to picking up bits of dust and debris from the floor. But it does exactly what it’s there to do with a minimum amount of hassle or fuss.

This mat is a bit higher in price for a cat litter mat. But for the ease of maintenance alone, it’s well worth it, particularly if you have an older cat or one with health issues who regularly misses the box.

Catches and holds a lot of litter   
  
 Remarkably easy to clean   
  
 Anti-microbial   
  
 Heavy   
  
 Attracts household debris and dust

The Fresh Kitty Jumbo Foam Cat Litter Mat was effective at collecting litter and looked good on the floor.

The Fresh Kitty Jumbo Foam mat impressed us with how it collected litter and how easy it was to clean with soap and water. Not to mention its low price. Made from a memory-foam layer design, it’s soft and pliant when walked on—which is great for cats with sensitive paws. It also captures lots of litter in its groove pattern, which is also easy to clean up.

In a lab test, we found that the mat itself stayed waterproof, though the ribbed surface did channel liquid off of the mat, and it took very little wiping and rinsing to clean it in gunky-mess tests. It’s also machine washable, though it needs to be air dried. At 40 by 24 by 2.75 inches, it’s big enough to fit all three litter boxes in our real-use tests, and the black and gray pattern looks attractive against the floor.

Catches a lot of litter   
  
 Easy to clean   
  
 Pretty patterns   
  
 Not entirely waterproof   
  
 Skids easily   
  
 Comes with creases that need to be worked out

Microfiber cat litter mats offer a solution that closely resembles your standard bath mat: they’re soft enough for sensitive-pawed cats, have a textured layer design, and feature waterproof backing. The 3D microfiber nubs in the Vivaglory mat are a bit smaller than others.

In testing, this litter collector was popular with our cats, who liked stepping on it as well as sleeping on it. The mat also managed to collect an impressive amount of litter. It performed well during waterproof tests, and the tough-grip backing does a great job of a holding it in place. While it was easy and effective to shake the kitty litter out of the mat to clean it, putting it in the washing machine involved setting aside lots of time for it to dry.

The Vivaglory mat is available in multiple colors: gray, blue, brown, and beige.

Multiple sizes and colors   
  
 Very comfortable   
  
 Machine washable   
  
 Hard to vacuum   
  
 Takes a very long time to air dry   
  
 Not great for gunky messes

Made in the BlackHole style, the iPrimio is a double-layer cat litter mat that features a top-layer design molded into a honeycomb pattern of hourglass holes, with a waterproof bottom layer. The holes trap litter and funnel it between the two layers. To clean the mat, you simply separate the layers and shake them. It has more space between its plastic honeycomb holes than others, and it opens on three sides like a book for easy cleaning.

In our lab tests, this mat did well at collecting litter, but we lost more in transit because of the open sides. The ability to pull back the entire top layer made it easier to clean liquids from, but also easier for liquids to spread on the mat, and gunky messes are still going to require some scrubbing with soap and water. iPrimio makes this style of mat in multiple sizes and in black or brown.

Effectively collects litter   
  
 Waterproof   
  
 Easy to clean litter and liquids   
  
 Not great for gunky messes   
  
 Prone to spilling

The Pieviev Trapping Mat is another BlackHole-style option with a top layer of EVA foam molded into a honeycomb design of 10 mm hourglass holes, plus a waterproof bottom layer. The patterned foam material is fairly comfortable in bare feet, but did slide a good amount in our lab’s “kick tests.”

The mat managed to capture a lot of litter, and it contained liquids well, but it could get awkward trying to dump the contents without spilling. Another thing about this mat is that it takes a good amount of scrubbing to rid the honeycomb holes of gunkier messes.

The Pieviev comes in three different colors: black, gray, and brown.

Can absorb a lot of litter   
  
 Waterproof   
  
 Easy to shake clean   
  
 Not great for gunky messes   
  
 Easy to spill   
  
 Tends to curl up at the sides

Among loop-enclosure-style mats, the Gorilla Grip is extremely popular, and it’s easy to see why. The mat, which uses a mesh pattern of thick coils to trap litter, is available in eighteen colors and seven sizes from a 24-by-17-inch small to a 47-by-35-inch jumbo capable of fitting two litter boxes.

The diamond pattern of coiled mesh loops and the grooves dividing them is capable of trapping a lot of litter, and the material encourages cats to wipe their feet. However, our feline testers did not like the mat much; they either bit and kicked at it or jumped over it entirely.

While it did well in our real-use tests, where it caught litter well, the jumbo mat is unwieldly to shake out, and never seemed to come entirely clean; despite shaking for several minutes, litter was still being released. Loop enclosure mats are often difficult to get entirely clean, as grains of litter are held tightly by the coil.

The Gorilla Grip mat also performed poorly during the waterproof tests, where liquid seeped through breaks in the bottom layer and took a while to air dry.

Effective at collecting litter   
  
 Available in many sizes and colors   
  
 Not good for gunky messes   
  
 Backing material is subject to tears   
  
 Cat testers did not like

Another loop-enclosure-style mat, the Pawkin was unexpectedly soft to the touch. The pattern of loops and channels did well collecting litter during testing. But it was difficult to shake clean and a pain to vacuum thoroughly.

The grooves helped channel and contain liquid during our lab’s scent test, but during our mess testing we accidentally tore a fingertip-sized hole in the mat as we tried to work our gunky material out of the loops.

It’s also prone to creasing and is difficult to air dry. The Pawkin mat is available in one extra-large size, 35 by 23 by 0.9 inches, and only comes in gray.

Effective at collecting litter   
  
 Impressively comfortable for loop enclosure   
  
 Backing material is flimsy   
  
 Difficult to clean

Combining features from a few other cat litter mats in this guide, the Purr-Fect Paws mat is easy to clean with soap and water and uses tiny recessed cups to trap litter. This is unexpectedly effective, but moving the litter box mat to shake it off was awkward, as its flexibility made it easy to spill the litter.

It does quite well at holding liquids without seeping or spilling, but certainly isn’t easy to clean gunky messes out of. In testing, we found a bit of material stuck inside a cup the day after cleaning.

It’s not unpleasant to the touch, but is fairly industrial in appearance. The Purr-Fect Paws litter box mat comes in blue, tan, and gray colors as well as medium, large, and extra-large sizes.

Effective at containing litter   
  
 Waterproof   
  
 Multiple sizes and colors   
  
 Hard to clean gunky messes   
  
 Flexible rubber is awkward to move and clean   
  
 Creases

Sisal is a natural plant fiber that’s often used on cat trees for its stiff texture. That makes the Frisco Sisal mat ideal for cats who like to scratch upon exiting the litter box. This is also more environmentally friendly, since it’s made of renewable and sustainable material.

As a litter mat, it’s merely all right. The sisal material doesn’t grab or capture litter the same way a rubber mat with loops or holes can; the majority of the scattered litter sits on the surface of the mat, which makes it easy to end up with some on the floor.

It’s easy to shake off, and pretty easy to clean, but difficult to vacuum.

Our cats enjoyed scratching at it during testing, but the available sizes—a 24-by-15-inch medium or 15-by-12-inch small—were too slight to be very effective. Additionally, it’s not at all waterproof, as liquids soaked through immediately.

Natural fibers   
  
 Great for scratching   
  
 Small sizes   
  
 Not waterproof   
  
 Doesn’t contain litter well

A close-up of how litter collects on the Pieviev, CatGuru, and Gorilla Grip litter mats.

Cats are at least as picky and individual as people, so finding an across-the-board, perfect top pick among litter mats is difficult. Some cats will avoid certain textures or materials without any real reason, while others seem amenable to put their paws on almost anything.

A cat’s preferences towards a given litter mat can change for health reasons, or be the result of other changes in their environment. When shopping for the best cat litter box mat, consider the size of the mat, the materials, and how easy it might be to clean.

The ideal mat should be large enough to guarantee your cat will walk across it after exiting the kitty litter box; for front access, that’s going to be directly in front of the opening, while open-top boxes will get placed in the middle of a mat. Some mats are available in a variety of sizes or shapes, such as a half-circle for boxes in corners.

Most materials we’ve examined do at least a decent job of collecting litter, so much of this will come down to your—and your cat’s—preference. Cat litter mats are often made from PVC, plastic, silicone, or rubber, but there are also ones made of microfiber, sisal, jute, or polyester.

The materials themselves determine the method by which the mat collects litter; many of the mats made from PVC feature thousands of tiny loop enclosures to trap litter granules, while silicone and rubber mats often have a pattern of cups or ridges to capture litter. Plastic mats have tapered holes to collect scattered material.

One of the most important factors to consider is how easy the cat litter mat is to clean; if your cat only kicks up a bit of litter, you might be able to simply shake the mat out. But if you have an older cat or a cat with health issues, you may want something that rinses with soap and water and then dries quickly.

Microfiber mats can often be washed in a machine, but also may need to air dry, while other materials can usually be washed with soap and water or hosed down.

Amber Bouman  
   
  
  
 Editor, Product Roundups

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# The Best Thanksgiving Tools of 2022

## For Delicious Desserts

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

You can cook practically anything in Viking's sturdy 3-ply roaster. While it has some heft, its high-quality handles help distribute the weight well.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 For grilling, cheese making, sugar work, and more, the ThermoWorks ChefAlarm is a top pick among electric probe thermometers.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The ThermoPop immediately impressed us with its super quick, accurate readings and its beautiful appearance.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The design of this fat separator makes it shine. It's easy to control pouring and draining. Cleanup is a cinch. Comfortable handles seal the deal.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 These poultry shears have sharp, grippy blades, and a comfortable handle. The two blades also came apart, making them much easier to clean.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated October 24, 2022

The first time I hosted Thanksgiving dinner, I was an absolute wreck. I didn’t have anything I needed, and I resorted to barking out orders to my family members as if they were line cooks in my restaurant. Not exactly the way I wanted to spend my day off! After the chaos dissipated, I reflected on the day to see what went wrong with my Thanksgiving meal. It all came down to my cooking tools, and I didn’t have what I needed to get the job done.  
In addition to the intangible things (like making a to-do list, doing prep work in advance, and clearing out the refrigerator), there are a few equipment necessities that will make your Thanksgiving Day go that much smoother, like the Viking Culinary Stainless Steel Roasting Pan (available at Amazon) the best roasting pan we’ve tested.

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And, since we try not to recommend any unitasker tools that are only useful once a year, we tested more than 125 products (and researched countless more) to make sure you can put this stuff to good use all year long.

Cookware Set: HexClad Hybrid Cookware 13-Piece Chef’s Package

Knife Set: Wusthof Classic 7 Piece Slim Knife Set with Acacia Block

Baking Sheet: Nordic Ware Natural Aluminum Commercial Baker’s Half Sheet

Baking Rack: Checkered Chef Cooling Rack Baking Rack

For Delicious Desserts

Pie Pan: Emile Henry Modern Classics Pie Dish

Loaf Pan: Rachael Ray Yum-o! Nonstick Oven Lovin’ Loaf Pan

Rolling Pin: J.K. Adams Plain Maple Rolling Dowel

Don’t Forget The Leftovers

Storage Containers: Pyrex Ultimate 10-Piece Storage Set

Dish Towels: Williams Sonoma All-Purpose Pantry Towels

Dish Rack: PremiumRacks Professional Dish Rack

For the Turkey Credit: Getty Images Roasting pans are a go-to Thanksgiving tool for a reason. Everyone knows the turkey is the star of the show, and these tools will help you prepare the perfect bird! From cooking it to carving it, we tested all the essential equipment you’ll need to make this iconic Thanksgiving main dish. Roasting Pan Roasting Pan Viking 3-Ply Roasting Pan w/ Non-Stick Rack Most people think of a roasting pan as a Thanksgiving essential, and it definitely is: Talk about a fuss-free way to cook up a turkey! But you can also use a well-built one year-round for sheet pan meals or cooking a roast for a crowd, making it worth it to invest in a good one. The tri-ply stainless steel construction definitely gives the Viking Roasting Pan some heft, but the handles are super wide and comfortable, distributing the pan’s weight nicely. It had excellent heat distribution as well. It’s big and sturdy enough to handle a 20-pound turkey and it’s capable of cooking anything you throw at it. Read More: The Best Roasting Pans Pros Comfortable handles Distributes heat evenly Sturdy Cons Hefty $179.95 from Amazon $249.99 from Abt $249.95 from Macy’s $149.00 from Walmart

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Probe Thermometer Probe Thermometer ThermoWorks ChefAlarm Don't undercook your turkey! Confidently toss it into the oven and forget about it until it beeps by probing it with this top-performing probe thermometer. In addition to being the most accurate probe we tested, the ThermoWorks ChefAlarm also has a nice backlight display. You can use it as a timer, adjust the alarm's volume, or use it to keep track of the minimum and maximum readings. We especially love its hinged tilting screen for easy viewing on the countertop, but it also has a magnet and a clip if that works better for your kitchen. Spending $60 on a thermometer might not be for everyone, but this model is well worth the price tag, not only for your Thanksgiving Day meal but also if you're serious about barbecue, making cheese, or boiling sugar for candy. Read More: The Best Probe Thermometers Pros Accurate Easy to read Adjustable alarm volume Cons None that we could find Buy now at ThermoWorks

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Digital Meat Thermometer Digital Meat Thermometer ThermoWorks ThermoPop If monitoring your turkey's temperature from inside the oven isn't important to you, pick up a ThermoPop instead. It immediately impressed us with its super quick, accurate readings and its beautiful appearance. The probe is long enough to keep your hands safely away from any hot steam. It also features a super thin tip that didn’t allow for many poultry juices to escape after probing. With a click of a button, the display rotates 360 degrees for ease of viewing. Another click and the backlight illuminates the large numbers. Read More: The Best Digital Meat Thermometers Pros Accurate readings Quick readings Well-designed Cons None we could find Buy now at ThermoWorks   
  
 Fat Separator Fat Separator OXO Good Grips Good Gravy Fat Separator – 4 Cup Fat separators might not be the sexiest gadget in the kitchen, but you'll need one if you're hoping to make a killer gravy this year. By design, bottom-draining separators make it almost impossible to pass a lot of fatty-liquid through their valves because the fat floats on the top. Some of them have temperamental levers, but the trigger on this model is easy to control and, by design, will minimize splashing, creating less mess than some of the other models we tested. There's also a pour spout on the top, which makes it much easier to remove the fat left behind. And, since the lever mechanism is located on the outside of the separator, we had no problems when it came time to clean everything up. Read More: The Best Fat Separators Pros Bottom draining design Trigger is easy to control Silicone-lined hole minimizes splashing Cons None that we could find $27.89 from Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $27.95 from Sur La Table $38.65 from Walmart

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Poultry Shears Poultry Shears OXO Good Grips Spring-Loaded Poultry Shears If you prefer preparing spatchcocked turkeys, you’ll need a good pair of poultry shears. It's easy to do, but you'll need to cut out the backbone (which, as the name implies, is lined with a bunch of bones that'll destroy your expensive knives). The OXO Good Grips Spring-Loaded Poultry Shears are the best set we've tested. The micro-serrated blade grips the bones and it doesn't struggle to slice through poultry skin. The tension in these spring-loaded scissors was perfect, and they bounced open happily after every cut. They were light and maneuverable, and they were an overall joy to use. Read More: The Best Poultry Shears Pros Sharp blades Comfortable handle Spring-loaded blades create ideal tension Cons Pricier than other shears $27.95 from Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $27.99 from Bed Bath & Beyond $46.14 from Walmart   
  
 Carving Knife Mercer Culinary Renaissance 11" Granton Edge Slicing Knife This carving knife came in my culinary school knife kit, and it’s so sharp I’ve never had reason to replace it! After you’ve spent all that time and money to prepare your turkey, you definitely want to present it just right. You could use your chef’s knife, but there’s something ceremonious about pulling out a good carving knife. Plus, since you don’t use it as frequently, chances are good it’s razor-sharp when you need it. You’ll be able to carve up your turkey quickly and easily and present perfect slices. It doesn’t come as a set, but you can also pick up the matching carving fork (available at Amazon). I usually use a set of kitchen tongs, but the fork certainly looks nicer and gives you better control. Pros Exquisitely sharp Cons May have limited use $32.00 from Amazon $37.38 from Walmart

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Electric Knife Electric Knife Black & Decker EK500B There are two stand-out factors that make the Black and Decker EK500B 9-Inch Electric Carving Knife our favorite. First, it aced all of our performance tests, but that's not what impressed us the most. The Black and Decker also has the most comfortable handle and was the quietest knife we tested. The round handle fit perfectly in our hands and stayed put, even when our hands were covered in chicken grease. The knife created little to no vibrations, making it easy to keep our finger locked onto the trigger without slipping. Since the Black and Decker is regularly priced at under $20, it also happens to be the best value, too. I would happily use this knife regularly to slice homemade bread or quickly break down a roast, but that price makes it attractive even if you only pull it out on the holidays. Read More: The Best Electric Knives Pros Slices a variety of foods with ease Great grip with minimal vibration Quiet Cons None that we could find $27.97 from Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $27.97 from Walmart   
  
 Carving Board Carving Board Teakhaus Rectangle Carving Board With Hand Grips When we tested cutting boards, we split the winners into three categories. Our favorite bamboo cutting board was great for any task in the kitchen, but the Teakhaus' size and heft made it more of a specialty board than a catch-all winner. It happens to be perfect for resting and carving a Thanksgiving turkey, though, because it can easily hold a 25-pound bird. It also happens to be a gorgeous piece that makes a stylish addition to your kitchen counter. The use of teak (a high-oil wood) fought off moisture better than the other wooden boards and it held the largest amount of liquid (2/3 cup) in its groves before spilling over. Read More: The Best Cutting Boards Pros The groved design prevents water from spilling Teak wood fights off moisture better Scratches are self-healing Cons Too heavy to move around the kitchen Too large to fit in a sink Buy now at Amazon $109.95 from Walmart

To Make Great Side Dishes Credit: Getty Images Use a potato ricer to make the fluffiest mashed potatoes your guests have ever eaten. Sometimes, I swear I like the side dishes more than the turkey itself. I know, I know, blasphemy! But these gadgets will help your mashed potatoes, vegetables, and casseroles turn out as delicious as the turkey. Potato Ricer Potato Ricer Chef’n FreshForce Potato Ricer I don’t know about you, but I’m serious about my mashed potatoes. It’s my favorite side on the Thanksgiving table. That’s why I use a potato ricer to make fluffy, airy mashed potatoes. We loved the way this potato ricer effortlessly pushed the potatoes through the hopper, thanks to a gear-powered mechanism that requires less arm strength to use. It was the only ricer we tested that we could use one-handed with a whole potato (with the others we tested, we had to chop the potatoes up into small pieces to achieve one-handed pressing). The comfortable handle is made from a heavy-duty plastic, but the hopper itself is stainless steel, which is easier to clean and should last a long time. The simple two-piece design allows you to take the stainless steel basket out, making it both easy to fill and a breeze to clean. Read More: The Best Potato Ricers Pros Simple two-construction design Easy to use Doesn’t make a mess Cons None that we could find $32.57 from Amazon $31.38 from Walmart

Mixing Bowls Mixing Bowls Cuisinart Stainless Steel Mixing Bowls with Lids, Set of 3 Given the choice between glass or stainless steel bowls, I'll go stainless every time. There’s nothing to shatter or chip, making them both durable and long-lasting, and their lightweight profile makes them easy to use. While they shouldn’t go into the microwave, they can be used on the stovetop as a double boiler. The small- and medium-sized bowls in the Cuisinart Stainless Steel Mixing Bowls with Lids set worked perfectly for melting butter and chocolate over a 2-quart saucepan. As a bonus, the bowls come with air-tight plastic lids, so each bowl doubles as storage and transportation container (always helpful when you're planning a large meal). Read More: The Best Mixing Bowls Pros Sturdy with tall sides Comfortable rim for gripping Includes lids Cons Not microwave safe $38.99 from Amazon $39.99 from Target Buy now at Home Depot $39.99 from Lowe's   
  
 Baking Dishes Baking Dishes Great Jones Hot Dish The best part of making casseroles for Thanksgiving? You can make them ahead of time and reheat them when it’s time to serve a big meal. That means less scrambling on Thanksgiving Day (which, hopefully, gives you more time to mingle with your guests). The Great Jones Hot Dish will get the job done and look great while doing it. This dish is convenient, can hold up to 5 quarts, and has the space to serve up enough green bean casserole for all of your guests. If you’re looking for something on the cheaper side that is also functional, look no further than the Pyrex Easy Grab 3-Quart Glass Baking Dish with Red Lid (available at Amazon). This dish is certainly easy to grip and even comes with a red plastic lid to keep your holiday side fresh until it’s served. Read More: The Best Casserole Dishes Pros Attractive design Handles provide a very good grip Available in several colors Dishwasher safe Cons Not broiler safe Buy now at Great Jones   
  
 Food Processor Food Processor Cuisinart 14-Cup Food Processor If you don't feel like cutting anything this year, hook up your food processor instead. You can chop onions, celery, and garlic for stuffing and use the included attachment to slice potatoes or shred cheese. In fact, you can even make your pie crust in it. In our testing, the Cuisinart "Custom 14" food processor (model DFP‑14BCNY) is the best on the market. It excels at almost every task, from chopping onions and slicing tomatoes as well as a razor-sharp chef's knife, to kneading pizza dough into a smooth elastic ball. As an added bonus, the Cuisinart is so quiet while it's running that it won’t shut down conversation in the kitchen. Cleanup is a cinch, as Cuisinart is the only manufacturer that actually encourages you to wash the parts in the dishwasher. Read More: The Best Food Processors Pros Excels at every task Fits under a cabinet Quiet Cons Slightly inconvenient chute lock Doesn't shred mozzarella evenly $229.99 from Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $249.95 from Abt $275.00 from JCPenney   
  
 Cast-Iron Skillet Cast-Iron Skillet Lodge Chef Collection 12-Inch Cast-Iron Skillet I love my cast-iron skillet! Some years, I skip the casserole dishes entirely and make my mac and cheese, stuffing, or cornbread straight in the cast-iron. Lodge has been making its cast-iron cookware since 1896, but its durability is one reason why Lodge has become a household name—and why they make our favorite cast-iron pan. The Lodge Chef Collection 12-inch skillet will also likely last for generations. Our only complaint? It comes with no written warranty, though Lodge claims it will always stand behind its products. Read More: The Best Cast-Iron Pans Pros Affordable Lightweight Comfortable handle Good nonstick properties Cons No warranty Buy now at Williams-Sonoma Buy now at Amazon $42.99 from JCPenney $53.95 from Walmart

General Cooking Must-Haves Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser HexClad was the best cookware set we tested, providing a hybrid cooking surface that combines stainless steel with the ease-of-use of nonstick. Whether you’re setting up your first kitchen or you’re looking to make some upgrades, these cookware essentials will definitely come in handy on Thanksgiving Day. These staples can be used with multiple courses and make a great addition to your kitchen. Cookware Set Cookware Set HexClad Hybrid Cookware 13-Piece Chef’s Package You’ll need pots and pans to prepare all your favorite sauces and side dishes, so consider it a great excuse to upgrade your cookware set. HexClad Hybrid Cookware 13-Piece Chef’s Package combines everything you love about stainless steel and nonstick pans to help whip up a delicious holiday meal. This kit includes 8-, 10-, and 12-inch frying pans; 2- and 3-quart sauce pots; an 8-quart stockpot; and a 12-inch wok. The HexClad’s unique hybrid construction allows the pans to heat up quickly and evenly, while using only a minimal amount of cooking oil. This is a great choice if you’re looking to upgrade your cookware set just in time for the holidays. If you’re looking for a more budget-friendly option, we recommend the Cuisinart MCP-12N Stainless Steel 12-Piece Cookware Set (available at Amazon). It’s regularly on sale for just above $200 and contains everything you’ll need for a holiday meal. These pans are easy to use and never get too hot to handle, which is useful when you’re busy in the kitchen. Read More: The Best Cookware Sets Pros Lightweight Great for searing Easy to clean Induction capable Cons Not as nonstick as other pans Buy now at HexClad

Knife Set Knife Set Wüsthof 8845 Grand Prix II 7-Piece Block Set You don't need every knife in the block to prepare Thanksgiving dinner, but this set gives you everything you'll need, including a set of kitchen shears. The chef’s knife (the one you'll probably use most often) was not only super sharp, but it was also very maneuverable making it easy to slice up small herbs, too. The paring blade was perfectly lengthed for on- and off-the-cutting board tasks, like peeling apples, and the serrated bread knife made quick work at slicing crusty baguettes. Read More: The Best Knife Sets Pros Sharp blades Comfortable handles Slim-design wooden block is storage-friendly Cons None that we could find Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Baking Sheet Baking Sheet Nordic Ware Natural Aluminum Commercial Baker's Half Sheet Planning on making cookies for Thanksgiving? Roasted vegetables? Tossing out your roasting pan in lieu of a spatchcocked turkey? You'll need a good baking sheet, and there’s a reason this American-made baking sheet tops charts around the internet. This Nordic Ware Half Sheet is lightweight, large enough to fit more than a dozen cookies, and distributes heat like a dream. Measuring 12-by-17-inches, it's large enough to cook enough vegetables for a small crowd. Like all baking sheets, the biggest concern is always cleaning. We'd recommend using parchment paper or a Silpat mat under cookies to ensure that nothing sticks. For meats and vegetables, you could also line the sheet with aluminum foil. Read More: The Best Cookie and Baking Sheets Pros Versatile Distributes heat evenly Large and lightweight Cons Lining (parchment, foil, Silpat) recommended Buy now at Amazon $17.99 from Blain Farm & Fleet $43.50 from Walmart   
  
 Baking Rack Checkered Chef Half-Sheet Stainless Steel Cooling Rack Wire racks aren’t just for cooling your cookies and cakes: Use one to line a baking sheet and you'll create the perfect convection cooking space. You see, the air will be able to circulate underneath your food, creating the crispiest bacon or Brussels sprouts on the block. You can also use it to cook a spatchcocked turkey. How could you say no to a method that creates perfectly crispy skin on 100% of your turkey? Pros Multipurpose Oven and dishwasher safe Cons Thin $16.99 from Amazon $33.74 from Walmart

For Delicious Desserts Credit: Getty Images Make the perfect pie with the best baking tools. I’m not sure you can call it Thanksgiving if you don’t finish the meal with pie. Whip up your favorite apple pie, pumpkin bread, or other treat with these essential dessert-making tools. Ceramic Pie Dish Ceramic Pie Dish Emile Henry Modern Classics Pie Dish It’s almost a Thanksgiving requirement to serve pie, so why not do it in style? You can’t beat the Emile Henry Pie Dish for looks or turning out a pie with a crispy, flaky crust. It’s made of ceramic and comes in lots of pretty colors. This 9-by-2-inch dish is deep enough to hold almost 2 quarts of filling. Its large capacity and attractive appearance make it a good choice for baking and serving other items like scalloped potatoes or candied sweets. As it can withstand high temperatures, you can run the Emile under the broiler if you want to brown off a lemon meringue pie or a mac and cheese casserole. Plus, it’s microwave- and dishwasher-safe. Read More: The Best Pie Dishes Pros Attractive and available in several colors Safe for dishwasher, microwave, and high heat Deep Cons Fluted edge prevents crimped crusts Heavy No handles or lip $54.05 from Amazon

Loaf Pan Loaf Pan Rachael Ray Yum-o! Nonstick Oven Lovin' Loaf Pan If you're more into pumpkin bread than pumpkin pie, a good loaf pan will be essential on Thanksgiving. This pan has a silly name and it doesn’t look like a professional tool, but when it came to results and ease of use, we liked everything about it. The Rachael Ray Yum-o! Oven Lovin' Loaf Pan has large handles and silicone inserts in Rachael’s signature orange color that make it super easy to get a firm grip on the pan. The nonstick finish never faltered, even when we didn’t grease the pan. Plus it's roomier than some of the others we tested, so meatloaf juices never bubbled over onto the oven floor. As it’s safe up to 500°F, you can quickly brown off a crumb topping on an apple loaf, if need be. Read More: The Best Loaf Pans Pros Large, grippy handles Nonstick coating safe up to 500°F Large capacity Cons None that we could find $13.99 from Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $14.39 from JCPenney $34.33 from Walmart   
  
 Rolling Pin Rolling Pin J.K. Adams Plain Maple Rolling Dowel When they say there’s beauty in simplicity, they’re talking about this rolling pin. It’s really just a sturdy wooden cylinder of a medium-heavy weight, nothing more, nothing less. But during testing, it rolled out perfect dough every time. The simple design of this rolling pin, combined with its weight, makes it easy to control the amount of pressure you use based on what you need for your dough. Its long body and lack of handles also mean that you'll never cut an edge through your dough the way you sometimes might with smaller, handled rolling pins. This translates to an even, non-lumpy dough that's easy to shape however you want. Flour sticks to the pin just fine, which keeps dough from sticking while in use. The pin also cleans up easily. The only downside is that, depending on the size of your kitchen, it might be tough to put this beauty away. Its 19-inch length simply makes it harder to tuck into a drawer. Read More: The Best Rolling Pins Pros Easy to control pressure while rolling Long body makes for consistent dough Holds flour well Cons None that we can find Buy now at Amazon $24.51 from Target $18.00 from Sur La Table $24.51 from Walmart

Don’t Forget the Leftovers (and Cleanup)! Credit: Getty Images / JodiJacobson Make sure you’re prepared to store leftovers for yummy sandwiches the next day. Every year, I forget about storing the leftovers. You can totally make it work with aluminum foil and plastic wrap, but this is a better option. And once you’ve tucked those away, we have a few suggestions for a better cleanup. Storage Containers Storage Containers Pyrex Ultimate 10-pc Storage Set A really nice set of reusable containers should be ready during dinner cleanup. We love that these containers nest within each other for easy storage, they don’t impart off-flavors into our food, and they’re marked as dishwasher-, microwave-, and oven-safe. It also doesn’t hurt that they aced every test we could think of. They didn’t leak water when we sloshed them around and didn’t burst open or shatter when we dropped them from a countertop. When we froze them, expanding food didn’t break through the seal and they resisted stains. Read More: The Best Storage Containers Pros Resilient glass construction Looks and feels fancy Oven safe Cons Silicone lids can stain No handles Buy now at Williams Sonoma Buy now at Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $49.95 from Walmart

Dish Towels Dish Towels Williams Sonoma All-Purpose Pantry Towels Washing the Thanksgiving dishes can be a daunting task, but the classic pantry towels from Williams Sonoma can help you get the job done without any fuss. Not only do these towels look good in any kitchen (choose from six colors), but they're a pro at drying irregular objects like wine glasses and vases while still feeling soft to the touch. Made from ribbon cotton terry, the towels retain more water than its competitors, which means it should be able to wipe water from plenty of dishes before you need to grab another one. Read More: The Best Dish Towels Pros Affordable Terry cloth material Cons Stays damp longer than thinner towels Buy now at Williams Sonoma   
  
 Dish Racks Dish Racks PremiumRacks Professional Dish Rack If you don’t want to run your good china, crystal, and silver through the dishwasher (or you simply don’t have a dishwasher), a good dish rack is essential for an organized post-Thanksgiving dinner cleanup. Our favorite is this PremiumRacks Professional, a smartly designed double-decker that holds more dishes than others we tested, without leaving a very large countertop footprint. The bottom portion is your standard featureless rack, but the top holds plates more securely than most of the racks we tested. A cutlery basket hooks onto the side, as does a second basket that can be topped with a lid specifically designed for sharp knives. There’s even a special attachment to dry your cutting boards. The rack also comes with two drain board options—one meant to let water pool, and the other designed to tip any water into the sink—plus a microfiber cloth to set underneath. Read More: The Best Dish Racks For more kitchen cleanup favorites, including paper towels, sponges, and trash cans, check out our guide for The Best Kitchen Essentials. Pros Double-decker design Lots of additional features Cons Takes some time to assemble Buy now at Amazon $51.90 from Wayfair $75.33 from Walmart

More Articles You Might Enjoy

25 things you need if you’re cooking for the holidays How to smoke a turkey with the Big Green Egg The Best Cookware Sets The Best Electric Knives

The first time I hosted Thanksgiving dinner, I was an absolute wreck. I didn’t have anything I needed, and I resorted to barking out orders to my family members as if they were line cooks in my restaurant. Not exactly the way I wanted to spend my day off!

After the chaos dissipated, I reflected on the day to see what went wrong with my Thanksgiving meal. It all came down to my cooking tools, and I didn’t have what I needed to get the job done.

In addition to the intangible things (like making a to-do list, doing prep work in advance, and clearing out the refrigerator), there are a few equipment necessities that will make your Thanksgiving Day go that much smoother, like the Viking Culinary Stainless Steel Roasting Pan (available at Amazon) the best roasting pan we’ve tested.

And, since we try not to recommend any unitasker tools that are only useful once a year, we tested more than 125 products (and researched countless more) to make sure you can put this stuff to good use all year long.

Roasting pans are a go-to Thanksgiving tool for a reason.

Everyone knows the turkey is the star of the show, and these tools will help you prepare the perfect bird! From cooking it to carving it, we tested all the essential equipment you’ll need to make this iconic Thanksgiving main dish.

Most people think of a roasting pan as a Thanksgiving essential, and it definitely is: Talk about a fuss-free way to cook up a turkey! But you can also use a well-built one year-round for sheet pan meals or cooking a roast for a crowd, making it worth it to invest in a good one.

The tri-ply stainless steel construction definitely gives the Viking Roasting Pan some heft, but the handles are super wide and comfortable, distributing the pan’s weight nicely. It had excellent heat distribution as well. It’s big and sturdy enough to handle a 20-pound turkey and it’s capable of cooking anything you throw at it.

Read More: The Best Roasting Pans

Comfortable handles   
  
 Distributes heat evenly   
  
 Sturdy   
  
 Hefty

Don’t undercook your turkey! Confidently toss it into the oven and forget about it until it beeps by probing it with this top-performing probe thermometer. In addition to being the most accurate probe we tested, the ThermoWorks ChefAlarm also has a nice backlight display.

You can use it as a timer, adjust the alarm’s volume, or use it to keep track of the minimum and maximum readings. We especially love its hinged tilting screen for easy viewing on the countertop, but it also has a magnet and a clip if that works better for your kitchen.

Spending $60 on a thermometer might not be for everyone, but this model is well worth the price tag, not only for your Thanksgiving Day meal but also if you’re serious about barbecue, making cheese, or boiling sugar for candy.

Read More: The Best Probe Thermometers

Accurate   
  
 Easy to read   
  
 Adjustable alarm volume   
  
 None that we could find

If monitoring your turkey’s temperature from inside the oven isn’t important to you, pick up a ThermoPop instead. It immediately impressed us with its super quick, accurate readings and its beautiful appearance.

The probe is long enough to keep your hands safely away from any hot steam. It also features a super thin tip that didn’t allow for many poultry juices to escape after probing. With a click of a button, the display rotates 360 degrees for ease of viewing. Another click and the backlight illuminates the large numbers.

Read More: The Best Digital Meat Thermometers

Accurate readings   
  
 Quick readings   
  
 Well-designed   
  
 None we could find

Fat separators might not be the sexiest gadget in the kitchen, but you’ll need one if you’re hoping to make a killer gravy this year. By design, bottom-draining separators make it almost impossible to pass a lot of fatty-liquid through their valves because the fat floats on the top.

Some of them have temperamental levers, but the trigger on this model is easy to control and, by design, will minimize splashing, creating less mess than some of the other models we tested. There’s also a pour spout on the top, which makes it much easier to remove the fat left behind. And, since the lever mechanism is located on the outside of the separator, we had no problems when it came time to clean everything up.

Read More: The Best Fat Separators

Bottom draining design   
  
 Trigger is easy to control   
  
 Silicone-lined hole minimizes splashing   
  
 None that we could find

If you prefer preparing spatchcocked turkeys, you’ll need a good pair of poultry shears. It’s easy to do, but you’ll need to cut out the backbone (which, as the name implies, is lined with a bunch of bones that’ll destroy your expensive knives).

The OXO Good Grips Spring-Loaded Poultry Shears are the best set we’ve tested. The micro-serrated blade grips the bones and it doesn’t struggle to slice through poultry skin. The tension in these spring-loaded scissors was perfect, and they bounced open happily after every cut. They were light and maneuverable, and they were an overall joy to use.

Read More: The Best Poultry Shears

Sharp blades   
  
 Comfortable handle   
  
 Spring-loaded blades create ideal tension   
  
 Pricier than other shears

This carving knife came in my culinary school knife kit, and it’s so sharp I’ve never had reason to replace it! After you’ve spent all that time and money to prepare your turkey, you definitely want to present it just right.

You could use your chef’s knife, but there’s something ceremonious about pulling out a good carving knife. Plus, since you don’t use it as frequently, chances are good it’s razor-sharp when you need it. You’ll be able to carve up your turkey quickly and easily and present perfect slices.

It doesn’t come as a set, but you can also pick up the matching carving fork (available at Amazon). I usually use a set of kitchen tongs, but the fork certainly looks nicer and gives you better control.

Exquisitely sharp   
  
 May have limited use

There are two stand-out factors that make the Black and Decker EK500B 9-Inch Electric Carving Knife our favorite. First, it aced all of our performance tests, but that’s not what impressed us the most.

The Black and Decker also has the most comfortable handle and was the quietest knife we tested. The round handle fit perfectly in our hands and stayed put, even when our hands were covered in chicken grease. The knife created little to no vibrations, making it easy to keep our finger locked onto the trigger without slipping.

Since the Black and Decker is regularly priced at under $20, it also happens to be the best value, too. I would happily use this knife regularly to slice homemade bread or quickly break down a roast, but that price makes it attractive even if you only pull it out on the holidays.

Read More: The Best Electric Knives

Slices a variety of foods with ease   
  
 Great grip with minimal vibration   
  
 Quiet   
  
 None that we could find

When we tested cutting boards, we split the winners into three categories. Our favorite bamboo cutting board was great for any task in the kitchen, but the Teakhaus’ size and heft made it more of a specialty board than a catch-all winner.

It happens to be perfect for resting and carving a Thanksgiving turkey, though, because it can easily hold a 25-pound bird. It also happens to be a gorgeous piece that makes a stylish addition to your kitchen counter. The use of teak (a high-oil wood) fought off moisture better than the other wooden boards and it held the largest amount of liquid (2/3 cup) in its groves before spilling over.

Read More: The Best Cutting Boards

The groved design prevents water from spilling   
  
 Teak wood fights off moisture better   
  
 Scratches are self-healing   
  
 Too heavy to move around the kitchen   
  
 Too large to fit in a sink

Use a potato ricer to make the fluffiest mashed potatoes your guests have ever eaten.

Sometimes, I swear I like the side dishes more than the turkey itself. I know, I know, blasphemy! But these gadgets will help your mashed potatoes, vegetables, and casseroles turn out as delicious as the turkey.

I don’t know about you, but I’m serious about my mashed potatoes. It’s my favorite side on the Thanksgiving table. That’s why I use a potato ricer to make fluffy, airy mashed potatoes. We loved the way this potato ricer effortlessly pushed the potatoes through the hopper, thanks to a gear-powered mechanism that requires less arm strength to use.

It was the only ricer we tested that we could use one-handed with a whole potato (with the others we tested, we had to chop the potatoes up into small pieces to achieve one-handed pressing). The comfortable handle is made from a heavy-duty plastic, but the hopper itself is stainless steel, which is easier to clean and should last a long time. The simple two-piece design allows you to take the stainless steel basket out, making it both easy to fill and a breeze to clean.

Read More: The Best Potato Ricers

Simple two-construction design   
  
 Easy to use   
  
 Doesn't make a mess   
  
 None that we could find

Given the choice between glass or stainless steel bowls, I’ll go stainless every time. There’s nothing to shatter or chip, making them both durable and long-lasting, and their lightweight profile makes them easy to use.

While they shouldn’t go into the microwave, they can be used on the stovetop as a double boiler. The small- and medium-sized bowls in the Cuisinart Stainless Steel Mixing Bowls with Lids set worked perfectly for melting butter and chocolate over a 2-quart saucepan. As a bonus, the bowls come with air-tight plastic lids, so each bowl doubles as storage and transportation container (always helpful when you’re planning a large meal).

Read More: The Best Mixing Bowls

Sturdy with tall sides   
  
 Comfortable rim for gripping   
  
 Includes lids   
  
 Not microwave safe

The best part of making casseroles for Thanksgiving? You can make them ahead of time and reheat them when it’s time to serve a big meal. That means less scrambling on Thanksgiving Day (which, hopefully, gives you more time to mingle with your guests).

The Great Jones Hot Dish will get the job done and look great while doing it. This dish is convenient, can hold up to 5 quarts, and has the space to serve up enough green bean casserole for all of your guests.

If you’re looking for something on the cheaper side that is also functional, look no further than the Pyrex Easy Grab 3-Quart Glass Baking Dish with Red Lid (available at Amazon). This dish is certainly easy to grip and even comes with a red plastic lid to keep your holiday side fresh until it’s served.

Read More: The Best Casserole Dishes

Attractive design   
  
 Handles provide a very good grip   
  
 Available in several colors   
  
 Dishwasher safe   
  
 Not broiler safe

If you don’t feel like cutting anything this year, hook up your food processor instead. You can chop onions, celery, and garlic for stuffing and use the included attachment to slice potatoes or shred cheese. In fact, you can even make your pie crust in it.

In our testing, the Cuisinart “Custom 14” food processor (model DFP‑14BCNY) is the best on the market. It excels at almost every task, from chopping onions and slicing tomatoes as well as a razor-sharp chef’s knife, to kneading pizza dough into a smooth elastic ball. As an added bonus, the Cuisinart is so quiet while it’s running that it won’t shut down conversation in the kitchen. Cleanup is a cinch, as Cuisinart is the only manufacturer that actually encourages you to wash the parts in the dishwasher.

Read More: The Best Food Processors

Excels at every task   
  
 Fits under a cabinet   
  
 Quiet   
  
 Slightly inconvenient chute lock   
  
 Doesn't shred mozzarella evenly

I love my cast-iron skillet! Some years, I skip the casserole dishes entirely and make my mac and cheese, stuffing, or cornbread straight in the cast-iron.

Lodge has been making its cast-iron cookware since 1896, but its durability is one reason why Lodge has become a household name—and why they make our favorite cast-iron pan. The Lodge Chef Collection 12-inch skillet will also likely last for generations. Our only complaint? It comes with no written warranty, though Lodge claims it will always stand behind its products.

Read More: The Best Cast-Iron Pans

Affordable   
  
 Lightweight   
  
 Comfortable handle   
  
 Good nonstick properties   
  
 No warranty

HexClad was the best cookware set we tested, providing a hybrid cooking surface that combines stainless steel with the ease-of-use of nonstick.

Whether you’re setting up your first kitchen or you’re looking to make some upgrades, these cookware essentials will definitely come in handy on Thanksgiving Day. These staples can be used with multiple courses and make a great addition to your kitchen.

You’ll need pots and pans to prepare all your favorite sauces and side dishes, so consider it a great excuse to upgrade your cookware set. HexClad Hybrid Cookware 13-Piece Chef’s Package combines everything you love about stainless steel and nonstick pans to help whip up a delicious holiday meal. This kit includes 8-, 10-, and 12-inch frying pans; 2- and 3-quart sauce pots; an 8-quart stockpot; and a 12-inch wok.

The HexClad’s unique hybrid construction allows the pans to heat up quickly and evenly, while using only a minimal amount of cooking oil. This is a great choice if you’re looking to upgrade your cookware set just in time for the holidays.

If you’re looking for a more budget-friendly option, we recommend the Cuisinart MCP-12N Stainless Steel 12-Piece Cookware Set (available at Amazon). It’s regularly on sale for just above $200 and contains everything you’ll need for a holiday meal. These pans are easy to use and never get too hot to handle, which is useful when you’re busy in the kitchen.

Read More: The Best Cookware Sets

Lightweight   
  
 Great for searing   
  
 Easy to clean   
  
 Induction capable   
  
 Not as nonstick as other pans

You don’t need every knife in the block to prepare Thanksgiving dinner, but this set gives you everything you’ll need, including a set of kitchen shears. The chef’s knife (the one you’ll probably use most often) was not only super sharp, but it was also very maneuverable making it easy to slice up small herbs, too. The paring blade was perfectly lengthed for on- and off-the-cutting board tasks, like peeling apples, and the serrated bread knife made quick work at slicing crusty baguettes.

Read More: The Best Knife Sets

Sharp blades   
  
 Comfortable handles   
  
 Slim-design wooden block is storage-friendly   
  
 None that we could find

Planning on making cookies for Thanksgiving? Roasted vegetables? Tossing out your roasting pan in lieu of a spatchcocked turkey? You’ll need a good baking sheet, and there’s a reason this American-made baking sheet tops charts around the internet.

This Nordic Ware Half Sheet is lightweight, large enough to fit more than a dozen cookies, and distributes heat like a dream. Measuring 12-by-17-inches, it’s large enough to cook enough vegetables for a small crowd.

Like all baking sheets, the biggest concern is always cleaning. We’d recommend using parchment paper or a Silpat mat under cookies to ensure that nothing sticks. For meats and vegetables, you could also line the sheet with aluminum foil.

Read More: The Best Cookie and Baking Sheets

Versatile   
  
 Distributes heat evenly   
  
 Large and lightweight   
  
 Lining (parchment, foil, Silpat) recommended

Wire racks aren’t just for cooling your cookies and cakes: Use one to line a baking sheet and you’ll create the perfect convection cooking space. You see, the air will be able to circulate underneath your food, creating the crispiest bacon or Brussels sprouts on the block. You can also use it to cook a spatchcocked turkey. How could you say no to a method that creates perfectly crispy skin on 100% of your turkey?

Multipurpose   
  
 Oven and dishwasher safe   
  
 Thin

Make the perfect pie with the best baking tools.

I’m not sure you can call it Thanksgiving if you don’t finish the meal with pie. Whip up your favorite apple pie, pumpkin bread, or other treat with these essential dessert-making tools.

It’s almost a Thanksgiving requirement to serve pie, so why not do it in style? You can’t beat the Emile Henry Pie Dish for looks or turning out a pie with a crispy, flaky crust. It’s made of ceramic and comes in lots of pretty colors.

This 9-by-2-inch dish is deep enough to hold almost 2 quarts of filling. Its large capacity and attractive appearance make it a good choice for baking and serving other items like scalloped potatoes or candied sweets. As it can withstand high temperatures, you can run the Emile under the broiler if you want to brown off a lemon meringue pie or a mac and cheese casserole. Plus, it’s microwave- and dishwasher-safe.

Read More: The Best Pie Dishes

Attractive and available in several colors   
  
 Safe for dishwasher, microwave, and high heat   
  
 Deep   
  
 Fluted edge prevents crimped crusts   
  
 Heavy   
  
 No handles or lip

If you’re more into pumpkin bread than pumpkin pie, a good loaf pan will be essential on Thanksgiving. This pan has a silly name and it doesn’t look like a professional tool, but when it came to results and ease of use, we liked everything about it.

The Rachael Ray Yum-o! Oven Lovin’ Loaf Pan has large handles and silicone inserts in Rachael’s signature orange color that make it super easy to get a firm grip on the pan. The nonstick finish never faltered, even when we didn’t grease the pan.

Plus it’s roomier than some of the others we tested, so meatloaf juices never bubbled over onto the oven floor. As it’s safe up to 500°F, you can quickly brown off a crumb topping on an apple loaf, if need be.

Read More: The Best Loaf Pans

Large, grippy handles   
  
 Nonstick coating safe up to 500°F   
  
 Large capacity   
  
 None that we could find

When they say there’s beauty in simplicity, they’re talking about this rolling pin. It’s really just a sturdy wooden cylinder of a medium-heavy weight, nothing more, nothing less. But during testing, it rolled out perfect dough every time.

The simple design of this rolling pin, combined with its weight, makes it easy to control the amount of pressure you use based on what you need for your dough. Its long body and lack of handles also mean that you’ll never cut an edge through your dough the way you sometimes might with smaller, handled rolling pins.

This translates to an even, non-lumpy dough that’s easy to shape however you want. Flour sticks to the pin just fine, which keeps dough from sticking while in use. The pin also cleans up easily. The only downside is that, depending on the size of your kitchen, it might be tough to put this beauty away. Its 19-inch length simply makes it harder to tuck into a drawer.

Read More: The Best Rolling Pins

Easy to control pressure while rolling   
  
 Long body makes for consistent dough   
  
 Holds flour well   
  
 None that we can find

Make sure you’re prepared to store leftovers for yummy sandwiches the next day.

Every year, I forget about storing the leftovers. You can totally make it work with aluminum foil and plastic wrap, but this is a better option. And once you’ve tucked those away, we have a few suggestions for a better cleanup.

A really nice set of reusable containers should be ready during dinner cleanup. We love that these containers nest within each other for easy storage, they don’t impart off-flavors into our food, and they’re marked as dishwasher-, microwave-, and oven-safe.

It also doesn’t hurt that they aced every test we could think of. They didn’t leak water when we sloshed them around and didn’t burst open or shatter when we dropped them from a countertop. When we froze them, expanding food didn’t break through the seal and they resisted stains.

Read More: The Best Storage Containers

Resilient glass construction   
  
 Looks and feels fancy   
  
 Oven safe   
  
 Silicone lids can stain   
  
 No handles

Washing the Thanksgiving dishes can be a daunting task, but the classic pantry towels from Williams Sonoma can help you get the job done without any fuss. Not only do these towels look good in any kitchen (choose from six colors), but they’re a pro at drying irregular objects like wine glasses and vases while still feeling soft to the touch.

Made from ribbon cotton terry, the towels retain more water than its competitors, which means it should be able to wipe water from plenty of dishes before you need to grab another one.

Read More: The Best Dish Towels

Affordable   
  
 Terry cloth material   
  
 Stays damp longer than thinner towels

If you don’t want to run your good china, crystal, and silver through the dishwasher (or you simply don’t have a dishwasher), a good dish rack is essential for an organized post-Thanksgiving dinner cleanup.

Our favorite is this PremiumRacks Professional, a smartly designed double-decker that holds more dishes than others we tested, without leaving a very large countertop footprint. The bottom portion is your standard featureless rack, but the top holds plates more securely than most of the racks we tested.

A cutlery basket hooks onto the side, as does a second basket that can be topped with a lid specifically designed for sharp knives. There’s even a special attachment to dry your cutting boards. The rack also comes with two drain board options—one meant to let water pool, and the other designed to tip any water into the sink—plus a microfiber cloth to set underneath.

Read More: The Best Dish Racks

For more kitchen cleanup favorites, including paper towels, sponges, and trash cans, check out our guide for The Best Kitchen Essentials.

Double-decker design   
  
 Lots of additional features   
  
 Takes some time to assemble   
  
  
 Lindsay D. Mattison  
   
  
  
 Professional Chef

Lindsay D. Mattison is a professional chef, food writer, and amateur gardener. She is currently writing a cookbook that aims to teach home cooks how to write without a recipe.

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# The Best Bottle Drying Racks of 2022

## Efficiency

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

The easy-to-clean Boon Grass has developed a strong following online, not only for its unique look, but for its ability to help dry items faster.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 We like that this one folds up when not in use, and that there are different sized prongs based on what you need to dry.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 We liked the solid build quality of this drying rack, but it took longer to dry a bottle than some of the other options out there.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 We found that this drying rack was large and inefficient, though its prongs fit lots of different bottle parts, and it offers faster drying times.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The elevated prongs of the Philips Avent drying rack allow for a nice amount of airflow, and this rack is super easy to clean.  
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Updated September 20, 2022

When bottles, pacifiers and other random pieces of baby gear start piling up, the question quickly becomes: Where do you put everything while it dries? Inevitably there won’t be a pre-existing place in your kitchen specifically designed to keep bottles upright, and you’ll find yourself in the market for a bottle drying rack. Thankfully, bottle drying racks are generally pretty inexpensive and utilitarian, but you’ll still want one that fits both your kitchen’s design and counter space. We browsed the best of the best to find the number one drying rack out there—one that will allow your bottles to dry faster, is efficient with space, and is easy to clean. Our pick for best overall, the Boon Grass (available at Amazon for $19.19) is a tried-and-true member of even the most modern kitchens, and will be right at home on your countertop, thanks to its efficient and effective design. We also liked the Dr. Brown’s Universal Drying Rack (available at Amazon) as a great alternative should you want to get something that can be folded up and put away when not in use.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar The Boon Grass bottle drying rack performed best in testing.

Best Overall Boon Grass Countertop Drying Rack The easy-to-clean Boon Grass has developed a strong following online, not only for its unique look, but for its ability to help dry items faster. There are currently more than 3,000 reviews on Amazon, with over 92% of reviewers giving it 4 or 5 stars. While it doesn’t have quite as much capacity as other models, the Boon Lawn is a larger option—2 inches longer and 4 inches wider—if you find you need more space. Both models have the same design features: an easy-to-clean, low profile design; and high-quality plastic parts that won’t break easily. There are also a host of other accessories, namely the Boon Twig which adds some efficiency to the equation by holding some extra parts at a higher elevation than the bottles. One drawback of the Boon Grass (and Lawn) is that the bottom of the “grass” tends to grow a slimy film and can form mildew. The only way around this is to take it apart and wash it daily, which some exhausted new parents may find annoying. When your bottles, parts and pacifiers need a good place to dry out, look no further than the Boon Grass. Our pick is functional, space-efficient, and easy to clean, and if you need more room you can always upgrade to the bigger Boon Lawn. Pros Flexible arrangement of parts Neat add-ons for more capacity Super easy-to-clean Cons Could be larger Add-ons are an extra cost Tendency to grow mold / mildew $19.19 from Amazon $14.99 from Bed Bath & Beyond $16.44 from Walmart

Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar The Dr. Brown's bottle drying rack can be folded flat for easy storage.

Best for small spaces Dr. Brown’s Folding Drying Rack The Dr. Brown’s Universal Drying Rack is also a great pick for effectively drying all of your bottles and parts. We like that this one folds up when not in use, and that there are different sized prongs based on what you need to dry. Some of the aspects we didn’t like were that it’s hard to clean, and that certain bottles may be too wide to fit next to one another on the prongs. While this model isn’t quite as versatile as the Boon Grass, it does have a large capacity and doesn’t take up too much room on your countertop. Pros Large capacity Foldable Different sized prongs for different items Cons Difficult to clean every crevice Bottles may be too wide to fit next to each other Shorter racks aren’t as effective at drying items quickly $13.49 from Amazon $28.00 from Walmart

OXO Tot Bottle Drying Rack Even though we generally love OXO brand products, this one disappointed in how it took longer than normal to dry a bottle. The rack’s shorter prongs actually limit the amount of airflow, and subsequently increase the length of time to dry, given that the bottles sit so close to the base. However, we did like the OXO Tot's solid construction and materials, and we found the attached cup to be great for drying utensils. Pros Solid construction and materials Extra cup is useful for utensils Compact and efficient design Cons Short prongs increase drying time Crevices are hard to clean Prongs are very close together. $20.99 from Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $22.95 from Walmart   
  
 Munchkin High Capacity Drying Rack While an interesting concept, we found that this drying rack was large and inefficient, which is not the combination that you’re going for. Even though the double-decker approach is designed to give you extra room, testers noted that this was too high to fit underneath kitchen cabinets, leaving it front and center on your counter. We found that the other models offered higher capacity, and they took up less real estate. Plus, due to all of the different prongs and crevices, the Munchkin was somewhat difficult to thoroughly clean. On the positive side, the Munchkin High Capacity rack allows for more airflow—and faster drying time—because the bottles are lifted so high off the counter. It also spins around, to make reaching all the prongs a cinch, and the uniquely-shaped prongs fit lots of different bottle parts. Pros Spins Lifts bottles higher to allow for air flow Unique shapes to fit specific parts Cons Lots of crevices to clean Limited capacity Taller design takes up vertical space $14.69 from Amazon $14.67 from Walmart   
  
 Philips Avent Drying Rack The elevated prongs of the Philips Avent drying rack allow for a nice amount of airflow, and this rack is super easy to clean. We also liked that this model was compact, and rather space efficient, but it lacked an area to put your larger extra parts like nipples or handles. When you end up using the prongs for parts, you lose out on capacity, meaning that you’ll likely need two of these to satisfy your drying rack needs. Pros Includes smart placement of smaller parts Easy to clean Elevated bottle placement provides good airflow Cons Doesn’t fit much Lots of crevices Flimsy plastic materials $17.79 from Amazon $11.99 from Newegg $17.79 from Walmart   
  
 Prince Lionheart Deluxe Drying Station We found that Prince Lionheart’s offering was unique, in that it was both compact and space efficient, but we found that with more capacity came more problems. The upper rack offers a good amount of airflow, and was a nice addition for drying bottle parts, but we ended up having to remove all of the pieces in order to get to the bottles. Cleaning is also a challenge given the paper-clip design, so prepare to scrub deep down in the crevices to keep this one clean. Pros Elevated tray provides good airflow Holds a lot of parts Second rack Cons Second rack gets in the way Hard to clean Lots of crevices $14.59 from Amazon $14.72 from Walmart

What to Consider When Selecting a Bottle Drying Rack Efficiency We know that space is at a premium, so finding racks that managed to hold lots of bottles and parts in a space-efficient manner was chief among our concerns. While there are a lot of crazy designs, generally speaking, the ones that allow enough space for bottles to not touch, while still giving a minimal amount of room for odds and ends were rated the highest. Capacity Obviously, you want something that will hold as much as you can throw at it. While you need to be efficient, you also need to get the job done with one rack and not six. We made sure that each rack could hold enough bottles and parts to aid a family of one or two kids in their bottle drying quest. Does It Help Bottles Dry Faster? You would be surprised to find that some models, given their materials and design, actually take significantly longer to dry a bottle than others. Whether it’s the tip of the prong, or the amount of air that can get in the bottle, certain models performed better than others due to their design and structure. More Articles You Might Enjoy

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When bottles, pacifiers and other random pieces of baby gear start piling up, the question quickly becomes: Where do you put everything while it dries? Inevitably there won’t be a pre-existing place in your kitchen specifically designed to keep bottles upright, and you’ll find yourself in the market for a bottle drying rack. Thankfully, bottle drying racks are generally pretty inexpensive and utilitarian, but you’ll still want one that fits both your kitchen’s design and counter space.

We browsed the best of the best to find the number one drying rack out there—one that will allow your bottles to dry faster, is efficient with space, and is easy to clean. Our pick for best overall, the Boon Grass (available at Amazon for $19.19) is a tried-and-true member of even the most modern kitchens, and will be right at home on your countertop, thanks to its efficient and effective design. We also liked the Dr. Brown’s Universal Drying Rack (available at Amazon) as a great alternative should you want to get something that can be folded up and put away when not in use.

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The Boon Grass bottle drying rack performed best in testing.

The easy-to-clean Boon Grass has developed a strong following online, not only for its unique look, but for its ability to help dry items faster. There are currently more than 3,000 reviews on Amazon, with over 92% of reviewers giving it 4 or 5 stars. While it doesn’t have quite as much capacity as other models, the Boon Lawn is a larger option—2 inches longer and 4 inches wider—if you find you need more space.

Both models have the same design features: an easy-to-clean, low profile design; and high-quality plastic parts that won’t break easily. There are also a host of other accessories, namely the Boon Twig which adds some efficiency to the equation by holding some extra parts at a higher elevation than the bottles.

One drawback of the Boon Grass (and Lawn) is that the bottom of the “grass” tends to grow a slimy film and can form mildew. The only way around this is to take it apart and wash it daily, which some exhausted new parents may find annoying.

When your bottles, parts and pacifiers need a good place to dry out, look no further than the Boon Grass. Our pick is functional, space-efficient, and easy to clean, and if you need more room you can always upgrade to the bigger Boon Lawn.

Flexible arrangement of parts   
  
 Neat add-ons for more capacity   
  
 Super easy-to-clean   
  
 Could be larger   
  
 Add-ons are an extra cost   
  
 Tendency to grow mold / mildew

The Dr. Brown’s bottle drying rack can be folded flat for easy storage.

The Dr. Brown’s Universal Drying Rack is also a great pick for effectively drying all of your bottles and parts. We like that this one folds up when not in use, and that there are different sized prongs based on what you need to dry. Some of the aspects we didn’t like were that it’s hard to clean, and that certain bottles may be too wide to fit next to one another on the prongs. While this model isn’t quite as versatile as the Boon Grass, it does have a large capacity and doesn’t take up too much room on your countertop.

Large capacity   
  
 Foldable   
  
 Different sized prongs for different items   
  
 Difficult to clean every crevice   
  
 Bottles may be too wide to fit next to each other   
  
 Shorter racks aren’t as effective at drying items quickly

Even though we generally love OXO brand products, this one disappointed in how it took longer than normal to dry a bottle. The rack’s shorter prongs actually limit the amount of airflow, and subsequently increase the length of time to dry, given that the bottles sit so close to the base. However, we did like the OXO Tot’s solid construction and materials, and we found the attached cup to be great for drying utensils.

Solid construction and materials   
  
 Extra cup is useful for utensils   
  
 Compact and efficient design   
  
 Short prongs increase drying time   
  
 Crevices are hard to clean   
  
 Prongs are very close together.

While an interesting concept, we found that this drying rack was large and inefficient, which is not the combination that you’re going for. Even though the double-decker approach is designed to give you extra room, testers noted that this was too high to fit underneath kitchen cabinets, leaving it front and center on your counter. We found that the other models offered higher capacity, and they took up less real estate. Plus, due to all of the different prongs and crevices, the Munchkin was somewhat difficult to thoroughly clean.

On the positive side, the Munchkin High Capacity rack allows for more airflow—and faster drying time—because the bottles are lifted so high off the counter. It also spins around, to make reaching all the prongs a cinch, and the uniquely-shaped prongs fit lots of different bottle parts.

Spins   
  
 Lifts bottles higher to allow for air flow   
  
 Unique shapes to fit specific parts   
  
 Lots of crevices to clean   
  
 Limited capacity   
  
 Taller design takes up vertical space

The elevated prongs of the Philips Avent drying rack allow for a nice amount of airflow, and this rack is super easy to clean. We also liked that this model was compact, and rather space efficient, but it lacked an area to put your larger extra parts like nipples or handles. When you end up using the prongs for parts, you lose out on capacity, meaning that you’ll likely need two of these to satisfy your drying rack needs.

Includes smart placement of smaller parts   
  
 Easy to clean   
  
 Elevated bottle placement provides good airflow   
  
 Doesn’t fit much   
  
 Lots of crevices   
  
 Flimsy plastic materials

We found that Prince Lionheart’s offering was unique, in that it was both compact and space efficient, but we found that with more capacity came more problems. The upper rack offers a good amount of airflow, and was a nice addition for drying bottle parts, but we ended up having to remove all of the pieces in order to get to the bottles. Cleaning is also a challenge given the paper-clip design, so prepare to scrub deep down in the crevices to keep this one clean.

Elevated tray provides good airflow   
  
 Holds a lot of parts   
  
 Second rack   
  
 Second rack gets in the way   
  
 Hard to clean   
  
 Lots of crevices

We know that space is at a premium, so finding racks that managed to hold lots of bottles and parts in a space-efficient manner was chief among our concerns. While there are a lot of crazy designs, generally speaking, the ones that allow enough space for bottles to not touch, while still giving a minimal amount of room for odds and ends were rated the highest.

Obviously, you want something that will hold as much as you can throw at it. While you need to be efficient, you also need to get the job done with one rack and not six. We made sure that each rack could hold enough bottles and parts to aid a family of one or two kids in their bottle drying quest.

You would be surprised to find that some models, given their materials and design, actually take significantly longer to dry a bottle than others. Whether it’s the tip of the prong, or the amount of air that can get in the bottle, certain models performed better than others due to their design and structure.

Matthew DeLauder  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Matthew DeLauder is a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician and baby gear expert with a decade of experience in the specialty product space.

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# The Best Electric Longboards of 2022

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

For more experienced riders and commuters, the Backfire Zealot S will tackle hills and longer distances better than many other electric longboards.  
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 With a great top speed and affordable price, the Meepo Shuffle V4 checks most of the needs for beginner and experienced longboard riders.  
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 An easy-to-carry, lightweight board with a cut-out handle, the Blitzart Hurricane is a well-recognized brand with a thoughtful design.  
  
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 While a bit on the pricey side, the Hiboy offers a distinctive look with reliable communication between board and controller.  
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 Looking like a regular skateboard, the Teamgee H5 has an integrated battery that keeps you a low three inches off the ground.  
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Updated October 14, 2022

As batteries and motors improve, the future of transportation is looking more electric with electric bikes and longboards. While electric bikes have long been a popular commuting option, electric longboards are gaining speed as another easy way to get around. It’s hard to picture a more mellow commute than zipping to work on a longboard that requires little work. When considering the best electric longboard—for either a commute or for fun—the biggest debate seems to be in choosing either hub or belt motors. Hub motors are enclosed in the wheels themselves, for a smooth look. Belt motors are often attached to the underside of the board, with a wide belt running down to the wheel. While there are upsides and downsides to each type of motor, even passionate debates don’t reveal a clear winner. More recently, hub motors have improved, so if they’ve been a disappointment to you in the past, they might be worth another look. Generally, the biggest complaint is that most belt motors won’t let the wheels spin if your battery runs out. So if the possibility of walking a great distance with your board is a deal breaker, stick to the hub motors. With a hub motor, your board is set up to still allow the wheel to roll even when you’re out of juice. Otherwise, opinions are pretty evenly split between the two options.

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To help you find the right electric longboard, we dug through thousands of reviews to find the best electric longboards available online. Based on our research, these are some of the best electric longboards you can get right now.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Backfire Zealot S Belt-Driven Electric Skateboard With snazzy purple ambient lighting, people are sure to see you coming on the Backfire Zealot S. They’ll need to look quick though, because you’ll be zooming past and coasting smoothly up hills with those two 850-Watt belt-driven motors. While this electric longboard is sure to make life easier, it might be hard on your wallet. The Zealot S has a bit of a price tag attached, probably due in part to its super powerful motors. As one reviewer noted, the cost of the board feels justified by the recent increase in gas prices. One reviewer managed to save fuel as well as wear and tear on their vehicle by using their longboard for their commute to work. The range of the Zealot S is 22-miles, which should be plenty for an easy commute. Reviewers often commented on the smoothness of the acceleration and the easy braking, attributing the responsiveness of the board to those dual belt-driven motors. While reviewers universally indicate that this longboard is a great value, the 6-month feels a bit stingy given the cost. Pros Two belt-driven motors Large 96 mm wheels Range of 22 miles Cons 180-day warranty Buy now at Amazon

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Meepo Shuffle V4 Classic Electric Skateboard Advertised as beginner-friendly, with enough zoom for more advanced riders, the Meepo Shuffle has gone through a couple of revisions to arrive at today’s version, the V4. The specifics on this board are a bit hard to find and sometimes offer different information on the same page. For example, the charging time is listed on the Amazon page as 28 minutes to full. This is impressive, until you look a bit closer. That charging speed is with the 8-Amp charger, sold separately. Looking at the manufacturer page, way down at the bottom, the charging speed is listed as over 2.5 hours. Made of eight layers of maple plus one layer of fiberglass, the V4 delivers on all accounts. But if you’re looking for a carbon fiber option, they also make the Meepo Hurricane. The Hurricane is an all terrain electric longboard, with a deck made of 3K carbon fiber. But this model comes with a much higher price tag. The differences between advertised speed and range comes up in the reviews, with some shoppers being disappointed at their experience. This longboard may not be the right choice for some, but most are impressed with the value of the board and its quick braking. Pros Top speed of 29 mph Responsive braking Cons Issues with remote Unresponsive customer service Issues with charging

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Blitzart 38-Inch Hurricane Electric Longboard If the weight of most electric longboards leaves you groaning, the Blitzart Hurricane is a great choice. This board focuses on keeping the weight down. At a svelte 14 pounds, the Hurricane is noticeably lighter than most electric longboards. Add in the cut-out handle, and you’ve got an easy-to-carry board when you aren’t riding it. The range on this board isn’t impressive, estimated between eight to ten miles, depending on the rider and conditions. Reviewers noted concerns about the skateboard and remote communication, with several shoppers experiencing glitches when braking with the remote, as well as rough acceleration. The warranty on the Hurricane through Blitzart is a disappointing 15 days. An extended warranty on the manufacturer’s website, for $40, will see you covered for three months, minus a restocking fee for a skateboard return. Last of all, the charging time reported by Blitzart for this skateboard is three hours, one of the longer charge times. Pros Cut-out handle Solid customer support Lightweight board Cons Issues with controller 3 hours to fully charge Short warranty Buy now at Amazon

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Hiboy S22 Electric Skateboard With sharp looks, the Hiboy S22 Electric Skateboard offers good performance in a great-looking package. Hiboy is conservative with their reported speeds, advertising the S22 at a maximum speed of 19 mph. In a review, one user weighing 180 pounds was able to reach 21 mph going up a 2% grade hill. Reviewers often say that the board exceeded expectations. Another user commented on the extra grip coating on the deck, noticing that even with a slightly shorter board, he had sufficient foot space. The Hiboy S22 has a limited one-year warranty, with the hub motors and battery covered for only six months. When issues are reported, customer service is quick to correct the problem. For one shopper in particular, the Hiboy was a repeat purchase after her first board stopped holding a charge. This speaks to the board’s high-performance. Pros Sharp red-and-black look Grippy deck Large 3.5-inch wheels Cons Shorter board at 36 inches 3-hour charge time Buy now at Amazon

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Teamgee H5 37-Inch Electric Skateboard The Teamgee H5 is a thinner longboard that sits just three inches above the road. This is due to the battery being built into the actual board. With a lower center of gravity, reviews note the great stability of the H5, keeping you low and in control. Charging this board from an empty battery is reported to be about two hours, fairly average for an electric longboard. One reviewer was pleased that the remote used USB-C for quicker charging. Generally, shoppers were happy with the speed of this board, as well as the distance on a single charge. Reviews were mixed on the customer support; some shoppers had their boards or parts replaced under the one-year warranty, while others had difficulty even contacting Teamgee. Adding to the appeal of this board is the fact that its slim design doesn’t look electric at a glance. Pros Thin board with integrated battery Quick charging Fast up hills Cons Stiff board Lackluster remote Inconsistent customer service $473.00 from Amazon

As batteries and motors improve, the future of transportation is looking more electric with electric bikes and longboards. While electric bikes have long been a popular commuting option, electric longboards are gaining speed as another easy way to get around. It’s hard to picture a more mellow commute than zipping to work on a longboard that requires little work.

When considering the best electric longboard—for either a commute or for fun—the biggest debate seems to be in choosing either hub or belt motors.

Hub motors are enclosed in the wheels themselves, for a smooth look. Belt motors are often attached to the underside of the board, with a wide belt running down to the wheel. While there are upsides and downsides to each type of motor, even passionate debates don’t reveal a clear winner. More recently, hub motors have improved, so if they’ve been a disappointment to you in the past, they might be worth another look.

Generally, the biggest complaint is that most belt motors won’t let the wheels spin if your battery runs out. So if the possibility of walking a great distance with your board is a deal breaker, stick to the hub motors. With a hub motor, your board is set up to still allow the wheel to roll even when you’re out of juice. Otherwise, opinions are pretty evenly split between the two options.

To help you find the right electric longboard, we dug through thousands of reviews to find the best electric longboards available online. Based on our research, these are some of the best electric longboards you can get right now.

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With snazzy purple ambient lighting, people are sure to see you coming on the Backfire Zealot S. They’ll need to look quick though, because you’ll be zooming past and coasting smoothly up hills with those two 850-Watt belt-driven motors. While this electric longboard is sure to make life easier, it might be hard on your wallet. The Zealot S has a bit of a price tag attached, probably due in part to its super powerful motors.

As one reviewer noted, the cost of the board feels justified by the recent increase in gas prices. One reviewer managed to save fuel as well as wear and tear on their vehicle by using their longboard for their commute to work. The range of the Zealot S is 22-miles, which should be plenty for an easy commute.

Reviewers often commented on the smoothness of the acceleration and the easy braking, attributing the responsiveness of the board to those dual belt-driven motors. While reviewers universally indicate that this longboard is a great value, the 6-month feels a bit stingy given the cost.

Two belt-driven motors   
  
 Large 96 mm wheels   
  
 Range of 22 miles   
  
 180-day warranty

Advertised as beginner-friendly, with enough zoom for more advanced riders, the Meepo Shuffle has gone through a couple of revisions to arrive at today’s version, the V4. The specifics on this board are a bit hard to find and sometimes offer different information on the same page.

For example, the charging time is listed on the Amazon page as 28 minutes to full. This is impressive, until you look a bit closer. That charging speed is with the 8-Amp charger, sold separately. Looking at the manufacturer page, way down at the bottom, the charging speed is listed as over 2.5 hours.

Made of eight layers of maple plus one layer of fiberglass, the V4 delivers on all accounts. But if you’re looking for a carbon fiber option, they also make the Meepo Hurricane. The Hurricane is an all terrain electric longboard, with a deck made of 3K carbon fiber. But this model comes with a much higher price tag.

The differences between advertised speed and range comes up in the reviews, with some shoppers being disappointed at their experience. This longboard may not be the right choice for some, but most are impressed with the value of the board and its quick braking.

Top speed of 29 mph   
  
 Responsive braking   
  
 Issues with remote   
  
 Unresponsive customer service   
  
 Issues with charging

If the weight of most electric longboards leaves you groaning, the Blitzart Hurricane is a great choice. This board focuses on keeping the weight down. At a svelte 14 pounds, the Hurricane is noticeably lighter than most electric longboards. Add in the cut-out handle, and you’ve got an easy-to-carry board when you aren’t riding it.

The range on this board isn’t impressive, estimated between eight to ten miles, depending on the rider and conditions. Reviewers noted concerns about the skateboard and remote communication, with several shoppers experiencing glitches when braking with the remote, as well as rough acceleration.

The warranty on the Hurricane through Blitzart is a disappointing 15 days. An extended warranty on the manufacturer’s website, for $40, will see you covered for three months, minus a restocking fee for a skateboard return. Last of all, the charging time reported by Blitzart for this skateboard is three hours, one of the longer charge times.

Cut-out handle   
  
 Solid customer support   
  
 Lightweight board   
  
 Issues with controller   
  
 3 hours to fully charge   
  
 Short warranty

With sharp looks, the Hiboy S22 Electric Skateboard offers good performance in a great-looking package. Hiboy is conservative with their reported speeds, advertising the S22 at a maximum speed of 19 mph. In a review, one user weighing 180 pounds was able to reach 21 mph going up a 2% grade hill.

Reviewers often say that the board exceeded expectations. Another user commented on the extra grip coating on the deck, noticing that even with a slightly shorter board, he had sufficient foot space.

The Hiboy S22 has a limited one-year warranty, with the hub motors and battery covered for only six months. When issues are reported, customer service is quick to correct the problem. For one shopper in particular, the Hiboy was a repeat purchase after her first board stopped holding a charge. This speaks to the board’s high-performance.

Sharp red-and-black look   
  
 Grippy deck   
  
 Large 3.5-inch wheels   
  
 Shorter board at 36 inches   
  
 3-hour charge time

The Teamgee H5 is a thinner longboard that sits just three inches above the road. This is due to the battery being built into the actual board. With a lower center of gravity, reviews note the great stability of the H5, keeping you low and in control.

Charging this board from an empty battery is reported to be about two hours, fairly average for an electric longboard. One reviewer was pleased that the remote used USB-C for quicker charging.

Generally, shoppers were happy with the speed of this board, as well as the distance on a single charge. Reviews were mixed on the customer support; some shoppers had their boards or parts replaced under the one-year warranty, while others had difficulty even contacting Teamgee. Adding to the appeal of this board is the fact that its slim design doesn’t look electric at a glance.

Thin board with integrated battery   
  
 Quick charging   
  
 Fast up hills   
  
 Stiff board   
  
 Lackluster remote   
  
 Inconsistent customer service   
  
  
 Rebecca Boniface  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Rebecca Boniface is a certified PADI dive instructor, full-time nomad, and DIY enthusiast.

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# The Best Fire Pits of 2022

## The Tester

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

If you’re looking for a sturdy wood-burning fire pit to keep in the backyard, the Tiki is the way to go. It produces gorgeous flame patterns and is mostly smokeless.  
  
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 If you’re looking for a lightweight propane fire pit that’s easy to use and produces sufficient heat, this one is the way to go.  
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 The Solo Stove Bonfire starts more quickly than most wood-burning fire pits and it produces less smoke, but it also burns through wood more quickly.  
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 This fire pit includes a battery-powered fan, helping to start the fire quickly and easily. It’s small and ultra-portable, but you won’t be able to use regular-sized logs in this fire pit.  
  
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 This fire pit has an industrial-chic look and is large enough to seat six to eight people. But it's slow to start and produces more smoke.   
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Updated September 14, 2022

An outdoor fire pit can breathe new life into backyard living, giving friends and family an excuse to gather around and cook s’mores. But a fire isn’t always as easy to manage as you’d think. Wood-burning fires can be hard to start, and open fires lead to smoke-tinged clothes long after the fire goes out. Thankfully, there’s a class of fire pits that promises the benefits of a fire without the drawbacks. Most of these products are light enough to be portable, too. The only question is which type of fire pit is best for you: a wood or propane gas fire pit? After extensively testing, we recommend the wood-burning Tiki Patio Fire Pit (available at Amazon for $395.00) as the best overall firepit. Wood-burning fire pits burn hotter than propane, and this one is large enough to seat a crowd around, making it a perfect fit in your backyard.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Credit: Reviewed / Lindsay D. Mattison If you're looking for a wood-burning fire pit to use at home or for car camping, this model from Tiki is the one to get.

Best Overall Tiki Patio Fire Pit Dimensions: 24.75 x 24.75 x 18.75 inches Weight: 45 pounds Fuel Type: Wood The Tiki Patio Firepit had several features that set it apart from the other wood-burning models we tested. For starters, this unit makes a gorgeous centerpiece in any patio or backyard setup. This stainless steel fire pit has a sleek, black powder-coated finish. It’s quite large, too, easily fitting eight people around its exterior and heating approximately three feet away from the unit. We tested the Tiki in two ways: first using the included wood pack filled with pellets and also using the traditional fire starter and kindling method. If you’re looking for a quick-and-easy way to start a fire, the wood pack is the way to go. It lit in five minutes and lasted a full 40 minutes, producing gorgeous flames the entire time. The traditional method took about 15 minutes to get started, but the fire pit was large enough to fit three full-sized logs at once and burned for a full hour before having to add more wood. Both methods produced less smoke than most of the products we tested, although the pellets produced the least amount of smoke. The Tiki was also the easiest wood-burning fire pit to clean. Once the unit cools down, simply remove the center cone and brush the ash into the removable ashtray. Then, pull out the ash pan and discard any ash inside. It’s worth noting that the Tiki was the second heaviest wood-burning model we tested. That doesn’t exactly make it portable (we had to use two people to carry it). The stainless steel isn’t completely rust-resistant, either, so you’ll want to use the included weather-resistant cover after every use. Pros Easy to start Smokeless Easy to clean Cons Heavy $395.00 from Amazon $395.00 from Walmart

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Credit: Reviewed / Lindsay D. Mattison The Ukiah propane fire pit is compact, easy to use, and boasts a handsome design.

Best Propane Fire Pit Ukiah Tailgater X Dimensions: 15.75 x 14.17 x 17.52 inches Weight: 22.6 pounds Fuel Type: Propane The Ukiah Tailgater X immediately stood out because of its cube-shaped design, distinguishing it from the sea of short, round propane fire pits we tested for this guide. From there, its features distinguished it from most of the other models in the test group: a battery-powered ignition so you don’t have to remember a stick lighter, a lightweight construction paired with built-in handles for easy transportation, and adjustable feet to make sure it always stands level. The lava rocks that come with this unit are much smaller than most propane models, but it comes with more than enough of them to create vibrant flames with a beautiful pattern. While the unit isn’t very large, the dial ranges from low to high and produces plenty of heat when set to high. This fire pit also features several bonus features, like a magnetic lid that protects the lava rocks from the elements when not in use. The propane hook-up is also hidden around the back, so it’s not visible when you’re sitting in front of the fire pit. We also appreciated that this model uses a quick-connect propane coupling, which makes the fire pit easier to hook up and break down. Put it all together, and the Ukiah Tailgater X was a no-brainer for our pick as Best Propane Fire Pit. The only negative we could find with this fire pit is that it’s a little on the small side for a crowd. We estimate it would sit four people comfortably and, maybe six if you squeezed in. Pros Electric ignition Comes with enough lava rocks Lightweight and portable Cons Too small for a crowd $229.99 from Target Buy now at Home Depot $219.99 from DICK’S Sporting Goods $229.99 from Walmart

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More Wood-Burning Fire Pits We Recommend Solo Stove Bonfire Dimensions: 22 x 22 x 17 inches Weight: 20 pounds Fuel Type: Wood Solo Stove is probably the most recognizable name in the wood-burning firepit market. So, of course, we had to include their Bonfire model in our tests. The Bonfire is Solo Stove’s mid-sized fire pit, and its 19.5-inch diameter was large enough to use full-sized logs. It’s ready to use out of the box and it was light enough to carry. Compared to the other products we tested, we appreciated that the Bonfire started more quickly. It was ready to add full-sized logs in 10 minutes compared to the 15 to 20 minutes of the other fire pits. The Bonfire also produced less smoke than the other fire pits, a feature we certainly appreciated. That said, it also burned through firewood more quickly, so you’ll want to be prepared with plenty of wood. If you’re looking for a fire pit that has a multitude of accessories, Solo Stove has ’em. From fire pit tools like fire pokers and log grabbers to lids, screens, handles, and sticks for hot dogs and marshmallows. They also sell fire pit cooking systems to turn the fire pit into a grill. View our full Solo Stove Bonfire review. Pros Starts quickly Easy to transport Creates a smokeless fire Cons Burns firewood quickly Ashes are difficult to remove Difficult to put out Buy now at Amazon $299.99 from Abt $259.99 from DICK’S Sporting Goods $279.99 from Walmart

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BioLite FirePit+ Dimensions: 27.17 x 13 x 15.75 inches Weight: 19.8 pounds Fuel Type: Wood We loved the BioLite FirePit Cooking Kit when we tested portable grills, so we were excited to test the BioLite FirePit+ (the same model, just without the added grilling accessories). So the first major plus of this fire pit is it’s easy to cook over! It’s also one of the most portable wood-burning fire pits we tested, and it features handles on each side to make it easy to carry. Want to make it easier to transport? Pick up optional accessories like the BioLite FirePit Carry Bag. The feature we appreciate most about this fire pit is its built-in battery-powered fan. The battery is rechargeable and controls a fan with four power settings. The fan not only stoked the coals, helping it start more quickly, but it also kept smoke from billowing up in our faces. On the flip side, the small profile of the BioLite also means it’s not great for building a large fire. It’s really only sized for about two people. We weren’t able to fit regular-sized logs in the unit, either, and we could only add two short logs to the fire pit at once. Pros Lightweight Can be turned into a portable grill Includes a battery-powered fan Cons Too small for regular-sized logs Buy now at BioLite Buy now at Amazon $454.25 from Walmart

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Breeo X-Series 19 Dimensions: 22 x 22 x 14.75 Weight: 47 pounds Fuel Type: Wood We’re always on the lookout for products made in the U.S., so we were thrilled to test the Breeo X-Series 19. The X19 is Breeo’s smallest fire pit, but we found it plenty large enough for most backyard gatherings of about eight people. This is the heaviest fire pit we tested, weighing more than double some of the other models we reviewed, so it’s not exactly portable. It took two people to move the fire pit, as there are no handles to make it easier to grip. That said, the lack of handles gives this fire pit a streamlined, industrial-chic appearance that looks great in an outdoor space. Breeo sells a variety of grilling accessories, like a spark screen or cooking grate, so this might be a good option for anyone looking to cook over their fire pit. What didn’t we like about it? There was no ash pan, so removing ashes was difficult, and it didn’t get started as quickly as some of the other wood-burning stoves. It produced a little more smoke than our top pick, too. Pros Good for cooking Industrial-chic look Cons Heavy No handles No ash pan Buy now at Amazon

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Fireside Outdoor Pop-Up Fire Pit Dimensions: 24 x 24 x 15 Weight: 8 pounds Fuel Type: Wood If the ranking was based on minimalist wood-burning fire pits, the Fireside Outdoor Pop-Up Fire Pit would win. This lightweight fire pit is decently sized when it’s set up, but it breaks down to a series of parts small enough to fit into a hiking pack. To set it up, simply expand the legs and pop on the mesh bottom that keeps the fire elevated from the ground. These features make it perfect for a camping trip when you’re short on space. Unfortunately, the Fireside fire pit couldn’t compete with the other wood-burning fire pits when it came to smoke management. It was open to the elements, so there was no way to control the airflow. That not only means it produced more smoke than the other fire pits, but it also was slower to start. You’ll want to treat this fire pit like a traditional fire and start with plenty of small wood pieces until you have an established coal bed that’s ready for regular-sized wood. Pros Lightweight Very portable Easy to set up Cons Produces a lot of smoke Takes longer to start a fire Buy now at Amazon $98.93 from Walmart

More Propane Fire Pits We Recommend Outland Living Fire Bowl 893 Dimensions: 19 x 19 x 11 inches Weight: 23 pounds Fuel Type: Propane If our top propane pick is out of stock, or if you’re specifically looking for a round fire pit, the Outland Living Fire Bowl 893 is a great choice. It was the only fire pit we tested that came with an extra bag of lava rocks, and adding it with the other bags created tall flames that produced plenty of heat. The heat dial moved smoothly from the high and low setting, allowing you to control the flame height. It doesn’t have an electric ignition, so you will need to use a stick lighter to get it started. This fire pit was large enough to comfortably seat up to six people around it. It’s also heavy enough to stay in place but light enough to move to your desired fire pit location, especially with the help of the included carrying strap. Pros Produces sufficient heat Tall flames Large enough to seat several people Cons Doesn’t include an electric ignition Buy now at Amazon

Bond 67380-D Fire Pit Dimensions: 18.5 x 18.5 x 14.65 inches Weight: 15.4 pounds Fuel Type: Propane If you’re looking for a portable propane fire pit with a gorgeous design, the Bond 67380-D Fire Pit is the way to go. We loved the bronzed appearance and perforated edging, allowing you to see the glowing lava rocks through the side of the unit. It was one of the few fire pits we tested with an electric ignition, too, so you don’t have to have a stick lighter handy to use it. This fire pit is light enough to carry and comes with a locking lid and handle that makes transportation a breeze. Unfortunately, the lava rocks that came with the unit are very small, and there were barely enough of them to create an even flame pattern. We suggest picking up an extra bag of rocks to create a more robust fire pit experience. Pros Beautiful aesthetic Locking lid for ease of transportation Electric ignition Cons Small lava rocks Doesn't include enough lava rocks $139.00 from Lowe's $114.67 from Walmart   
  
 Costway OP3902 Firebowl Dimensions: 19 x 19 x 12 inches Weight: 19.5 pounds Fuel Type: Propane The Costway OP3902 Firebowl might be near the bottom of our ranking, but its overall score wasn’t far off from our top choice. The unit produced plenty of heat, although we wished it came with more lava rocks to create a more even flame pattern. The dial allows you to adjust the flames from low to high, but you do have to use a stick lighter to get it started. The fire pit is light enough to carry, and it comes with a lid and a strap to carry it. The set-up is pretty minimalistic, though, so we wish the company sold a more robust carrying case. Pros Lightweight Produces sufficient heat Cons Minimalistic design Doesn’t come with enough lava rocks Buy now at Costway

How We Tested Fire Pits The Tester Hi, I’m Lindsay Mattison, a trained professional chef and a barbecue weekend warrior. You’ll find me outside almost every weekend, cooking in my backyard patio setup. In the cooler months, I always have a fire going in the fire pit to keep me warm while cooking on my Traeger pellet grill or Big Green Egg. The Tests There are an overwhelming number of options when it comes to fire pits, but we stuck to the models that are portable and don’t have to be built into your backyard setup. After selecting several popular wood-burning and propane models available from online or brick-and-mortar retailers like Home Depot and Lowes, we set about building and testing each model. For the wood-burning fire pits, the first step was to build a fire. It’s important to start with plenty of small kindling, which helps the fire to keep going while the bigger logs begin to ignite. We nestled the kindling around a starter cube (our fire starter of choice for wood fires and charcoal grills because they burn longer than other tinder-like newspaper or bark). From there, we waited for the kindling to turn into an ember bed, adding small pieces until the fire was established enough to handle larger pieces of firewood. For most of the fire pits we tested, this took about 15 minutes, although some were ready to go in 10 minutes. Then, we added as many large, 16-inch pieces of dry firewood as it could hold and then, timed how long it took for the fire to burn out. After the fire was extinguished, we measured how long it took for the fire pit to cool down and how easy it was to clean out the ashes. For propane-burning fire pits, we hooked up the propane and tested the line, making sure there were no gas leaks. Then we ignited the fire pit (noting whether it had a built-in ignition or required a stick lighter) and turned it on high for 10 minutes. We weighed the propane tank before and after the test to see how much propane it consumed. Additionally, regardless of the fuel type, we scored each fire pit on its aesthetics and ease of use. We assessed how easy it was to move and store the fire pit, and added those scores to an overall safety rating and a price-to-value determination before ranking and rating each fire pit. What to Consider Before Buying a Fire Pit Types of Fire Pits There are several classes of fire pits, each with a different set of features and price points.  
Fire Tables: These fire pits serve a dual purpose—in addition to keeping people warm, they have tabletop space. Some come with lids that convert the units into full tables when the fire pit is not in use. They can come in many shapes and sizes, and prices can reach thousands of dollars. Often, they are fueled by propane, natural gas, or electricity. Instead of lava rocks, some will use fire glass, which can add style to any backyard party. Fire Bowls: Like fire tables, fire bowls come in a variety of shapes and sizes. However, they are often more portable than tables. You can find some made of concrete and stone, but many are made of metal. In addition to propane and natural gas, these types may use wood as the fire fuel.  
Tabletop Fire Tables or Bowls: Smaller than other types of fire pits, these models can add flair to your patio tabletop. They may not give off enough heat to keep a crowd warm, but they are very portable. Fire Columns: Like the name suggests, fire columns are taller than traditional fire pits. With a smaller footprint, they can be a good alternative for people who have smaller patios or decks. Chimineas: These fire features have come a long way since terracotta, and they can now be found in metal. Essentially, these are frontloading outdoor chimneys. Because they have chimneys, smoke is directed away from people sitting around them. However, they are not like some other fire features. Cost There is a fire pit for any budget. Prices can range from $40 to thousands of dollars. Many budget fire pits are portable while the more expensive models are permanent fixtures to your backyard setup. Safety By their nature, fires are hot. The same is true about fire pits. Parents should take care that children don’t get too close. Also, fire pits should be monitored while they are in use. Before setting up a fire pit,check your local safety regulations. Some communities have requirements on how far pits should be away from structures to maintain a safe distance. Others may have restrictions on the type of fuel that can be used. How to Choose Between a Wood-Burning or Propane Fire Pit Credit: Lindsay Mattison / Reviewed Your first choice in buying a new fire pit, is whether you want a propane model or a wood-burning pit like the Solo Stove. Trying to decide between a wood-burning or a propane gas fire pit? There are a few considerations to keep in mind before you make your purchase. For starters, many areas have fire restrictions that prohibit wood-burning fires, so you may want to pick up a propane fire pit if you’re using it for camping in these areas. A propane model is easy to ignite and easier to extinguish; simply turn the knob on and off to control the flames. They tend to cool down more quickly and they are smokeless, but they also don’t get as hot, so they won’t put off as much heat. They rely on lava rocks to cover the heating element, which also affects the flame pattern and helps with heat radiation. Of course, you’ll also need to have a propane tank to use one. Most of the propane fire pits we tested used about three pounds of propane an hour, so we estimate a propane fire pit will burn from three to six hours per tank, depending on the BTUs and the heat settings. Wood-burning pits take a little longer to get started, but they produce more heat and better quality flames. They also tend to be larger than propane fire pits, allowing you to seat more people around the fire. Of course, that extra warmth means you’ll want to have a pair of heat-resistant gloves around to protect your hands. On the flip side, wood-burning fire pits require a steady supply of dry firewood. Wet wood doesn’t burn well, and it produces significantly more smoke. Seasoned wood bundles are available at most camping or hardware stores, but it burns quickly, making it more expensive than filling up a propane tank. You’ll want to make sure you have a small hatchet for creating kindling, too. Dry wood can also produce smoke, so you’ll want to look for a smokeless fire pit that is created with an airflow design that minimizes smoke. More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best Adirondack Chairs The Best Outdoor Pizza Ovens The Best Kamado Grills The Best Pellet Grills

An outdoor fire pit can breathe new life into backyard living, giving friends and family an excuse to gather around and cook s’mores. But a fire isn’t always as easy to manage as you’d think. Wood-burning fires can be hard to start, and open fires lead to smoke-tinged clothes long after the fire goes out.

Thankfully, there’s a class of fire pits that promises the benefits of a fire without the drawbacks. Most of these products are light enough to be portable, too. The only question is which type of fire pit is best for you: a wood or propane gas fire pit? After extensively testing, we recommend the wood-burning Tiki Patio Fire Pit (available at Amazon for $395.00) as the best overall firepit. Wood-burning fire pits burn hotter than propane, and this one is large enough to seat a crowd around, making it a perfect fit in your backyard.

The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

If you’re looking for a wood-burning fire pit to use at home or for car camping, this model from Tiki is the one to get.

The Tiki Patio Firepit had several features that set it apart from the other wood-burning models we tested. For starters, this unit makes a gorgeous centerpiece in any patio or backyard setup. This stainless steel fire pit has a sleek, black powder-coated finish. It’s quite large, too, easily fitting eight people around its exterior and heating approximately three feet away from the unit.

We tested the Tiki in two ways: first using the included wood pack filled with pellets and also using the traditional fire starter and kindling method. If you’re looking for a quick-and-easy way to start a fire, the wood pack is the way to go. It lit in five minutes and lasted a full 40 minutes, producing gorgeous flames the entire time.

The traditional method took about 15 minutes to get started, but the fire pit was large enough to fit three full-sized logs at once and burned for a full hour before having to add more wood. Both methods produced less smoke than most of the products we tested, although the pellets produced the least amount of smoke.

The Tiki was also the easiest wood-burning fire pit to clean. Once the unit cools down, simply remove the center cone and brush the ash into the removable ashtray. Then, pull out the ash pan and discard any ash inside.

It’s worth noting that the Tiki was the second heaviest wood-burning model we tested. That doesn’t exactly make it portable (we had to use two people to carry it). The stainless steel isn’t completely rust-resistant, either, so you’ll want to use the included weather-resistant cover after every use.

Easy to start   
  
 Smokeless   
  
 Easy to clean   
  
 Heavy

The Ukiah propane fire pit is compact, easy to use, and boasts a handsome design.

The Ukiah Tailgater X immediately stood out because of its cube-shaped design, distinguishing it from the sea of short, round propane fire pits we tested for this guide. From there, its features distinguished it from most of the other models in the test group: a battery-powered ignition so you don’t have to remember a stick lighter, a lightweight construction paired with built-in handles for easy transportation, and adjustable feet to make sure it always stands level.

The lava rocks that come with this unit are much smaller than most propane models, but it comes with more than enough of them to create vibrant flames with a beautiful pattern.

While the unit isn’t very large, the dial ranges from low to high and produces plenty of heat when set to high.

This fire pit also features several bonus features, like a magnetic lid that protects the lava rocks from the elements when not in use. The propane hook-up is also hidden around the back, so it’s not visible when you’re sitting in front of the fire pit. We also appreciated that this model uses a quick-connect propane coupling, which makes the fire pit easier to hook up and break down.

Put it all together, and the Ukiah Tailgater X was a no-brainer for our pick as Best Propane Fire Pit. The only negative we could find with this fire pit is that it’s a little on the small side for a crowd. We estimate it would sit four people comfortably and, maybe six if you squeezed in.

Electric ignition   
  
 Comes with enough lava rocks   
  
 Lightweight and portable   
  
 Too small for a crowd

Solo Stove is probably the most recognizable name in the wood-burning firepit market. So, of course, we had to include their Bonfire model in our tests. The Bonfire is Solo Stove’s mid-sized fire pit, and its 19.5-inch diameter was large enough to use full-sized logs. It’s ready to use out of the box and it was light enough to carry.

Compared to the other products we tested, we appreciated that the Bonfire started more quickly. It was ready to add full-sized logs in 10 minutes compared to the 15 to 20 minutes of the other fire pits. The Bonfire also produced less smoke than the other fire pits, a feature we certainly appreciated. That said, it also burned through firewood more quickly, so you’ll want to be prepared with plenty of wood.

If you’re looking for a fire pit that has a multitude of accessories, Solo Stove has ’em. From fire pit tools like fire pokers and log grabbers to lids, screens, handles, and sticks for hot dogs and marshmallows. They also sell fire pit cooking systems to turn the fire pit into a grill.

View our full Solo Stove Bonfire review.

Starts quickly   
  
 Easy to transport   
  
 Creates a smokeless fire   
  
 Burns firewood quickly   
  
 Ashes are difficult to remove   
  
 Difficult to put out

We loved the BioLite FirePit Cooking Kit when we tested portable grills, so we were excited to test the BioLite FirePit+ (the same model, just without the added grilling accessories). So the first major plus of this fire pit is it’s easy to cook over!

It’s also one of the most portable wood-burning fire pits we tested, and it features handles on each side to make it easy to carry. Want to make it easier to transport? Pick up optional accessories like the BioLite FirePit Carry Bag.

The feature we appreciate most about this fire pit is its built-in battery-powered fan. The battery is rechargeable and controls a fan with four power settings. The fan not only stoked the coals, helping it start more quickly, but it also kept smoke from billowing up in our faces.

On the flip side, the small profile of the BioLite also means it’s not great for building a large fire. It’s really only sized for about two people. We weren’t able to fit regular-sized logs in the unit, either, and we could only add two short logs to the fire pit at once.

Lightweight   
  
 Can be turned into a portable grill   
  
 Includes a battery-powered fan   
  
 Too small for regular-sized logs

We’re always on the lookout for products made in the U.S., so we were thrilled to test the Breeo X-Series 19. The X19 is Breeo’s smallest fire pit, but we found it plenty large enough for most backyard gatherings of about eight people.

This is the heaviest fire pit we tested, weighing more than double some of the other models we reviewed, so it’s not exactly portable. It took two people to move the fire pit, as there are no handles to make it easier to grip. That said, the lack of handles gives this fire pit a streamlined, industrial-chic appearance that looks great in an outdoor space.

Breeo sells a variety of grilling accessories, like a spark screen or cooking grate, so this might be a good option for anyone looking to cook over their fire pit.

What didn’t we like about it? There was no ash pan, so removing ashes was difficult, and it didn’t get started as quickly as some of the other wood-burning stoves. It produced a little more smoke than our top pick, too.

Good for cooking   
  
 Industrial-chic look   
  
 Heavy   
  
 No handles   
  
 No ash pan

If the ranking was based on minimalist wood-burning fire pits, the Fireside Outdoor Pop-Up Fire Pit would win. This lightweight fire pit is decently sized when it’s set up, but it breaks down to a series of parts small enough to fit into a hiking pack.

To set it up, simply expand the legs and pop on the mesh bottom that keeps the fire elevated from the ground. These features make it perfect for a camping trip when you’re short on space.

Unfortunately, the Fireside fire pit couldn’t compete with the other wood-burning fire pits when it came to smoke management. It was open to the elements, so there was no way to control the airflow. That not only means it produced more smoke than the other fire pits, but it also was slower to start. You’ll want to treat this fire pit like a traditional fire and start with plenty of small wood pieces until you have an established coal bed that’s ready for regular-sized wood.

Lightweight   
  
 Very portable   
  
 Easy to set up   
  
 Produces a lot of smoke   
  
 Takes longer to start a fire

If our top propane pick is out of stock, or if you’re specifically looking for a round fire pit, the Outland Living Fire Bowl 893 is a great choice. It was the only fire pit we tested that came with an extra bag of lava rocks, and adding it with the other bags created tall flames that produced plenty of heat.

The heat dial moved smoothly from the high and low setting, allowing you to control the flame height. It doesn’t have an electric ignition, so you will need to use a stick lighter to get it started.

This fire pit was large enough to comfortably seat up to six people around it. It’s also heavy enough to stay in place but light enough to move to your desired fire pit location, especially with the help of the included carrying strap.

Produces sufficient heat   
  
 Tall flames   
  
 Large enough to seat several people   
  
 Doesn't include an electric ignition

If you’re looking for a portable propane fire pit with a gorgeous design, the Bond 67380-D Fire Pit is the way to go. We loved the bronzed appearance and perforated edging, allowing you to see the glowing lava rocks through the side of the unit.

It was one of the few fire pits we tested with an electric ignition, too, so you don’t have to have a stick lighter handy to use it. This fire pit is light enough to carry and comes with a locking lid and handle that makes transportation a breeze.

Unfortunately, the lava rocks that came with the unit are very small, and there were barely enough of them to create an even flame pattern. We suggest picking up an extra bag of rocks to create a more robust fire pit experience.

Beautiful aesthetic   
  
 Locking lid for ease of transportation   
  
 Electric ignition   
  
 Small lava rocks   
  
 Doesn't include enough lava rocks

The Costway OP3902 Firebowl might be near the bottom of our ranking, but its overall score wasn’t far off from our top choice. The unit produced plenty of heat, although we wished it came with more lava rocks to create a more even flame pattern. The dial allows you to adjust the flames from low to high, but you do have to use a stick lighter to get it started.

The fire pit is light enough to carry, and it comes with a lid and a strap to carry it. The set-up is pretty minimalistic, though, so we wish the company sold a more robust carrying case.

Lightweight   
  
 Produces sufficient heat   
  
 Minimalistic design   
  
 Doesn’t come with enough lava rocks

Hi, I’m Lindsay Mattison, a trained professional chef and a barbecue weekend warrior. You’ll find me outside almost every weekend, cooking in my backyard patio setup. In the cooler months, I always have a fire going in the fire pit to keep me warm while cooking on my Traeger pellet grill or Big Green Egg.

There are an overwhelming number of options when it comes to fire pits, but we stuck to the models that are portable and don’t have to be built into your backyard setup. After selecting several popular wood-burning and propane models available from online or brick-and-mortar retailers like Home Depot and Lowes, we set about building and testing each model.

For the wood-burning fire pits, the first step was to build a fire. It’s important to start with plenty of small kindling, which helps the fire to keep going while the bigger logs begin to ignite. We nestled the kindling around a starter cube (our fire starter of choice for wood fires and charcoal grills because they burn longer than other tinder-like newspaper or bark).

From there, we waited for the kindling to turn into an ember bed, adding small pieces until the fire was established enough to handle larger pieces of firewood. For most of the fire pits we tested, this took about 15 minutes, although some were ready to go in 10 minutes.

Then, we added as many large, 16-inch pieces of dry firewood as it could hold and then, timed how long it took for the fire to burn out. After the fire was extinguished, we measured how long it took for the fire pit to cool down and how easy it was to clean out the ashes.

For propane-burning fire pits, we hooked up the propane and tested the line, making sure there were no gas leaks. Then we ignited the fire pit (noting whether it had a built-in ignition or required a stick lighter) and turned it on high for 10 minutes. We weighed the propane tank before and after the test to see how much propane it consumed.

Additionally, regardless of the fuel type, we scored each fire pit on its aesthetics and ease of use. We assessed how easy it was to move and store the fire pit, and added those scores to an overall safety rating and a price-to-value determination before ranking and rating each fire pit.

There are several classes of fire pits, each with a different set of features and price points.

Fire Tables: These fire pits serve a dual purpose—in addition to keeping people warm, they have tabletop space. Some come with lids that convert the units into full tables when the fire pit is not in use. They can come in many shapes and sizes, and prices can reach thousands of dollars. Often, they are fueled by propane, natural gas, or electricity. Instead of lava rocks, some will use fire glass, which can add style to any backyard party.

Fire Bowls: Like fire tables, fire bowls come in a variety of shapes and sizes. However, they are often more portable than tables. You can find some made of concrete and stone, but many are made of metal. In addition to propane and natural gas, these types may use wood as the fire fuel.

Tabletop Fire Tables or Bowls: Smaller than other types of fire pits, these models can add flair to your patio tabletop. They may not give off enough heat to keep a crowd warm, but they are very portable.

Fire Columns: Like the name suggests, fire columns are taller than traditional fire pits. With a smaller footprint, they can be a good alternative for people who have smaller patios or decks.

Chimineas: These fire features have come a long way since terracotta, and they can now be found in metal. Essentially, these are frontloading outdoor chimneys. Because they have chimneys, smoke is directed away from people sitting around them. However, they are not like some other fire features.

There is a fire pit for any budget. Prices can range from $40 to thousands of dollars. Many budget fire pits are portable while the more expensive models are permanent fixtures to your backyard setup.

By their nature, fires are hot. The same is true about fire pits. Parents should take care that children don’t get too close. Also, fire pits should be monitored while they are in use. Before setting up a fire pit,check your local safety regulations. Some communities have requirements on how far pits should be away from structures to maintain a safe distance. Others may have restrictions on the type of fuel that can be used.

Your first choice in buying a new fire pit, is whether you want a propane model or a wood-burning pit like the Solo Stove.

Trying to decide between a wood-burning or a propane gas fire pit? There are a few considerations to keep in mind before you make your purchase. For starters, many areas have fire restrictions that prohibit wood-burning fires, so you may want to pick up a propane fire pit if you’re using it for camping in these areas.

A propane model is easy to ignite and easier to extinguish; simply turn the knob on and off to control the flames. They tend to cool down more quickly and they are smokeless, but they also don’t get as hot, so they won’t put off as much heat. They rely on lava rocks to cover the heating element, which also affects the flame pattern and helps with heat radiation.

Of course, you’ll also need to have a propane tank to use one. Most of the propane fire pits we tested used about three pounds of propane an hour, so we estimate a propane fire pit will burn from three to six hours per tank, depending on the BTUs and the heat settings.

Wood-burning pits take a little longer to get started, but they produce more heat and better quality flames. They also tend to be larger than propane fire pits, allowing you to seat more people around the fire. Of course, that extra warmth means you’ll want to have a pair of heat-resistant gloves around to protect your hands.

On the flip side, wood-burning fire pits require a steady supply of dry firewood. Wet wood doesn’t burn well, and it produces significantly more smoke. Seasoned wood bundles are available at most camping or hardware stores, but it burns quickly, making it more expensive than filling up a propane tank.

You’ll want to make sure you have a small hatchet for creating kindling, too. Dry wood can also produce smoke, so you’ll want to look for a smokeless fire pit that is created with an airflow design that minimizes smoke.

Lindsay D. Mattison  
   
  
  
 Professional Chef

Lindsay D. Mattison is a professional chef, food writer, and amateur gardener. She is currently writing a cookbook that aims to teach home cooks how to write without a recipe.

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# The Best Keurig Coffee Makers of 2022

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

The highest-rated Keurig on Amazon, this has an iced coffee button, brews five different cup sizes, and lets you adjust the brew strength of each cup.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The K-Mini’s electric cord wraps up for easy storage and makes for a good travel coffee maker. It also accommodates taller travel cups.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The water reservoir on the K-Mini plus is removable, unlike the K-Mini. It can also store nine pods in the back of its housing.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The K-Supreme runs quieter than older models. It can also warm up water for those who prefer hot tea over a morning coffee.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The K-Classic can fit a travel mug, is fully programmable, and has one-button descaling to keep calcium from building up inside the coffee maker.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated March 4, 2022

One of the greatest innovations in the history of workday mornings has been the Keurig coffee maker, otherwise known as the single-serve coffee maker. Drop in your pod or “K-cup,” set to brew, and instant caffeine goodness flows in mere minutes—no messy cans or dealing with filters. The prices are more expensive than a traditional coffee maker, but they take up little space. Chances are more than a couple Keurig-style coffee makers can be found in a corner at your office or place of business. With more choices than ever, there’s plenty of options for different needs and price points, whether you’re a sophisticated coffee drinker or just enjoy a cup periodically. Here are some of the best Keurig coffee makers you can get online right now.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Keurig K-Elite The highest-rated Keurig on Amazon, this is also one of the most expensive. It brews five different cup sizes, comes with a button to adjust the brew strength of each cup, and has a 75 oz. removable water reservoir that fills eight coffee cups before it needs refilled. There’s an iced coffee option, an option for hot water on demand, and it runs quieter than past models. The drip tray can be removed, and the housing will accommodate most travel mugs. Pros A huge 72-ounce water tank Option to brew strong coffee Iced coffee Cons May require large countertop space Buy now at Keurig Buy now at Amazon $189.99 from Target $139.99 from Best Buy

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Keurig K-Mini The K-Mini is one of the most popular Keurig models on the market. Only five inches wide, it fits anywhere and will brew two different coffee cup sizes. The electric cord wraps up for easy storage and makes for a good travel coffee maker. It also accommodates taller travel cups. Pros Comes in several color schemes Extra affordable Great for travel Cons Longer brewing times No strength control 2-foot power cord Buy now at Amazon $99.99 from Target $93.99 from Newegg $94.99 from Walmart   
  
 Keurig K-Mini Plus The K-Mini Plus is an upgrade of the K-Mini, which features more travel-friendly options. The water reservoir on the K-Mini plus is removable, unlike the K-Mini. It can also store nine pods in the back of its housing. The K-Mini Plus is the same size as the K-Mini, so these options won’t mean making more space for the coffee maker if you’re traveling. It also comes in several different color combinations. Pros Built-in K-cup storage (for 9 pods) Removable water housing Great for travel Cons Longer brewing times Buy now at Amazon $119.99 from JCPenney $89.00 from Walmart

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Keurig K-Supreme The K-Supreme is the latest version of the K-Elite, the top-of-the-line model in the Keurig lineup. The K-Supreme runs quieter than older models. It can also warm up water for those who prefer hot tea over a morning coffee. The K-Supreme is thinner than the K-Elite, making it easier to fit in the kitchen, and comes with more options for preparing your single-serve cup of coffee, from an iced-coffee button to a strength control. Pros Brews four different cup sizes Can adjust brew strength Cons Longer brewing times $159.99 from Amazon $159.99 from Target $169.99 from JCPenney $153.00 from Walmart   
  
 Keurig K-Classic An evolution of the original Keurig, the K-Classic allows users to brew three different sizes of coffee cup. It has a 48 oz. removable water reservoir that can fill six cups of coffee before it needs refilled. The K-Classic can fit a travel mug, is fully programmable, and has one-button descaling to keep calcium from building up inside the coffee maker. Pros Auto shutoff saves on electricity Cons Water reservoir relatively small Bulky design Buy now at Keurig $119.99 from Amazon $139.99 from Target $98.79 from Walmart

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One of the greatest innovations in the history of workday mornings has been the Keurig coffee maker, otherwise known as the single-serve coffee maker.

Drop in your pod or “K-cup,” set to brew, and instant caffeine goodness flows in mere minutes—no messy cans or dealing with filters. The prices are more expensive than a traditional coffee maker, but they take up little space. Chances are more than a couple Keurig-style coffee makers can be found in a corner at your office or place of business.

With more choices than ever, there’s plenty of options for different needs and price points, whether you’re a sophisticated coffee drinker or just enjoy a cup periodically. Here are some of the best Keurig coffee makers you can get online right now.

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The highest-rated Keurig on Amazon, this is also one of the most expensive. It brews five different cup sizes, comes with a button to adjust the brew strength of each cup, and has a 75 oz. removable water reservoir that fills eight coffee cups before it needs refilled.

There’s an iced coffee option, an option for hot water on demand, and it runs quieter than past models. The drip tray can be removed, and the housing will accommodate most travel mugs.

A huge 72-ounce water tank   
  
 Option to brew strong coffee   
  
 Iced coffee   
  
 May require large countertop space

The K-Mini is one of the most popular Keurig models on the market. Only five inches wide, it fits anywhere and will brew two different coffee cup sizes. The electric cord wraps up for easy storage and makes for a good travel coffee maker. It also accommodates taller travel cups.

Comes in several color schemes   
  
 Extra affordable   
  
 Great for travel   
  
 Longer brewing times   
  
 No strength control   
  
 2-foot power cord

The K-Mini Plus is an upgrade of the K-Mini, which features more travel-friendly options. The water reservoir on the K-Mini plus is removable, unlike the K-Mini. It can also store nine pods in the back of its housing.

The K-Mini Plus is the same size as the K-Mini, so these options won’t mean making more space for the coffee maker if you’re traveling. It also comes in several different color combinations.

Built-in K-cup storage (for 9 pods)   
  
 Removable water housing   
  
 Great for travel   
  
 Longer brewing times

The K-Supreme is the latest version of the K-Elite, the top-of-the-line model in the Keurig lineup. The K-Supreme runs quieter than older models. It can also warm up water for those who prefer hot tea over a morning coffee.

The K-Supreme is thinner than the K-Elite, making it easier to fit in the kitchen, and comes with more options for preparing your single-serve cup of coffee, from an iced-coffee button to a strength control.

Brews four different cup sizes   
  
 Can adjust brew strength   
  
 Longer brewing times

An evolution of the original Keurig, the K-Classic allows users to brew three different sizes of coffee cup. It has a 48 oz. removable water reservoir that can fill six cups of coffee before it needs refilled.

The K-Classic can fit a travel mug, is fully programmable, and has one-button descaling to keep calcium from building up inside the coffee maker.

Auto shutoff saves on electricity   
  
 Water reservoir relatively small   
  
 Bulky design   
  
  
 BJ Bethel  
   
  
  
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# The Best Sound Machines of 2022

## The Tester

Recommendations are independently chosen by Reviewed’s editors. Purchases made through the links below may earn us and our publishing partners a commission.

Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

First and foremost, it did its main job better than the rest—it completely blocked out the sound it was put up against. It also offers 10 sound categories and three "richness" settings.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Dreamegg has 24 sounds to choose from and a gentle nightlight.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Loftie alarm clock makes waking up uber-pleasant with gentle tones, plus it features meditations and more.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The simple, streamlined LectroFan only does two things, a fan and white noise. But it does them just as well as anything you'll find on the market.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Snooz can be controlled via buttons on the device or with its smartphone app.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated September 27, 2022

Whether you’re trying to catch up on your zzz’s at odd hours, block out external noise while falling asleep, or simply tired of listening to your next-door neighbors who keep you up at night, a sound machine might help. Our favorite, the Sound & Sleep by Adaptive Sound (available at Amazon for $99.95) is the perfect way to drown out the outside world, and it did better than nearly any other machine we tested at masking other noises. With thousands of these machines on the market—not to mention the countless smartphone apps available for download—how can you tell which one is right for you? No need to fret: We’ve done all the hard work for you.  
After hours of exhaustive research into the best sound machines on the market, followed by thorough hands-on testing and scientific sound quality comparisons, we’ve uncovered the best sound machines money can (currently) buy.

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We love the Sound & Sleep because of its volume range, sound quality, and intuitive extra features. However, there are plenty of other great sleep sound machine options at all price ranges. Here are the best sound machines we tested, ranked in order:

Adaptive Sound Sound & Sleep Dreamegg D1 Loftie Adaptive Sound Technologies LectroFan Snooz Hatch Restore Marpac Dohm Classic Big Red Rooster 6 White Noise Machine Magicteam Sound Machine Homedics White Noise Sound Machine Letsfit T126L Sound Machine Pure Enrichment Wave

Credit: Reviewed / Jess Rose Photography The Sound + Sleep is the only machine to feature a richness mode and an adaptive feature to adjust to sudden noises.

Best Overall Adaptive Sound Sound + Sleep Number of sounds: 30 Battery: No Cord length: 57 inches Weight: 2 pounds The Sound & Sleep from Adaptive Sound Technologies offers a top-notch sound machine experience. From the sleek tear-drop design to the excellent sound, it exudes quality across the board. This sound machine offers 10 distinct sound categories, each with three different “richness” settings, which give you a total of 30 sounds to choose from. The richness setting allows you to tweak the variables that get layered into the sound. For example, on the ocean setting, the standard sound is crashing waves; one tap of the richness button adds the sounds of seagulls and seals. A second adds bells and faraway foghorns to create a more soothing, layered sound. It is also the only sound machine to feature an adaptive mode, where the internal microphone monitors your room’s ambient noise level and adjusts the volume accordingly. The Sound & Sleep easily got loud enough to drown out competing sounds in our noise masking tests; it completely blocked out the sounds it was put up against. Both testers also noted that at every volume level, the speaker produced high quality sounds from clear highs to soothing bass without distortions. It is one of the biggest of the units we tested, both in weight and size, which makes it difficult to recommend traveling with. It has a headphone jack but doesn’t offer a nightlight, clock, or app— and it’s on the higher side, price-wise. If that’s not an issue for you, you’d be hard-pressed to find a better sound machine than this one. Pros Performed best in our tests Completely blocked all noise Adaptive setting adjusts sounds automatically Cons Somewhat pricey Sizeable $99.95 from Amazon $99.95 from Walmart

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Credit: Reviewed/Amber Bouman The Dreamegg D1 has 24 sounds, including three lullabies, and a gentle nightlight.

Best Value Dreamegg D1 Number of sounds: 24 Battery: No Cord length: 60 inches Weight: 1.19 pounds The Dreamegg D1 presented a pleasant surprise across the board. This sound machine is compact, with well-designed buttons, and 24 sounds that don’t diminish in quality as the volume rises. The D1 can get plenty loud; it features over 32 volume levels, and in testing we successfully blocked almost every bit of intrusive noise by level 20. Among the 24 sounds are seven white-noise and seven fan sounds alongside nature tracks like brook, ocean waves, and thunderstorm. It also includes three lullaby tunes in case you’d like to place it in a baby’s room and has a gentle nightlight in a warm hue. There’s no battery, but at 60 inches, the cord length is generous enough to be able to position it where you need to. At a little over a pound, it’s compact and heavy enough so that it should survive traveling well. Pros Multiple sound options Includes nightlight Blocks noise well Cons No battery Buy now at Amazon

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Credit: Reviewed/Amber Bouman More a sleep guru than a sound machine, the Loftie Clock also has a dual-alarm wake system.

Best Smart Sound Machine Loftie Alarm Clock Number of sounds: Dozens Battery: No Cord length: 72 inches Weight: 0.84 pounds The Loftie Clock is one of a few smart sound machines currently available, and it first gained our attention when we reviewed alarm clocks. It is a striking machine, sleek and lightweight with a warm nightlight along the bottom, and an easy-to-read display. In addition to the standard white noise sounds, Loftie can play you meditations or bedtime stories (the company updates these regularly). The sound quality is high across volume ranges, and the Loftie got impressively loud through its 10 or so volume steps. It was able to block unwanted sounds with some success, though noise blocking isn’t really what Loftie’s aim is. The goal of this device is to provide support to both ease you into, and out of, healthy sleep routines. From the extra content and the soothing light to the nighttime routines and the two-stage morning alarm, Loftie wants to be your sleep guru. The white noise and background tones are just one brick in that building. Loftie can be controlled either via the five buttons on the top, or from its minimalist smart phone app. The app was straightforward and offered good troubleshooting support when we had to adjust time zones, but we fumbled through learning the menus a bit with the physical buttons. Loftie can also double as a Bluetooth speaker, which may help ease the sting of its price tag some. Pros Array of alarm sounds Easy to use Bonus features like white noise Cons Expensive Buy now at Amazon $149.00 from goop

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Credit: Reviewed/Amber Bouman The LectroFan has two adjustable sounds to cover a spectrum of white noises.

Best White Noise Machine Adaptive Sound LectroFan Number of sounds: 20 Battery: No Cord length: 58 inches Weight: 1.2 pounds The LectroFan is humble, practical and—if you’re looking for a straightforward white noise machine—undoubtedly the best bang for your buck. It does exactly what it promises without any compromises in quality. A streamlined noise maker for those who simply want to plug in and sleep, the LectroFan offers two sound settings, fan and white noise, with 10 selectable options for each setting. Both testers noted that the machine’s high-fidelity upward-facing speaker replicated each sound beautifully, producing a warm, bass-heavy profile. The “fan setting” did sound exactly like an actual box fan, albeit one with more tonal and volume control. In terms of decibels, this machine held its own against our top pick, successfully drowning out all three levels of conversation without having to turn the volume up to unsafe levels. Most importantly, the LectroFan’s output retained its smooth, soothing qualities even when we pushed it to the limits. There aren’t a lot of extra bells and whistles here, aside from a timer, but its simple effectiveness is its best feature. Pros Streamlined interface High-fidelity speaker 60-minute sleep timer Cons No extra features $34.96 from Amazon $49.99 from Tractor Supply $49.95 from Walmart

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Other Sound Machines We Tested Snooz White Noise Machine Number of sounds: 1 (with variations) Battery: No Cord length: 72 inches Weight: 0.34 pounds The Snooz is made for one thing—easily adjustable white noise courtesy of an internal mechanical fan. The outer shell of the machine can be twisted to a deeper tone, the sounds themselves run the spectrum from the light, static waves of an oscillating fan to a bass drone that you’d expect to hear in an airplane cabin. In testing, the Snooz was effective: during sound masking testing, the Snooz generally didn’t have to be turned up more than halfway to mask the sounds of parties, dogs, or babies, and in real-use testing, it was simple to use and effective in aiding sleep. The Snooz can be controlled either via the three top buttons (+/- for the light and sounds and a power button), or via the uncluttered app. The app additionally lets you access an off/on scheduler, with a fade in/out feature, that will set times for Snooz to go on and off, and the nursery calibration setting—a setup sequence intended to keep Snooz in a safe range for baby’s ears. Pros Has internal mechanical fan Bluetooth app gives additional controls Nightlight Cons None that we could find Buy now at Amazon $99.99 from goop $99.99 from Walmart

Hatch Restore Number of sounds: Dozens Battery: No Cord length: 60 inches Weight: 2.07 pounds The Hatch Restore is another smart sound machine on this list, and like the Loftie Clock, it provides users with a comprehensive sleep experience. It includes white noise sounds, wake tones and an ample array of ambient music, dreamscapes and sleep stories, as well as a domed nightlight with over 20 hues and a subtle alarm clock on the fabric-covered bottom section. The Restore app can access all these controls, as well as help you create an a.m. or p.m. routine with custom sounds and lights. Though the setup process was a bit finicky, the detailed app wasn’t overly difficult to navigate. The Hatch Sleep Membership subscription provides even more content. However, the physical buttons on the Restore can only control basic functions, like starting a sleep routine, volume, or brightness. Everything else must be accessed in the app, which may be a drawback to some users. It’s also an expensive device, and its size and weight could make it hard to place in a room or travel with. Pros Completely customizable Numerous audio options Sleek, low-profile design Cons Requires app to access all controls Yearly subscription to access all features Buy now at Amazon $129.99 from Best Buy $129.99 from Target $191.16 from Walmart   
  
 Marpac Dohm Classic Number of sounds: 1 (with variations) Battery: No Cord length: 90 inches Weight: 1.6 pounds The Marpac Dohm Classic, also known as the Yogasleep Dohm Classic, is credited as being the first widely available sound machine—and it’s been popular since its release in 1962. It’s also unique in that it’s an actual fan whose sound can be manipulated by rotating its casing. It is simple, it is effective, and it is as analog as it gets. This means it’s uncomplicated to set up, and most folks will be able to use it right out of the box without issue. Both of our testers agreed that the Dohm does exactly what it was designed to do: produce a soothing, easily customizable sound. During sound masking testing, we were able to successfully block almost all of the party noises by adjusting the Dohm’s shell, though we were still able to hear a good amount of construction noise. With a decibel range of 41 to 52 the Dohm doesn’t get nearly as loud as other devices, so it may be more difficult to block intrusive sounds as well as other devices on this list which feature a variety of tones or a higher decibel range. Pros Simple and classic Cons Limited decibel range $46.49 from Amazon $47.99 from Target $47.99 from Newegg $47.99 from Walmart   
  
 Big Red Rooster BRRC107 Sound Machine Number of sounds: 6 Battery: Yes Cord length: 73 inches Weight: 0.37 pounds Our previous testing of the Big Red Rooster’s BRRC107 sound machine found it to be a well-built, lightweight device that produced soothing—if distinctly digital—sounds. This time around, we were more impressed by the BRRC107’s ability to mask unwanted background sounds; we couldn’t hear any party noise even after turning the Rooster down a few volume steps, and both the construction sound and the barking dogs were significantly muted. Unfortunately, we weren’t big fans of any of the six sounds, which felt both digitized and sped up or too fast to be soothing. The device itself operates easily enough; there are physical buttons for all the controls, though they feel a bit cheap and click audibly when pressed. The BRRC107 does run on either AAA batteries or an AC adaptor with a 75-inch cord, so it’s easy to place it anywhere or travel with it. Pros Good for travel Affordable Cons Digital sounds Buy now at Amazon $20.99 from Bed Bath & Beyond $40.68 from Walmart   
  
 Magicteam SN-A1 Number of sounds: 20 Battery: No Cord length: 39 inches Weight: 0.37 pounds The smallest sound machine that we tested, the Magicteam, is popular for its variety of 20 non-looping sounds, from white noise to a bonfire setting. It’s compact enough to travel with, but it will still need to get plugged in and its 40-inch cord limits where it can be placed. It did well enough in the sound masking testing, where it blocked the sound of party noises and barking dogs without having to get uncomfortably loud, and we couldn’t hear any looping or fuzziness in the noises. With over 30 volume levels, it has a good range from 36 to 73 dBA. However, the diminutive size of the buttons made it difficult to navigate the controls, particularly in the dark, and as there are no presets or way to quickly access favorites, you’ll be stuck pressing those tiny buttons constantly to cycle through to the sounds and volume you want. Pros Compact Good decibel range Cons Small control buttons Short power cable Buy now at Amazon $34.86 from Walmart   
  
 Homedics SoundSpa SS-2000 Number of sounds: 6 Battery: Yes Cord length: 73 inches Weight: 0.5 pounds (without batteries) Homedics is a major name in sound machines; the company makes more than a dozen different devices. The White Noise Sound Machine (SS-2200) is an unusual fidget-spinner shaped device, extremely lightweight, with a speaker on top. There are six available sounds, three timer options, and a volume dial that doubles as an on/off switch. In use, we found the SS-2200 serviceable if unremarkable. It blocked party noises well enough, less so for the dogs barking and construction sounds. The six sounds themselves sounded fine but suffered some in quality as the volume rose. We could also detect the looping on at least one of the settings. It’s one of the few devices on this list that will also take batteries; an advantage, because it means you can place it anywhere in your home as well as travel with it. There wasn’t anything definitively terrible about it, but it’s the cheapest device on this list, and it feels like it. Pros Lightweight Takes batteries Cons Sound loops No bonus features $21.99 from Amazon $19.99 from Bed Bath & Beyond $36.59 from Walmart   
  
 Letsfit T126L Number of sounds: 14 Battery: No Cord length: 63 inches Weight: 0.95 pounds The Letsfit T126L is identical to other sound machines found on Amazon’s bestsellers list—a sleek, round device with a row of three physical buttons on the front, plus five touch buttons and a touch ring around an upward-facing speaker grill. It offers 14 sounds, a timer, and a nightlight, but suffers from aggravating design flaws. In order to control the machine's sounds and functions, you’ll need to switch between physical and touch buttons: the five touch buttons on the top control volume, the selection of sounds and the on/off switch, while the front three buttons handle the brightness of the night light and the timer. The night light, however, is powered on by touching the ring around the metal speaker grill. This is unintuitive at best, and at worst, left our testers fumbling in the dark to adjust the controls. The night light directs its illumination downwards, making it nearly impossible to see the controls on the top of the machine, and making it less useful overall as a nightlight. And the timer loudly and audibly announces your selection when pressed, which means you’ll risk waking others in the room if you set it. Pros Nightlight Nice looking Cons Confusing controls Timer announcements Buy now at Walmart $24.99 from Target   
  
 Pure Enrichment Wave Number of sounds: 6 Battery: No Cord length: 60 inches Weight: 1.21 pounds Intended to be propped upright at an angle, the Pure Enrichment Wave is sleek, lightweight, and has straightforward controls. It also includes a USB port, so you can plug your phone in to charge. However, the sound machine we ordered arrived without the silver support cylinder, so finding a way to keep the machine upright was more difficult than it should have been. A bigger issue was the plug itself, which didn’t sit flush with the port, and could be wiggled about. While this didn’t affect our connection, users have complained about devices shorting out and have said that even with the stand, the machine was not stable. The Wave offers six sounds via physical buttons, a timer with presets, and a volume dial. The sounds themselves were a bit fuzzy in quality and there was some noticeable looping in the summer night setting. It was also on the quieter side; in our real- use tests, we had to get out of bed to readjust the volume. While it did fare decently enough during sound masking, we had to turn it up quite high. A more minor annoyance, the power button also controls the timer, so you’ll have to cycle through the timer presets every time you turn the machine off. Pros USB port to charge phone Slim design Cons Fuzzy sounds Missing parts Buy now at Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $29.99 from Walmart

How We Tested The Tester I’m Amber Bouman, and I am chronically sleep deprived. Over the years I’ve struggled with a variety of sleep challenges from third shift work and interruptive insomnia to chronic pain issues like sciatica. Currently, my biggest hurdle to getting a good night’s rest is my 2.5-year-old twins; believe me when I say that sleep is one of my most precious resources.  
Because my partner has tinnitus and our twins are NICU-graduates, we’ve used several different sound machines over the years to assist with sleep. In my professional life, I have over 15 years’ experience reviewing everything from Windows phones and gaming monitors to leather backpacks and, of course, white noise machines. This guide was originally written by Kevin Oliver, a reviewer and contributor to Reviewed who has experience as both a touring musician and a sound engineer. He used his professional expertise in reviewing sound machines, in a way only an audiophile can appreciate. The Tests First, we spent days researching the sound machines most highly rated by expert reviewers and users alike. In addition to ratings, we considered factors like decibel levels, sound settings, size, weight, and extra features. We narrowed down our list to twelve top contenders, including the sound machines that Kevin originally tested. Upon unboxing, we inspected each device thoroughly and took note of build quality. We took notes on ease of setup and portability and ran through each machine’s entire feature list to compare special features and functions. We used a decibel reader to determine a rough estimate of how loud each machine is at both minimum and maximum volumes and listened closely for looping sounds and overall sound quality. We set up all the sound machines in the same room and took a decibel reading of the ambient noise level for a baseline. In an adjacent room, we played a variety of sounds that commonly disturb sleep, including party noises, construction sounds, dogs barking, and babies crying. We measured how loud each of these noises was in our test room, then set each machine to its white- noise setting. We then measured the decibel level and volume setting it took for each machine to cover the intrusive noises. What You Should Know About Buying Sound Machines Types of Noise While you may be familiar with the term white noise, you may not be familiar with how it differentiates from brown noise or pink noise. White noise, a combination of all frequencies on the acoustic spectrum, is often compared to the static hiss of a television. Pink noise contains bass, lower frequencies, and sounds more like steady rainfall. Brown noise, which has the most bass and even lower frequencies than pink, is said to be like strong winds or the rush of a river. Many noise machines offer at least one white-noise option, and many include variations on pink or brown noises as well. If you’re new to sound machines, you’ll want to pick one that has a variety of tones and sounds to experiment with—often you’ll find nature sounds that mimic white, pink, or brown noise like rushing rivers, storms, rain, or waves. Some include alternate tracks like birds or crickets, the rush of traffic or meditation chimes. Whatever option you go for, make sure that the noise machine you choose doesn’t loop sounds that can draw your attention and keep you awake. Location It’s also important to consider where a noise machine will be placed. It’s recommended that a noise machine be positioned at least 7 feet away from your head and in between your bed and the source of any background noise you’re trying to mask.  
Consider where the speakers on the machine are placed, as well; speakers on a noise machine can be on top of the machine, on the front, or even through vent holes on the side and bottom. It’s worth noting where your available electrical outlets are placed, as many noise machines will need to get plugged in (though some will also take batteries). If you’re planning to travel with the same noise machine you use at home, you’ll want to ensure that the sound machine you use is lightweight. Features Your sound machine should provide you with quality background noise to help you sleep, but it can also do double duty as a night light, an alarm clock, a rise-to-wake smart machine, or a Bluetooth speaker.  
Some sound machines also have companion apps that will allow you to control the machine from your phone, access meditation or wellness programs, or even play your own music from the device. Finding a noise machine that also has a nightlight or an alarm clock isn’t hard—many of the machines on this list have either or both—but it’s also possible to snag a sound machine that includes meditation or wellness programming, rise-to-wake settings, a Bluetooth speaker, or even a smartphone app.  
It’s worth thinking about where and how you’ll be using your sound machine, to determine if any of these features are of value to you but keep in mind that any additional features are usually found on higher-priced devices. Sound Machines vs. White-noise Apps There are dozens of white-noise and noise-generating apps available for both iOS and Android. While many of these apps—including our favorite, Relax Melodies—offer an affordable and easy way to drown out some unwanted noise, there are drawbacks. For instance, a phone speaker can’t get anywhere near the decibel level of an external speaker. If your phone is acting as a white noise machine, then it often can’t be used for anything else, which means you can’t have white noise and run a meditation podcast, or use a journaling app, or anything else you may need from your smartphone. A dedicated sound machine can also be positioned in places you may not want to leave a smartphone—say, on the ground outside of a bedroom door. Many dedicated sound machines now also have additional features, so they also work as an alarm clock or nightlight to boot.  
Basically, those who want more volume, more features, and richer sound would be better served by a dedicated sound machine. Are Sound Machines Harmful There’s been an increased focus on potential downsides to sound machines, but the short answer is there isn’t enough data to know whether using a sound machine is harmful. Many recent articles cite a scientific review done by Mathias Basner, who reviewed 38 studies that looked at noise as a sleep aid. Basner concluded that further research is necessary to recommend noise as a sleep aid or prove that it is causing damage. However, almost all experts agree that the safest way to use a noise machine is to keep the decibel level as low as possible to prevent hearing loss. According to the CDC prolonged exposure to noises over 70 dB, which is slightly louder than a normal conversation, can cause damage.  
The CDC also recommends placing the sound machine as far from your bed as possible and, ideally, to set a timer so your brain isn’t constantly perceiving and attempting to process audio signals throughout the night.  
Using a sound machine should also be part of a larger nighttime routine that signals to your body that it is time to wind down and rest.  
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Whether you’re trying to catch up on your zzz’s at odd hours, block out external noise while falling asleep, or simply tired of listening to your next-door neighbors who keep you up at night, a sound machine might help. Our favorite, the Sound & Sleep by Adaptive Sound (available at Amazon for $99.95) is the perfect way to drown out the outside world, and it did better than nearly any other machine we tested at masking other noises.

With thousands of these machines on the market—not to mention the countless smartphone apps available for download—how can you tell which one is right for you? No need to fret: We’ve done all the hard work for you.

After hours of exhaustive research into the best sound machines on the market, followed by thorough hands-on testing and scientific sound quality comparisons, we’ve uncovered the best sound machines money can (currently) buy.

We love the Sound & Sleep because of its volume range, sound quality, and intuitive extra features. However, there are plenty of other great sleep sound machine options at all price ranges.

Here are the best sound machines we tested, ranked in order:

The Sound + Sleep is the only machine to feature a richness mode and an adaptive feature to adjust to sudden noises.

Number of sounds: 30 Battery: No Cord length: 57 inches Weight: 2 pounds

The Sound & Sleep from Adaptive Sound Technologies offers a top-notch sound machine experience. From the sleek tear-drop design to the excellent sound, it exudes quality across the board.

This sound machine offers 10 distinct sound categories, each with three different “richness” settings, which give you a total of 30 sounds to choose from. The richness setting allows you to tweak the variables that get layered into the sound.

For example, on the ocean setting, the standard sound is crashing waves; one tap of the richness button adds the sounds of seagulls and seals. A second adds bells and faraway foghorns to create a more soothing, layered sound.

It is also the only sound machine to feature an adaptive mode, where the internal microphone monitors your room’s ambient noise level and adjusts the volume accordingly.

The Sound & Sleep easily got loud enough to drown out competing sounds in our noise masking tests; it completely blocked out the sounds it was put up against. Both testers also noted that at every volume level, the speaker produced high quality sounds from clear highs to soothing bass without distortions.

It is one of the biggest of the units we tested, both in weight and size, which makes it difficult to recommend traveling with. It has a headphone jack but doesn’t offer a nightlight, clock, or app— and it’s on the higher side, price-wise. If that’s not an issue for you, you’d be hard-pressed to find a better sound machine than this one.

Performed best in our tests   
  
 Completely blocked all noise   
  
 Adaptive setting adjusts sounds automatically   
  
 Somewhat pricey   
  
 Sizeable

The Dreamegg D1 has 24 sounds, including three lullabies, and a gentle nightlight.

Number of sounds: 24 Battery: No Cord length: 60 inches Weight: 1.19 pounds

The Dreamegg D1 presented a pleasant surprise across the board. This sound machine is compact, with well-designed buttons, and 24 sounds that don’t diminish in quality as the volume rises. The D1 can get plenty loud; it features over 32 volume levels, and in testing we successfully blocked almost every bit of intrusive noise by level 20.

Among the 24 sounds are seven white-noise and seven fan sounds alongside nature tracks like brook, ocean waves, and thunderstorm. It also includes three lullaby tunes in case you’d like to place it in a baby’s room and has a gentle nightlight in a warm hue.

There’s no battery, but at 60 inches, the cord length is generous enough to be able to position it where you need to. At a little over a pound, it’s compact and heavy enough so that it should survive traveling well.

Multiple sound options   
  
 Includes nightlight   
  
 Blocks noise well   
  
 No battery

More a sleep guru than a sound machine, the Loftie Clock also has a dual-alarm wake system.

Number of sounds: Dozens Battery: No Cord length: 72 inches Weight: 0.84 pounds

The Loftie Clock is one of a few smart sound machines currently available, and it first gained our attention when we reviewed alarm clocks. It is a striking machine, sleek and lightweight with a warm nightlight along the bottom, and an easy-to-read display.

In addition to the standard white noise sounds, Loftie can play you meditations or bedtime stories (the company updates these regularly). The sound quality is high across volume ranges, and the Loftie got impressively loud through its 10 or so volume steps. It was able to block unwanted sounds with some success, though noise blocking isn’t really what Loftie’s aim is.

The goal of this device is to provide support to both ease you into, and out of, healthy sleep routines. From the extra content and the soothing light to the nighttime routines and the two-stage morning alarm, Loftie wants to be your sleep guru. The white noise and background tones are just one brick in that building.

Loftie can be controlled either via the five buttons on the top, or from its minimalist smart phone app. The app was straightforward and offered good troubleshooting support when we had to adjust time zones, but we fumbled through learning the menus a bit with the physical buttons. Loftie can also double as a Bluetooth speaker, which may help ease the sting of its price tag some.

Array of alarm sounds   
  
 Easy to use   
  
 Bonus features like white noise   
  
 Expensive

The LectroFan has two adjustable sounds to cover a spectrum of white noises.

Number of sounds: 20 Battery: No Cord length: 58 inches Weight: 1.2 pounds

The LectroFan is humble, practical and—if you’re looking for a straightforward white noise machine—undoubtedly the best bang for your buck. It does exactly what it promises without any compromises in quality.

A streamlined noise maker for those who simply want to plug in and sleep, the LectroFan offers two sound settings, fan and white noise, with 10 selectable options for each setting.

Both testers noted that the machine’s high-fidelity upward-facing speaker replicated each sound beautifully, producing a warm, bass-heavy profile. The “fan setting” did sound exactly like an actual box fan, albeit one with more tonal and volume control.

In terms of decibels, this machine held its own against our top pick, successfully drowning out all three levels of conversation without having to turn the volume up to unsafe levels.

Most importantly, the LectroFan’s output retained its smooth, soothing qualities even when we pushed it to the limits. There aren’t a lot of extra bells and whistles here, aside from a timer, but its simple effectiveness is its best feature.

Streamlined interface   
  
 High-fidelity speaker   
  
 60-minute sleep timer   
  
 No extra features

Number of sounds: 1 (with variations) Battery: No Cord length: 72 inches Weight: 0.34 pounds

The Snooz is made for one thing—easily adjustable white noise courtesy of an internal mechanical fan. The outer shell of the machine can be twisted to a deeper tone, the sounds themselves run the spectrum from the light, static waves of an oscillating fan to a bass drone that you’d expect to hear in an airplane cabin.

In testing, the Snooz was effective: during sound masking testing, the Snooz generally didn’t have to be turned up more than halfway to mask the sounds of parties, dogs, or babies, and in real-use testing, it was simple to use and effective in aiding sleep.

The Snooz can be controlled either via the three top buttons (+/- for the light and sounds and a power button), or via the uncluttered app. The app additionally lets you access an off/on scheduler, with a fade in/out feature, that will set times for Snooz to go on and off, and the nursery calibration setting—a setup sequence intended to keep Snooz in a safe range for baby’s ears.

Has internal mechanical fan   
  
 Bluetooth app gives additional controls   
  
 Nightlight   
  
 None that we could find

Number of sounds: Dozens Battery: No Cord length: 60 inches Weight: 2.07 pounds

The Hatch Restore is another smart sound machine on this list, and like the Loftie Clock, it provides users with a comprehensive sleep experience. It includes white noise sounds, wake tones and an ample array of ambient music, dreamscapes and sleep stories, as well as a domed nightlight with over 20 hues and a subtle alarm clock on the fabric-covered bottom section.

The Restore app can access all these controls, as well as help you create an a.m. or p.m. routine with custom sounds and lights. Though the setup process was a bit finicky, the detailed app wasn’t overly difficult to navigate. The Hatch Sleep Membership subscription provides even more content.

However, the physical buttons on the Restore can only control basic functions, like starting a sleep routine, volume, or brightness. Everything else must be accessed in the app, which may be a drawback to some users.

It’s also an expensive device, and its size and weight could make it hard to place in a room or travel with.

Completely customizable   
  
 Numerous audio options   
  
 Sleek, low-profile design   
  
 Requires app to access all controls   
  
 Yearly subscription to access all features

Number of sounds: 1 (with variations) Battery: No Cord length: 90 inches Weight: 1.6 pounds

The Marpac Dohm Classic, also known as the Yogasleep Dohm Classic, is credited as being the first widely available sound machine—and it’s been popular since its release in 1962. It’s also unique in that it’s an actual fan whose sound can be manipulated by rotating its casing. It is simple, it is effective, and it is as analog as it gets.

This means it’s uncomplicated to set up, and most folks will be able to use it right out of the box without issue. Both of our testers agreed that the Dohm does exactly what it was designed to do: produce a soothing, easily customizable sound.

During sound masking testing, we were able to successfully block almost all of the party noises by adjusting the Dohm’s shell, though we were still able to hear a good amount of construction noise. With a decibel range of 41 to 52 the Dohm doesn’t get nearly as loud as other devices, so it may be more difficult to block intrusive sounds as well as other devices on this list which feature a variety of tones or a higher decibel range.

Simple and classic   
  
 Limited decibel range

Number of sounds: 6 Battery: Yes Cord length: 73 inches Weight: 0.37 pounds

Our previous testing of the Big Red Rooster’s BRRC107 sound machine found it to be a well-built, lightweight device that produced soothing—if distinctly digital—sounds. This time around, we were more impressed by the BRRC107’s ability to mask unwanted background sounds; we couldn’t hear any party noise even after turning the Rooster down a few volume steps, and both the construction sound and the barking dogs were significantly muted.

Unfortunately, we weren’t big fans of any of the six sounds, which felt both digitized and sped up or too fast to be soothing. The device itself operates easily enough; there are physical buttons for all the controls, though they feel a bit cheap and click audibly when pressed.

The BRRC107 does run on either AAA batteries or an AC adaptor with a 75-inch cord, so it’s easy to place it anywhere or travel with it.

Good for travel   
  
 Affordable   
  
 Digital sounds

Number of sounds: 20 Battery: No Cord length: 39 inches Weight: 0.37 pounds

The smallest sound machine that we tested, the Magicteam, is popular for its variety of 20 non-looping sounds, from white noise to a bonfire setting. It’s compact enough to travel with, but it will still need to get plugged in and its 40-inch cord limits where it can be placed.

It did well enough in the sound masking testing, where it blocked the sound of party noises and barking dogs without having to get uncomfortably loud, and we couldn’t hear any looping or fuzziness in the noises. With over 30 volume levels, it has a good range from 36 to 73 dBA.

However, the diminutive size of the buttons made it difficult to navigate the controls, particularly in the dark, and as there are no presets or way to quickly access favorites, you’ll be stuck pressing those tiny buttons constantly to cycle through to the sounds and volume you want.

Compact   
  
 Good decibel range   
  
 Small control buttons   
  
 Short power cable

Number of sounds: 6 Battery: Yes Cord length: 73 inches Weight: 0.5 pounds (without batteries)

Homedics is a major name in sound machines; the company makes more than a dozen different devices. The White Noise Sound Machine (SS-2200) is an unusual fidget-spinner shaped device, extremely lightweight, with a speaker on top. There are six available sounds, three timer options, and a volume dial that doubles as an on/off switch.

In use, we found the SS-2200 serviceable if unremarkable. It blocked party noises well enough, less so for the dogs barking and construction sounds. The six sounds themselves sounded fine but suffered some in quality as the volume rose. We could also detect the looping on at least one of the settings.

It’s one of the few devices on this list that will also take batteries; an advantage, because it means you can place it anywhere in your home as well as travel with it. There wasn’t anything definitively terrible about it, but it’s the cheapest device on this list, and it feels like it.

Lightweight   
  
 Takes batteries   
  
 Sound loops   
  
 No bonus features

Number of sounds: 14 Battery: No Cord length: 63 inches Weight: 0.95 pounds

The Letsfit T126L is identical to other sound machines found on Amazon’s bestsellers list—a sleek, round device with a row of three physical buttons on the front, plus five touch buttons and a touch ring around an upward-facing speaker grill. It offers 14 sounds, a timer, and a nightlight, but suffers from aggravating design flaws.

In order to control the machine’s sounds and functions, you’ll need to switch between physical and touch buttons: the five touch buttons on the top control volume, the selection of sounds and the on/off switch, while the front three buttons handle the brightness of the night light and the timer. The night light, however, is powered on by touching the ring around the metal speaker grill.

This is unintuitive at best, and at worst, left our testers fumbling in the dark to adjust the controls. The night light directs its illumination downwards, making it nearly impossible to see the controls on the top of the machine, and making it less useful overall as a nightlight.

And the timer loudly and audibly announces your selection when pressed, which means you’ll risk waking others in the room if you set it.

Nightlight   
  
 Nice looking   
  
 Confusing controls   
  
 Timer announcements

Number of sounds: 6 Battery: No Cord length: 60 inches Weight: 1.21 pounds

Intended to be propped upright at an angle, the Pure Enrichment Wave is sleek, lightweight, and has straightforward controls. It also includes a USB port, so you can plug your phone in to charge. However, the sound machine we ordered arrived without the silver support cylinder, so finding a way to keep the machine upright was more difficult than it should have been.

A bigger issue was the plug itself, which didn’t sit flush with the port, and could be wiggled about. While this didn’t affect our connection, users have complained about devices shorting out and have said that even with the stand, the machine was not stable.

The Wave offers six sounds via physical buttons, a timer with presets, and a volume dial. The sounds themselves were a bit fuzzy in quality and there was some noticeable looping in the summer night setting. It was also on the quieter side; in our real- use tests, we had to get out of bed to readjust the volume.

While it did fare decently enough during sound masking, we had to turn it up quite high. A more minor annoyance, the power button also controls the timer, so you’ll have to cycle through the timer presets every time you turn the machine off.

USB port to charge phone   
  
 Slim design   
  
 Fuzzy sounds   
  
 Missing parts

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Because my partner has tinnitus and our twins are NICU-graduates, we’ve used several different sound machines over the years to assist with sleep. In my professional life, I have over 15 years’ experience reviewing everything from Windows phones and gaming monitors to leather backpacks and, of course, white noise machines.

This guide was originally written by Kevin Oliver, a reviewer and contributor to Reviewed who has experience as both a touring musician and a sound engineer. He used his professional expertise in reviewing sound machines, in a way only an audiophile can appreciate.

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 Contributor

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# The Best High End Dishwashers of 2022

## How Wide Is a Dishwasher?

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

This premium dishwasher comes with plenty of luxury features, including a push-to-open door and a cycle timer that’s projected onto the floor.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Thermador Emerald is a great addition to any smart home and works with Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, and SmartThings.  
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 While this dishwasher only has two racks, it also includes adjustable stemware shelves, making it easy to create more space for cups and utensils.  
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Updated October 14, 2022

Washing dishes is easily one of the least fun chores we have to do around the house. But given the necessity, there are options to make it less time-consuming and more convenient. High-end dishwashers offer a number of helpful capabilities that make cooking for one or many more fun. Finding the right dishwasher can be a challenge, and when you’re looking to dish out money on a heavy duty kitchen appliance, you want to be sure that you’re investing in something high quality that holds up over time and can handle whatever life throws at you. To help you find the right dishwasher, we researched thousands of reviews and narrowed it down to five of the best high-end dishwashers you can get online right now. All the washers on this list come with stainless steel tubs.

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Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Thermador Sapphire DWHD770WFM If you want a premium dishwasher that looks as good as it cleans, look no further than the Thermador Sapphire DWHD770WFM. With its elegant design, blue interior lighting, quiet operation (42 dBA), cycle timer that’s projected onto the floor, and Home Connect implementation, this dishwasher has a lot of luxury touches that match its price point. The StarDry (which is based off of Bosch’s zeolite drying method) drying feature and the ability to open the dishwasher with either a push or a pull, it’s clear that this dishwasher is also trying to solve common issues people have with their dishwashers. When it comes to actually cleaning and drying your dishes, the DWHD770WFM gets the job done right the first time. The Normal and Pots & Pans cycles give you near-perfect stain removal and dish drying in two to two and a half hours, and that’s without using StarDry. It has 16 place settings and a built-in water softener. Using the StarDry gives you dried dishes that are perfectly table- or cabinet-ready. If you have a big budget, and need a luxe dishwasher that can keep up with the demands of hosting large gatherings, be sure to check out the Thermador DWH770WFM dishwasher. Pros Excellent cleaning performance Gets dishes dry Great customizability options Cons None that we could find $2,299.00 from Appliances Connection

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Thermador Emerald DWHD650WFP The Thermador Emerald is a great addition to any smart home and works with Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, and SmartThings. Energy Star qualified, this dishwasher has a three-stage advanced filtration to recirculate water for sparkling results in any of the six available cycles and cleans up to 15 place settings with ease. A good-looking dishwasher, the Emerald also offers great cleaning performance. And it’s so quiet at 48 dBA that some reviewers mentioned that they’ve had to check and see if the indicator light is on to be sure it’s even running. While this dishwasher comes equipped with three racks, it doesn’t have a food disposal, and the drying power’s said to be lacking, which could get frustrating when you’re looking for a dishwasher that does it all. The Thermador Emerald comes with a two-year manufacturer's warranty for additional peace of mind. Pros Quiet Cleans well Cons Dry cycle isn’t great No food disposal $1,399.00 from Best Buy $1,049.99 from Walmart $1,399.00 from Abt

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Viking VDWU324SS Top Control Built-In Dishwasher Touchpad controls and an LCD display allow ease of use with this sleek Viking dishwasher. While this dishwasher only has two racks, it also includes adjustable stemware shelves, making it easy to create more space for cups and utensils. Quiet at 45 dBA, this dishwasher has condenser drying, so while it won’t completely dry your dishes, it’s said to produce very clean dishes. And the 24-hour delayed start lets you set the dishwasher to start running at any time. Pros Quiet yet powerful cleaning Touchscreen display Cons Won’t dry dishes completely $1,579.00 from Best Buy $1,349.00 from Abt   
  
 Jenn-Air Rise JDPSS246LL Said to have great build quality, the Jenn-Air Rise runs at just 38 dBA, making it extraordinarily quiet. Three racks accommodate 15 place settings for easy everyday use as well as special occasions and the TriFecta Wash System cleans dishes in about an hour. Adjustable tines in the middle and lower racks allow space reconfiguration to handle uncommon or unwieldy cookware, making it easy to cook new recipes without worrying about cleaning up after. Heated drying and leak detection are the stars of the show when it comes to the Jenn-Air Rise, and the delayed start allows you to start your wash cycle in hourly increments up to 24 hours. The Rise is Energy Star certified and has six cycle options for a clean that fits your family. Pros Great build quality Quick wash Cons Expensive $2,199.00 from Best Buy $2,199.00 from Abt

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Bosch Benchmark SHX89PW75N No need to pre-wash your dishes with this dishwasher from Bosch, as it cleans without any extra help. Seven quiet wash cycles are just one of the endless bells and whistles included in this dishwasher, and a full sized third rack and adjustable upper rack are helpful in accommodating additional dishes. Utilize the delayed start or the quick-wash setting for the ultimate convenience; it’s easy to minimize noise by running your dishwasher at off-peak times. While this Bosch model is leak safe and sure to give you peace of mind that you won’t have to worry about annoying messes, some people have had trouble with the extra-dry setting; it may not actually get dishes any dryer than the normal cycle, so don’t let that feature be a huge selling point for you. Pros Leak safe Lots of options Cons Extra dry option is questionable $2,299.99 from Best Buy $1,499.00 from Walmart $2,299.00 from Abt

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What You Should Know Before Buying a High-End Dishwasher Did your dishwasher just die, and you need to replace it ASAP because the stack of dirty plates in your sink is starting to smell? If it can’t be repaired, we recommend taking the time—yes, despite the stink—to look for a new dishwasher that’s going to address all your needs, clean your dishes well, and fit into your budget, tiny or unlimited. How Wide Is a Dishwasher? Unlike other large appliances (think refrigerators), dishwashers are all the same size: 24 inches wide by 24 inches deep by 35 inches high. This means that it’s super easy to shop for a dishwasher online, because you can guarantee it’ll fit the space you already have open in your kitchen. Do High End Dishwashers Last Longer? According to the International Association of Certified Home Inspectors, the average dishwasher lasts about nine years. Appliances don’t last as long these days for a few reasons, like economic factors that affect all durable goods, production of parts that frequently get outsourced to the least-expensive third-party manufacturers, and machines being made with more plastic and less metal. Since most consumers don’t buy appliances very often, a decreased lifespan can seem all the more dramatic when a dishwasher breaks down after just 10 years, even though its predecessor chugged along for 30. How Long Does a Dishwasher Run? Dishwasher cycles can run the gamut from 30 minutes to four hours. Shorter cycle times are much more convenient, especially when it comes to large dinner parties, where you may need to reuse dishes from dinner when it’s time for dessert. Incidentally, what happens inside a dishwasher is interesting, and kind of like a car wash. In short, the best dishwashers have short cycles. How Much Water Does a Dishwasher Use? Reviewed’s Jonathan Chan says, “The amount of water a dishwasher uses [depends] on type and cycle selected. Normal cycles on compact models can use as little as 2.5 gallons, but larger entry-level models can use up to five gallons.” And, although it may surprise you, dishwashers use far less water than you would by hand-washing your dishes. If you’re environmentally or money conscious, the prospect of using less water and energy may be appealing to you. Be sure to check out the Energy Star rating for a dishwasher to give you an idea of what you can expect your utility bills to look like.

Washing dishes is easily one of the least fun chores we have to do around the house. But given the necessity, there are options to make it less time-consuming and more convenient. High-end dishwashers offer a number of helpful capabilities that make cooking for one or many more fun.

Finding the right dishwasher can be a challenge, and when you’re looking to dish out money on a heavy duty kitchen appliance, you want to be sure that you’re investing in something high quality that holds up over time and can handle whatever life throws at you.

To help you find the right dishwasher, we researched thousands of reviews and narrowed it down to five of the best high-end dishwashers you can get online right now. All the washers on this list come with stainless steel tubs.

The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

If you want a premium dishwasher that looks as good as it cleans, look no further than the Thermador Sapphire DWHD770WFM. With its elegant design, blue interior lighting, quiet operation (42 dBA), cycle timer that’s projected onto the floor, and Home Connect implementation, this dishwasher has a lot of luxury touches that match its price point.

The StarDry (which is based off of Bosch’s zeolite drying method) drying feature and the ability to open the dishwasher with either a push or a pull, it’s clear that this dishwasher is also trying to solve common issues people have with their dishwashers.

When it comes to actually cleaning and drying your dishes, the DWHD770WFM gets the job done right the first time. The Normal and Pots & Pans cycles give you near-perfect stain removal and dish drying in two to two and a half hours, and that’s without using StarDry. It has 16 place settings and a built-in water softener.

Using the StarDry gives you dried dishes that are perfectly table- or cabinet-ready. If you have a big budget, and need a luxe dishwasher that can keep up with the demands of hosting large gatherings, be sure to check out the Thermador DWH770WFM dishwasher.

Excellent cleaning performance   
  
 Gets dishes dry   
  
 Great customizability options   
  
 None that we could find

The Thermador Emerald is a great addition to any smart home and works with Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, and SmartThings. Energy Star qualified, this dishwasher has a three-stage advanced filtration to recirculate water for sparkling results in any of the six available cycles and cleans up to 15 place settings with ease.

A good-looking dishwasher, the Emerald also offers great cleaning performance. And it’s so quiet at 48 dBA that some reviewers mentioned that they’ve had to check and see if the indicator light is on to be sure it’s even running.

While this dishwasher comes equipped with three racks, it doesn’t have a food disposal, and the drying power’s said to be lacking, which could get frustrating when you’re looking for a dishwasher that does it all. The Thermador Emerald comes with a two-year manufacturer’s warranty for additional peace of mind.

Quiet   
  
 Cleans well   
  
 Dry cycle isn’t great   
  
 No food disposal

Touchpad controls and an LCD display allow ease of use with this sleek Viking dishwasher. While this dishwasher only has two racks, it also includes adjustable stemware shelves, making it easy to create more space for cups and utensils. Quiet at 45 dBA, this dishwasher has condenser drying, so while it won’t completely dry your dishes, it’s said to produce very clean dishes. And the 24-hour delayed start lets you set the dishwasher to start running at any time.

Quiet yet powerful cleaning   
  
 Touchscreen display   
  
 Won’t dry dishes completely

Said to have great build quality, the Jenn-Air Rise runs at just 38 dBA, making it extraordinarily quiet. Three racks accommodate 15 place settings for easy everyday use as well as special occasions and the TriFecta Wash System cleans dishes in about an hour.

Adjustable tines in the middle and lower racks allow space reconfiguration to handle uncommon or unwieldy cookware, making it easy to cook new recipes without worrying about cleaning up after.

Heated drying and leak detection are the stars of the show when it comes to the Jenn-Air Rise, and the delayed start allows you to start your wash cycle in hourly increments up to 24 hours. The Rise is Energy Star certified and has six cycle options for a clean that fits your family.

Great build quality   
  
 Quick wash   
  
 Expensive

No need to pre-wash your dishes with this dishwasher from Bosch, as it cleans without any extra help. Seven quiet wash cycles are just one of the endless bells and whistles included in this dishwasher, and a full sized third rack and adjustable upper rack are helpful in accommodating additional dishes.

Utilize the delayed start or the quick-wash setting for the ultimate convenience; it’s easy to minimize noise by running your dishwasher at off-peak times.

While this Bosch model is leak safe and sure to give you peace of mind that you won’t have to worry about annoying messes, some people have had trouble with the extra-dry setting; it may not actually get dishes any dryer than the normal cycle, so don’t let that feature be a huge selling point for you.

Leak safe   
  
 Lots of options   
  
 Extra dry option is questionable

Did your dishwasher just die, and you need to replace it ASAP because the stack of dirty plates in your sink is starting to smell? If it can’t be repaired, we recommend taking the time—yes, despite the stink—to look for a new dishwasher that’s going to address all your needs, clean your dishes well, and fit into your budget, tiny or unlimited.

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Incidentally, what happens inside a dishwasher is interesting, and kind of like a car wash.

In short, the best dishwashers have short cycles.

Reviewed’s Jonathan Chan says, “The amount of water a dishwasher uses [depends] on type and cycle selected. Normal cycles on compact models can use as little as 2.5 gallons, but larger entry-level models can use up to five gallons.” And, although it may surprise you, dishwashers use far less water than you would by hand-washing your dishes.

If you’re environmentally or money conscious, the prospect of using less water and energy may be appealing to you. Be sure to check out the Energy Star rating for a dishwasher to give you an idea of what you can expect your utility bills to look like.

Jonathan Chan  
   
  
  
 Senior Manager of Lab Operations

Jonathan Chan currently serves as the Lab Manager at Reviewed. If you clean with it, it’s likely that Jon oversees its testing. Since joining the Reviewed in 2012, Jon has helped launch the company’s efforts in reviewing laptops, vacuums, and outdoor gear. He thinks he’s a pretty big deal. In the pursuit of data, he’s plunged his hands into freezing cold water, consented to be literally dragged through the mud, and watched paint dry. Jon demands you have a nice day.

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Julia MacDougall  
   
  
  
 Senior Scientist

Julia is the Senior Scientist at Reviewed, which means that she oversees (and continually updates) the testing of products in Reviewed’s core categories such as televisions, washing machines, refrigerators, and more. She also determines the testing methods and standards for Reviewed’s “The Best Right Now” articles.

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Kyle Hamilton  
   
  
  
 Product Tester

Kyle Hamilton is a product tester at Reviewed, specializing in home appliances and technology.

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Ceara Perez-Murphy  
   
  
  
 Staff Writer, Search

Ceara Perez-Murphy is a staff writer at Reviewed.

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# The Best Refrigerators of 2022

## Temperature

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

The Bosch B36FD50SNS French-door is nearly perfect. Temperatures in both the fridge and freezer are right on the mark, and it has a lot of storage.  
  
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 This French-door stunner aced our tests, maintaining unwavering temperatures. It also boasts a through-the-door dispenser and smart connectivity.  
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 The GE Café is a statement piece with so many outstanding features, including a gorgeous platinum glass finish, a brightly backlit LED panel, and rose gold accents on every piece of interior shelving.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Samsung Bespoke RF29BB8600 is one of the better Bespoke fridges we've tested, with solid temperatures, excellent extras, and a custom look.   
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 The absolute beauty of this fridge is marred only by its performance and ability to produce consistent temperatures.  
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Updated October 24, 2022

When you’re shopping for a fridge, a stroll through a home improvement store can be overwhelming. Surrounded by rows and rows of nearly identical-looking appliances, it can be difficult to find the best refrigerator for your kitchen. That’s why our experts have tested hundreds of refrigerators of all shapes, styles, and designs to determine which of these appliances are worth the purchase, and which fridges failed to impress. During testing, we consider temperature consistency, storage capacity, and ease of use to be the most important aspects of a good fridge. Our favorite fridge is the Bosch B36FD50SNS (available at Best Buy for $2,999.99). This French door is nearly perfect, offering top-notch temperature consistency and tons of storage space for a reasonable price.

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For those with a different budget, style, and feature preferences, we have plenty of other recommendations that will work in your kitchen.

Editor’s Note Due to supply chain challenges and soaring demand, there is widespread unavailability of home appliances and long wait times for delivery of backordered models. If you’re shopping for a refrigerator, here are the best places to buy in-stock appliances right now.

Credit: Reviewed / Jonathan Chan

Best Overall Bosch B36FD50SNS Dimensions: 70” x 35.63” x 32.13” (H x W x D) Measured usable space: 12.71-cubic-foot refrigerator, 4.92-cubic-foot freezer Style: French door Dispensers: Through-the-door ice and water Finish: Stainless steel The Bosch B36FD50SNS is nearly perfect. Temperatures in both the fridge and freezer are exactly where they should be and don’t waver. Its fridge and freezer offer more storage than most other French doors. Its crispers hang on to humidity. It has a through-the-door water and ice dispenser. It also features a sleek, stainless steel finish. In fact, the only point we can find to critique is that its spill-capture shelves only have lips in the front, not sides or back. While this fridge costs more than the average French-door fridge, between its excellent performance, features, and Bosch’s excellent warranty, we think it’s worth its purchase price. Pros Solid temperatures Lots of fridge storage Through-the-door dispenser Cons Its shelves only have a spill-capture lip on their front $2,999.99 from Best Buy Buy now at Home Depot $3,199.00 from Abt $2,999.00 from Lowe’s

Other Refrigerators We Tested Bosch B36CD50SNS Dimensions: 69.5 x 35.63 x 31.13 Measured usable space: 10.68 cubic feet in fridge, 3.82 cubic feet in freezer Style: French door Dispensers: Exterior water and ice Finish: Stainless steel, black stainless steel A near-perfect performance is what the Bosch B36CD50SNS offers, so devotees of the high-end, German-engineered brand can now add this fridge to their top-tier kitchen layouts, alongside Bosch’s excellent dishwashers. This stunner aced all of our tests, maintaining unwavering temperatures in both the fridge and freezer. It also boasts useful features, including smart connectivity that allows for remote operation and notifications. Despite a couple of inconsequential flaws—lack of a shelf spill capture, slightly less-than-average storage capacity—the B36CD50SNS is still one of our top-rated fridges of all time. Pros Near-perfect temperatures Through-the-door dispenser Smart connectivity Cons Less storage space than average $3,299.99 from Best Buy Buy now at Home Depot $3,299.00 from Abt $3,299.00 from Walmart

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GE Café CVE28DM5NS5 Dimensions: 69.875 x 35.63 x 34.25 inches Measured usable space: 10.83 cubic feet in fridge; 4.75 cubic feet in freezer Style: French door Dispensers: Exterior water and ice Finishes: Stainless steel with recessed handles, black with stainless steel door handles, white with brushed bronze door handles, platinum glass with recessed handles The GE Café CVE28DM5NS5 is a French-door refrigerator that doubles as a statement piece. With its shiny platinum glass finish, shelves with rose gold accents, and beautiful backlit LED wall in the fridge’s interior, you may start to think that this fridge emphasizes function over form—but you’d be wrong. It has spot-on temperature control, a highly effective crisper drawer, and a wide variety of flexible and adjustable storage options. For those of you who spend a lot of time hosting parties, you’ll appreciate the extra temperature-controlled drawer (with both freezer and fridge settings) and the extra rack in the freezer that’s perfect for flat foods like pizzas. Another great feature is Autofill, the water dispenser that automatically senses the height of your water vessel, fills it up without overflowing, and reports how much water was dispensed. Yes, this fridge is expensive, but if you have a big budget, you’ll appreciate the looks and the utility of the GE CVE28DM5NS5. Pros Consistent temperatures Backlit interior Custom-temp drawer Cons Smaller capacity $4,229.99 from Best Buy $4,228.00 from Home Depot $3,898.99 from Walmart

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Samsung Bespoke RF29BB86004MAA Dimensions: 70 x 35.75 x 34.25 inches Measured usable space: 10.61-cubic-foot refrigerator, 5.28-cubic-foot freezer Style: French door Dispensers: Internal ice and water Finishes: White glass, charcoal glass, matte gray glass, Morning Blue glass, clementine glass, pink glass, Sunrise Yellow glass, stainless steel, matte black steel, navy steel, Tuscan steel, emerald green steel While it’s pricier than some of its peers, the Samsung Bespoke RF29BB8600AP brings great performance and unique looks that you just can’t find elsewhere. In our testing we found its fridge has excellent temperature performance and its freezer was no slouch either. The fridge has an internal ice and water dispenser, a door-in-door design that provides easy access to your door bins and prevents cold air from escaping, and a flex drawer for adaptable storage. Of course, the main reason to buy a Bespoke appliance is the slew of customization options available. There is an ever-growing list of finishes to choose from, in either glass or steel, ensuring the perfect look for any kitchen. Also, while this fridge may be expensive compared to its less-customizable counterparts, it’s actually one of the cheaper ways to get this kind of custom look into your kitchen. Pros Solid fridge temperatures Flexible-temperature drawer Customizable aesthetic Cons The custom-color panels are a separate purchase $3,329.99 from Best Buy $3,328.00 from Home Depot $3,329.00 from Lowe's $3,329.00 from Samsung

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Samsung Bespoke RF23A9675AP Dimensions: 73 x 35.875 x 28.75 inches Style: French door Dispensers: Door-in-door water; internal dual ice maker Finishes: Matte black steel, navy glass, white, custom The Samsung Bespoke RF23A9675AP is a gorgeous refrigerator. Its clean lines, modern look, and customization options will help this French-door fit into any kitchen. While the RF23A9675AP excels when it comes to usability and presentation, it does lag behind other French-doors on temperature consistency, a trait it shares with other high-end models. That being said, it's definitely not a dealbreaker issue: With regular food turnover, most users will do just fine with their RF23A9675AP. Pros Sleek and modern look Incredible attention to detail Flexible compartment that can be fridge or freezer Cons Inconsistent temperatures Ice separate from the beverage center $3,415.00 from Sam's Club $2,698.91 from Samsung   
  
 Hisense HRB171N6ASE Dimensions: 69.1 x 31.1 x 29.1 inches Measured usable space: 8.75 cubic feet in fridge, 2.87 cubic feet in freezer Style: Bottom freezer Dispensers: None Finishes: White, black metallic steel, stainless steel The Hisense HRB171N6ASE is a high-value, low-cost refrigerator. It has remarkable temperature consistency for its price range and has notable energy efficiency, even compared to other counter-depth models. However, this refrigerator isn’t without issues. We recommend everyone make sure their HRB171N6ASE is properly calibrated out of the box, as the unit we received ran a bit too warm. Additionally, there is only one crisper drawer, so those who are looking to store lots of fruits and vegetables might find a better option elsewhere. That said, we think this refrigerator offers impressive performance for its purchase price. If you’re looking to pick up a counter-depth fridge on a budget, the HRB171N6ASE is a solid bet. Pros Steady temperatures in both fridge and freezer Great value Cons Fridge needs to be calibrated before use Only one crisper $999.00 from Lowe's

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GE Profile PVD28BYNFS Dimensions: 69.875 x 35.63 x 36.75 inches Measured usable space: 10.2 cubic feet in fridge, 4.11 cubic feet in freezer Style: French door Dispensers: Exterior water and ice Finishes: Stainless steel For those of you who have a high-end kitchen, the GE Profile PVD28BYNFS French-door refrigerator will fit right in. It hits all the right notes when it comes to form and function, thanks to its brushed, fingerprint-resistant stainless-steel finish, door-in-door storage, flexible shelving options, extra temperature-controlled drawer, auto-sensing water dispenser, and backlit fridge cavity. It performed well in our temperature tests, and the crisper drawers are some of the best we’ve ever tested. Because the crispers do a great job of maintaining ambient humidity conditions, you’ll be able to keep your fruits and veggies fresh for longer. If you have a larger budget, the GE PVD28BYNFS is well worth the money. Pros Backlit interior Flexible drawer with custom temp Through-the-door ice and water Cons $3,779.99 from Best Buy $3,778.00 from Home Depot $3,779.00 from Abt $3,183.00 from Walmart   
  
 KitchenAid KRFC704FBS Dimensions: 71.875 x 35.63 x 31.5 inches Style: French door Dispensers: Exterior water and ice Finishes: Stainless steel, black stainless steel The KitchenAid KRFC704FBS French-door fridge has plenty of style. From its finish to the wood and metal trim on the interior shelves and drawers, this fridge metaphorically struts down the runway and says, "Look at me!" And we're happy to say that this refrigerator is definitely worth a look. Even better, it also has spot-on temperatures for food preservation, a retractable middle shelf that makes room for taller items, soft-close drawers, and a control panel above the ice/water dispenser that is easy to understand and operate. For those of you out there that have some extra cash on hand and who want something more interesting than white plastic inside your refrigerator, you'll love the KitchenAid KRFC704FBS. Pros Maintains consistent temperatures Interior wood finish Through-door dispensers Cons Drawers feel rickety $4,499.99 from Best Buy Buy now at Home Depot $4,499.00 from Abt $4,999.00 from Walmart   
  
 GE GNE25JMKES Dimensions: 69.875 x 32.75 x 37.5 Style: French door Dispensers: Internal water; internal ice maker Finishes: High gloss black, slate, stainless steel, high gloss white The GE GNE25JMKES refrigerator is a well-sized, well-priced French door fridge. Its clean lines and sleek exterior really draw the eye, but it's what's inside that really impressed us. This fridge really blew us away with its precision temperature control and its energy efficiency. While this fridge doesn't have through-door ice or water dispensers, it does have some retractable shelves, crisper bins with separate humidity controls, a temperature-controlled deli drawer, a discreet internal water dispenser, and an ice maker in the freezer. We like the GE GNE25JMKES because it looks like a stripped down French door refrigerator, but it still has some of the most convenient features that you find on more expensive models. Pros Maintains consistent temperatures Temperature-controlled drawer Retractable shelves Cons Lacks through-door dispensers $1,889.99 from Best Buy $1,888.00 from Home Depot $1,889.00 from Abt $2,099.00 from Walmart   
  
 Bosch B36CT80SNS Dimensions: 72 x 36 x 27.81 inches Measured usable space: 13.6 cubic feet in fridge, 2.5 cubic feet in freezer Style: French door Dispensers: Internal water and ice Finishes: Stainless steel, black stainless steel The Bosch’s 800 Series B36CT80SNS passed all of our temperature tests with room to spare, maintaining cold, even temperatures in both the fridge and freezer. We also like its smart capabilities via Home Connect, crispers with customizable temperatures, and a fridge compartment with tons of storage. The only downside? Its freezer, though well-organized, is small—almost half as big as you’d typically see on a French-door. Pros Excellent temperature control Large fridge compartment Internal dispensers Cons Small freezer $3,499.99 from Best Buy Buy now at Home Depot $3,499.00 from Abt $3,499.99 from Walmart   
  
 Hotpoint HPS16BTNRWW Dimensions: 61.75 x 28 x 30.5 inches Measured usable space: 9.68 cubic feet in fridge, 3.98 cubic feet in freezer Style: Top freezer Dispensers: None Finishes: White, black If you’re not looking to spend thousands on a new fridge, the Hotpoint HPS16BTNRWW is a good bet. Unlike most lower-cost fridges, this Hotpoint doesn’t skimp on temperature performance. In fact, its fridge and freezer temperatures are remarkably consistent, straying by less than 2°F in total. What you won’t get in this fridge is features—to be expected based on its price tag. Also, its freezer runs a bit warm before calibration, which is an easy fix. If you’re looking for a fridge in this price range, it’s going to require compromises. In this case, we think those compromises are tiny in comparison to the value you’re getting for its performance at this price. Pros Stable temperatures Great value Cons Freezer temps need calibration Wire racks don't handle spills well $656.99 from Best Buy $658.00 from Home Depot $679.00 from Lowe's   
  
 Electrolux ERMC2295AS Dimensions: 70 x 35.875 x 29.13 inches Measured usable space: 9.70 cubic feet in fridge, 4.71 cubic feet in freezer Style: French door Dispensers: Through-the-door water and ice Finish: Stainless steel If you’re looking for a high-end, counter-depth French-door with a clean look and excellent extras, the Electrolux ERMC2295AS is a solid pick. This fridge has consistent temperatures, a through-the-door dispenser with a tall pocket to accommodate thermoses and large reusable bottles, a flex drawer that can quickly adapt to your storage needs, and crispers that’ll keep your veggies from wilting too quickly. The ERMC2295AS’s small footprint also means it might be one of the few fridges that can actually fit into a particularly small space. While a fridge this small can be a boon for those with limited space, the resulting reduced capacity is definitely a downside. Pros Solid fridge temperature performance Efficient crispers Excellent extras Cons Temperatures in the freezer weren't consistent Poor value $4,499.00 from Walmart   
  
 GE Profile PYE22PYNFS Dimensions: 69.875 x 35.75 x 31.25 inches Measured usable space: 7.73 cubic feet in fridge, 3.79 cubic feet in freezer Style: French door Dispensers: Through-the-door water (cold and hot), ice, and Kuerig K-Cup coffee maker Finish: Stainless steel, black stainless steel The GE Profile PYE22PYNFS is made for people who put an emphasis on food. It offers luxe features like an in-the-door Keurig K-cup brewing system, flexible storage options, and smart integration that lets you schedule hot water in advance of needing it. When it comes to food preservation, this refrigerator won’t let you down with its steady, safe temperatures that remain consistent. It held extremely steady at 38.76°F—well within the safe zone—and did not waiver, despite the door being opened frequently over 72 hours. In fact, its temperature consistency score during testing was almost perfect. The freezer performed even better than the fridge. It has one freezer compartment with two full-width storage baskets, which allows spacious room for storing frozen foods compared to other French-door models, despite being the more shallow, counter-depth style. Tiny flaws—like coffee splatter and a wobbly freezer drawer—don’t knock it too much. Pros In-the-door Keurig coffee brewing system Excellent temperature consistency Humid crispers Cons Low on storage $3,599.99 from Best Buy $3,598.00 from Home Depot $3,660.48 from Walmart $3,599.00 from Wayfair   
  
 GE GFE28GYNFS Dimensions: 69.875 x 35.75 x 36.25 inches Measured usable space: 9.56 cubic feet in fridge, 4.26 cubic feet in freezer Style: French door Dispensers: Through-the-door water and ice Finish: Black slate, slate, stainless steel For consumers looking to fill a French-door footprint in their kitchen, the GE GFE28GYNFS refrigerator is worth considering, thanks to its through-the-door dispenser, stable temperatures, and excellent storage options. While it does have downsides, those were relatively minor: It needs to be calibrated a little cool to hit ideal temperatures, and it’s slightly smaller than the average French-door, as its many bins and drawers aren’t as space efficient as shelves. Of course, the bins and drawers provide better options for organization. Pros Steady temperatures Highly-customizable storage Effective crispers Cons Lower-than-average capacity $2,969.99 from Best Buy $2,968.00 from Home Depot $2,969.00 from Abt $3,299.00 from Walmart   
  
 Samsung RF28R7351SG Dimensions: 70 x 35.75 x 36.5 inches Measured usable space: 10.3 cubic feet in fridge, 4.99 cubic feet in freezer Style: French door Dispensers: Through-the-door water and ice Finishes: Stainless steel, black stainless steel, Tuscan stainless steel For the Samsung RF28R7351SG, flexibility is the name of the game. Not only does it have door-in-door storage with removable bins, but it also has crispers with adjustable humidity settings, a retractable shelf, a temperature-controlled drawer with four temperature settings, and an adjustable storage organizer in the freezer. If you have any interest in the IoT, this fridge is also wi-fi and Bixby enabled. Another bonus is the built-in water pitcher that automatically refills. Even better, this fridge did a great job at maintaining consistent temperatures, and it is relatively energy-efficient, even with its numerous extra features. For a versatile fridge that can meet your ever-changing needs, check out the Samsung RF28R7351SG. Pros Smart connectivity Temperature-controlled drawer Consistent temperatures Cons $2,329.99 from Best Buy $4,777.16 from Samsung   
  
 Whirlpool WRX735SDHZ Dimensions: 70.13 x 35.63 x 34.63 inches Measured usable space: 10.33 cubic feet in fridge, 3.68 cubic feet in freezer Style: French door Dispensers: Exterior water and ice Finishes: Black, white, stainless steel, black stainless steel It's hard to complain about the Whirlpool WRX735SDHZ. This refrigerator looks sleek, features ice and water dispensers, has a temperature-controlled exterior drawer, and it maintains cool and stable temperatures. Though it’s not the biggest French door we’ve tested, it should have plenty of room for most users. A really solid fridge, it has the key features and great performance. As long as you’re not specifically in the market for a fridge that's loaded up with the latest smart features, this Whirlpool will almost certainly suit your needs. Pros Cold, steady temperatures Ice/water dispenser Exterior drawer Cons Low storage capacity $2,699.99 from Best Buy Buy now at Home Depot $2,699.00 from Abt $2,489.00 from Walmart   
  
 LG LRFDC2406S Dimensions: 70.3 x 35.8 x 30.8 inches Measured usable space: 8.52 cubic feet in fridge, 4.03 cubic feet in freezer Style: French door Dispensers: Exterior water and ice Finish: Stainless steel, black stainless steel The LG LRFDC2406S is the second LG Craft Ice-enhanced refrigerator we've tested so far, and it has only solidified our obsession with spherical ice. From a more practical standpoint, the LRFDC2406S actually outperforms its more feature-rich—and expensive—sibling, the LRMVS3006S. Its temperatures are spot on and barely waver. It also has a ton of options for customizing its storage space, including additional bins. While the LRFDC2406S does cost more than most, its price point isn't uncommon for an appliance that offers a technology that's completely new in the product space. Just be aware that a decent chunk of its purchase price is going to its spherical ice maker, so if you aren’t particularly interested in this feature, this fridge likely isn’t a great value. Pros Spherical ice Internal drawer with custom temp Solid temperature performance Cons None that we could find $3,799.99 from Best Buy $3,798.00 from Home Depot $3,799.00 from Abt   
  
 Samsung RS27T5200SR Dimensions: 70.06 x 35.88 x 33.5 inches Measured usable space: 12.7 cubic feet in fridge, 5.7 cubic feet in freezer Style: Side-by-side Dispensers: Exterior water and ice Finishes: Stainless steel, black stainless steel, white The Samsung RS27T5200SR uses a multi-vent system to keep temperatures more evenly distributed throughout the unit, and our tests confirm that this design works as intended: Temperatures were remarkably solid throughout the fridge cavity. It also has more storage space than the average side-by-side fridge. While "very even temperatures" and "extra space" might not be as flashy as some other features on this list, these are two areas where side-by-sides often have difficulty. The RS27T5200SR is one of the better side-by-sides to come through our labs. If you're interested in a fridge with this design, it’s a great option. $1,499.99 from Best Buy $1,498.00 from Home Depot $1,349.00 from Abt $1,128.00 from Walmart

How We Test Refrigerators Reviewed’s appliance testing team has spent years testing major appliances, including washers, dryers, refrigerators, and dishwashers. We have plenty of experience testing these products in the lab, but we’ve also used them as normal people would in the course of their daily lives, which means that we have a great sense for what appliances are bargains at their price points, and which appliances have really useful extra features. We test each fridge from two perspectives—first, from a data-driven, objective point of view, and second, as a regular person trying to get at the leftover Chinese food. The combination of these two types of experiences allows us to recommend the best fridge for you at any price point. To avoid extreme temperatures that negatively impact fridge performance, we test each refrigerator in a lab that conditions the air temperature to 72°F +/- 5°F (basically, room temperature), and relative humidity to 50% RH +/- 15% RH. This way, each fridge can perform at its best, and doesn’t get penalized by dealing with warmer or colder air than its competitors. We spend a week putting each refrigerator through its paces. After packing the fridge with water filled containers (since fridges operate better when there’s less empty space), we measure the fridge’s temperature, humidity loss, freezing time, usable space, and energy use. Temperature Our ideal temperature settings for the fridge and the freezer are 37°F and 0°F, respectively. With fridge temperatures higher than 37°F, you may have to start worrying about bacteria growth, as 40°F is the start of the bacteria “danger zone”. Food isn’t properly frozen at freezer temperatures above 0°F. Once we set each fridge to those temperatures, we collect temperature data throughout the week’s testing that tells us not only how close the temperature in the fridge and freezer are to 37°F and 0°F, respectively, but how close the air temperature stayed to those ideal values. Humidity Loss For this test, we focus on the refrigerator’s veggie crisper. We add water to a floral foam ball, and measure how quickly it dries. Humidity matters because if the crisper is too dry, your leafy greens will quickly dry out. If the crisper is too humid, your fruits will rot. Fridges that strike a balance between the extremes will preserve your fruits and veggies for longer. Freezing Time Once the fridge is plugged in, we measure the time it takes for the freezer to cool down from room temperature to 32°F (the freezing temperature of water). This is a good measure of how quickly your fridge and freezer can cool down food or beverages that have just been placed inside the refrigerator. Usable Space Most manufacturers measure the interior of a fridge by essentially flooding it with water and accounting for every empty inch inside the fridge. While it makes a kind of sense, we don’t use these measurements for our testing, because they don’t cleanly translate into a usable datapoint. The way we measure the interior of a fridge is to get the measurements of each shelf, bin, or other storage location—the places you can actually put food—and add those together. That way we’re only accounting for the usable storage inside the fridge, and different models’ capacities are more cross-comparable. Energy Use Using an electric meter, we measure the fridge’s energy usage (in Watt-hours) over the week of testing. The less energy used, the more efficient that fridge is, and the more money it’ll save you on utility bills in the future. We also use each fridge in a more casual sense so we can answer usability questions about the fridge’s specs and features, like the doors, shelves, controls, water/ice dispenser, and extras like smart connectivity, door-in-door or flexible storage options, etc. If a refrigerator keeps the temperature at a perfect 37°F, but it’s very difficult to open the doors and the control panel makes no sense, we’re going to penalize that fridge with respect to its ease of use. Checkout one of our in-depth refrigerator reviews below:

What You Should Know About Buying Refrigerators A new fridge is one of the biggest investments you make in your kitchen. Here are some things you should know before purchasing your new appliance. Styles of Refrigerators A refrigerator can say a lot about the person who owns it. It’s one of the first things that people see when they come into your kitchen. Here are the four main types of refrigerators and some of the benefits and drawbacks of each:

French door: With a modern look, these refrigerators have grown in popularity. While they often come with higher price tags—premium models can run $3,000 or more—there are models that don’t cost as much but retain features such as in-door water and ice dispensers. French-door refrigerators have wide shelves for food items, such as trays, but freezer space is often smaller. They come in a range of sizes and finishes, and with many feature options.

Side-by-side: These fridges save space by placing the freezer next to the fridge compartment while keeping food at eye level. Typically, these refrigerators are less expensive than French-door models. While narrow shelf space in the fridge may present problems for pizza boxes and baking trays, overall freezer space is larger.

Top freezer: These refrigerators are efficient and inexpensive, but they tend not to have many features and are somewhat lacking in the aesthetics department. With this style of refrigerator, food in the freezer is at eye level, but people will have to bend over to get to lower shelves in the fridge.

Bottom freezer: These fridges are the reverse of a top-freezer, but the freezer pulls out like a drawer rather than a swinging door. There may be more storage space in the freezer, but you’ll have to bend over to access it.

Usable Space vs. Total Capacity One of the most common refrigerator specs is the total capacity, or the volume inside the fridge, in cubic feet. You’d think that a higher capacity means more storage, but that’s not always the case as shelves, drawers, and ice makers can eat into that capacity. In our testing, we prefer usable space—how much empty space is actually available in the fridge’s interior to store your food and drinks. How to Measure Kitchen Space for a Refrigerator If you’re looking to fit your new fridge into an existing enclosure, then getting the right measurements is crucial. The old adage about measuring twice can be applied to refrigerators, because you definitely don’t want to do any cutting to make your new fridge fit your kitchen space. The measurement people generally get tripped up by is the door: If the front of your fridge is flush with your cabinetry, you won’t be able to open the door properly. Fortunately, this is an easy fix: just make sure enough of your fridge is sticking out past your cabinetry so the door can swing freely. How Does a Refrigerator Work? Refrigerators pull in air and cool it down to temperatures cold enough (usually around 37°F) to preserve food and limit bacterial growth. This cooling method means that fridges are very sensitive to air conditions. In hot weather, the condenser and cooling coils have to work harder to cool the warmer air. In cold weather, it may get so cold that the fridge condenser doesn’t turn on. This is why, if you happen to have a second fridge in your sweltering hot or freezing cold garage, you may have noticed that the air inside that fridge is not as cold as the air inside your kitchen fridge. What Temperature Should a Refrigerator Be? Ideally, your fridge should be exactly 37°F and your freezer should be 0°F. These temperatures are important because food needs to be kept within a very narrow band of temperatures to maximize its shelf life. If your fridge, for example, were to drop to 32°F—just 5°F below the ideal temperature—some food in your refrigerator will start to freeze. On the other end of the spectrum, temperatures of 40°F and higher are dangerous, because that’s the temperature at which bacteria really start to proliferate quickly. If your freezer gets warmer than 0°F, it means your food isn’t being truly frozen. Furthermore, if temperatures in your freezer bounce around, that will greatly exacerbate the build-up of freezer burn. How Long Do Refrigerators Last? While the lifespan of any appliance can vary wildly due to several factors, you should expect your fridge to last for about 10 years. Most manufacturers will at least cover the first year in their refrigerator warranty, but some companies will offer more robust programs that will cover specific parts up to five years, 10 years, or for the lifetime of the product. More Articles You May Enjoy

10 things you need to consider before buying a refrigerator In need of a fridge repair? Check your warranty first The Best Refrigerators Under $1,000 The Best French-Door Refrigerators Under $2,000

When you’re shopping for a fridge, a stroll through a home improvement store can be overwhelming. Surrounded by rows and rows of nearly identical-looking appliances, it can be difficult to find the best refrigerator for your kitchen.

That’s why our experts have tested hundreds of refrigerators of all shapes, styles, and designs to determine which of these appliances are worth the purchase, and which fridges failed to impress.

During testing, we consider temperature consistency, storage capacity, and ease of use to be the most important aspects of a good fridge. Our favorite fridge is the Bosch B36FD50SNS (available at Best Buy for $2,999.99). This French door is nearly perfect, offering top-notch temperature consistency and tons of storage space for a reasonable price.

For those with a different budget, style, and feature preferences, we have plenty of other recommendations that will work in your kitchen.

Due to supply chain challenges and soaring demand, there is widespread unavailability of home appliances and long wait times for delivery of backordered models. If you’re shopping for a refrigerator, here are the best places to buy in-stock appliances right now.

The Bosch B36FD50SNS is nearly perfect. Temperatures in both the fridge and freezer are exactly where they should be and don’t waver. Its fridge and freezer offer more storage than most other French doors. Its crispers hang on to humidity. It has a through-the-door water and ice dispenser. It also features a sleek, stainless steel finish.

In fact, the only point we can find to critique is that its spill-capture shelves only have lips in the front, not sides or back.

While this fridge costs more than the average French-door fridge, between its excellent performance, features, and Bosch’s excellent warranty, we think it’s worth its purchase price.

Solid temperatures   
  
 Lots of fridge storage   
  
 Through-the-door dispenser   
  
 Its shelves only have a spill-capture lip on their front

A near-perfect performance is what the Bosch B36CD50SNS offers, so devotees of the high-end, German-engineered brand can now add this fridge to their top-tier kitchen layouts, alongside Bosch’s excellent dishwashers.

This stunner aced all of our tests, maintaining unwavering temperatures in both the fridge and freezer.

It also boasts useful features, including smart connectivity that allows for remote operation and notifications. Despite a couple of inconsequential flaws—lack of a shelf spill capture, slightly less-than-average storage capacity—the B36CD50SNS is still one of our top-rated fridges of all time.

Near-perfect temperatures   
  
 Through-the-door dispenser   
  
 Smart connectivity   
  
 Less storage space than average

The GE Café CVE28DM5NS5 is a French-door refrigerator that doubles as a statement piece. With its shiny platinum glass finish, shelves with rose gold accents, and beautiful backlit LED wall in the fridge’s interior, you may start to think that this fridge emphasizes function over form—but you’d be wrong.

It has spot-on temperature control, a highly effective crisper drawer, and a wide variety of flexible and adjustable storage options. For those of you who spend a lot of time hosting parties, you’ll appreciate the extra temperature-controlled drawer (with both freezer and fridge settings) and the extra rack in the freezer that’s perfect for flat foods like pizzas.

Another great feature is Autofill, the water dispenser that automatically senses the height of your water vessel, fills it up without overflowing, and reports how much water was dispensed. Yes, this fridge is expensive, but if you have a big budget, you’ll appreciate the looks and the utility of the GE CVE28DM5NS5.

Consistent temperatures   
  
 Backlit interior   
  
 Custom-temp drawer   
  
 Smaller capacity

While it’s pricier than some of its peers, the Samsung Bespoke RF29BB8600AP brings great performance and unique looks that you just can’t find elsewhere.

In our testing we found its fridge has excellent temperature performance and its freezer was no slouch either. The fridge has an internal ice and water dispenser, a door-in-door design that provides easy access to your door bins and prevents cold air from escaping, and a flex drawer for adaptable storage.

Of course, the main reason to buy a Bespoke appliance is the slew of customization options available. There is an ever-growing list of finishes to choose from, in either glass or steel, ensuring the perfect look for any kitchen. Also, while this fridge may be expensive compared to its less-customizable counterparts, it’s actually one of the cheaper ways to get this kind of custom look into your kitchen.

Solid fridge temperatures   
  
 Flexible-temperature drawer   
  
 Customizable aesthetic   
  
 The custom-color panels are a separate purchase

The Samsung Bespoke RF23A9675AP is a gorgeous refrigerator. Its clean lines, modern look, and customization options will help this French-door fit into any kitchen.

While the RF23A9675AP excels when it comes to usability and presentation, it does lag behind other French-doors on temperature consistency, a trait it shares with other high-end models. That being said, it’s definitely not a dealbreaker issue: With regular food turnover, most users will do just fine with their RF23A9675AP.

Sleek and modern look   
  
 Incredible attention to detail   
  
 Flexible compartment that can be fridge or freezer   
  
 Inconsistent temperatures   
  
 Ice separate from the beverage center

The Hisense HRB171N6ASE is a high-value, low-cost refrigerator. It has remarkable temperature consistency for its price range and has notable energy efficiency, even compared to other counter-depth models.

However, this refrigerator isn’t without issues. We recommend everyone make sure their HRB171N6ASE is properly calibrated out of the box, as the unit we received ran a bit too warm. Additionally, there is only one crisper drawer, so those who are looking to store lots of fruits and vegetables might find a better option elsewhere.

That said, we think this refrigerator offers impressive performance for its purchase price. If you’re looking to pick up a counter-depth fridge on a budget, the HRB171N6ASE is a solid bet.

Steady temperatures in both fridge and freezer   
  
 Great value   
  
 Fridge needs to be calibrated before use   
  
 Only one crisper

For those of you who have a high-end kitchen, the GE Profile PVD28BYNFS French-door refrigerator will fit right in. It hits all the right notes when it comes to form and function, thanks to its brushed, fingerprint-resistant stainless-steel finish, door-in-door storage, flexible shelving options, extra temperature-controlled drawer, auto-sensing water dispenser, and backlit fridge cavity.

It performed well in our temperature tests, and the crisper drawers are some of the best we’ve ever tested. Because the crispers do a great job of maintaining ambient humidity conditions, you’ll be able to keep your fruits and veggies fresh for longer. If you have a larger budget, the GE PVD28BYNFS is well worth the money.

Backlit interior   
  
 Flexible drawer with custom temp   
  
 Through-the-door ice and water

The KitchenAid KRFC704FBS French-door fridge has plenty of style. From its finish to the wood and metal trim on the interior shelves and drawers, this fridge metaphorically struts down the runway and says, “Look at me!” And we’re happy to say that this refrigerator is definitely worth a look.

Even better, it also has spot-on temperatures for food preservation, a retractable middle shelf that makes room for taller items, soft-close drawers, and a control panel above the ice/water dispenser that is easy to understand and operate. For those of you out there that have some extra cash on hand and who want something more interesting than white plastic inside your refrigerator, you’ll love the KitchenAid KRFC704FBS.

Maintains consistent temperatures   
  
 Interior wood finish   
  
 Through-door dispensers   
  
 Drawers feel rickety

The GE GNE25JMKES refrigerator is a well-sized, well-priced French door fridge. Its clean lines and sleek exterior really draw the eye, but it’s what’s inside that really impressed us. This fridge really blew us away with its precision temperature control and its energy efficiency.

While this fridge doesn’t have through-door ice or water dispensers, it does have some retractable shelves, crisper bins with separate humidity controls, a temperature-controlled deli drawer, a discreet internal water dispenser, and an ice maker in the freezer. We like the GE GNE25JMKES because it looks like a stripped down French door refrigerator, but it still has some of the most convenient features that you find on more expensive models.

Maintains consistent temperatures   
  
 Temperature-controlled drawer   
  
 Retractable shelves   
  
 Lacks through-door dispensers

The Bosch’s 800 Series B36CT80SNS passed all of our temperature tests with room to spare, maintaining cold, even temperatures in both the fridge and freezer. We also like its smart capabilities via Home Connect, crispers with customizable temperatures, and a fridge compartment with tons of storage.

The only downside? Its freezer, though well-organized, is small—almost half as big as you’d typically see on a French-door.

Excellent temperature control   
  
 Large fridge compartment   
  
 Internal dispensers   
  
 Small freezer

If you’re not looking to spend thousands on a new fridge, the Hotpoint HPS16BTNRWW is a good bet. Unlike most lower-cost fridges, this Hotpoint doesn’t skimp on temperature performance. In fact, its fridge and freezer temperatures are remarkably consistent, straying by less than 2°F in total.

What you won’t get in this fridge is features—to be expected based on its price tag. Also, its freezer runs a bit warm before calibration, which is an easy fix.

If you’re looking for a fridge in this price range, it’s going to require compromises. In this case, we think those compromises are tiny in comparison to the value you’re getting for its performance at this price.

Stable temperatures   
  
 Great value   
  
 Freezer temps need calibration   
  
 Wire racks don't handle spills well

If you’re looking for a high-end, counter-depth French-door with a clean look and excellent extras, the Electrolux ERMC2295AS is a solid pick.

This fridge has consistent temperatures, a through-the-door dispenser with a tall pocket to accommodate thermoses and large reusable bottles, a flex drawer that can quickly adapt to your storage needs, and crispers that’ll keep your veggies from wilting too quickly.

The ERMC2295AS’s small footprint also means it might be one of the few fridges that can actually fit into a particularly small space. While a fridge this small can be a boon for those with limited space, the resulting reduced capacity is definitely a downside.

Solid fridge temperature performance   
  
 Efficient crispers   
  
 Excellent extras   
  
 Temperatures in the freezer weren't consistent   
  
 Poor value

The GE Profile PYE22PYNFS is made for people who put an emphasis on food. It offers luxe features like an in-the-door Keurig K-cup brewing system, flexible storage options, and smart integration that lets you schedule hot water in advance of needing it.

When it comes to food preservation, this refrigerator won’t let you down with its steady, safe temperatures that remain consistent. It held extremely steady at 38.76°F—well within the safe zone—and did not waiver, despite the door being opened frequently over 72 hours. In fact, its temperature consistency score during testing was almost perfect. The freezer performed even better than the fridge.

It has one freezer compartment with two full-width storage baskets, which allows spacious room for storing frozen foods compared to other French-door models, despite being the more shallow, counter-depth style.

Tiny flaws—like coffee splatter and a wobbly freezer drawer—don’t knock it too much.

In-the-door Keurig coffee brewing system   
  
 Excellent temperature consistency   
  
 Humid crispers   
  
 Low on storage

For consumers looking to fill a French-door footprint in their kitchen, the GE GFE28GYNFS refrigerator is worth considering, thanks to its through-the-door dispenser, stable temperatures, and excellent storage options.

While it does have downsides, those were relatively minor: It needs to be calibrated a little cool to hit ideal temperatures, and it’s slightly smaller than the average French-door, as its many bins and drawers aren’t as space efficient as shelves. Of course, the bins and drawers provide better options for organization.

Steady temperatures   
  
 Highly-customizable storage   
  
 Effective crispers   
  
 Lower-than-average capacity

For the Samsung RF28R7351SG, flexibility is the name of the game. Not only does it have door-in-door storage with removable bins, but it also has crispers with adjustable humidity settings, a retractable shelf, a temperature-controlled drawer with four temperature settings, and an adjustable storage organizer in the freezer.

If you have any interest in the IoT, this fridge is also wi-fi and Bixby enabled. Another bonus is the built-in water pitcher that automatically refills.

Even better, this fridge did a great job at maintaining consistent temperatures, and it is relatively energy-efficient, even with its numerous extra features. For a versatile fridge that can meet your ever-changing needs, check out the Samsung RF28R7351SG.

Smart connectivity   
  
 Temperature-controlled drawer   
  
 Consistent temperatures

It’s hard to complain about the Whirlpool WRX735SDHZ. This refrigerator looks sleek, features ice and water dispensers, has a temperature-controlled exterior drawer, and it maintains cool and stable temperatures.

Though it’s not the biggest French door we’ve tested, it should have plenty of room for most users. A really solid fridge, it has the key features and great performance. As long as you’re not specifically in the market for a fridge that’s loaded up with the latest smart features, this Whirlpool will almost certainly suit your needs.

Cold, steady temperatures   
  
 Ice/water dispenser   
  
 Exterior drawer   
  
 Low storage capacity

The LG LRFDC2406S is the second LG Craft Ice-enhanced refrigerator we’ve tested so far, and it has only solidified our obsession with spherical ice.

From a more practical standpoint, the LRFDC2406S actually outperforms its more feature-rich—and expensive—sibling, the LRMVS3006S. Its temperatures are spot on and barely waver. It also has a ton of options for customizing its storage space, including additional bins.

While the LRFDC2406S does cost more than most, its price point isn’t uncommon for an appliance that offers a technology that’s completely new in the product space. Just be aware that a decent chunk of its purchase price is going to its spherical ice maker, so if you aren’t particularly interested in this feature, this fridge likely isn’t a great value.

Spherical ice   
  
 Internal drawer with custom temp   
  
 Solid temperature performance   
  
 None that we could find

The Samsung RS27T5200SR uses a multi-vent system to keep temperatures more evenly distributed throughout the unit, and our tests confirm that this design works as intended: Temperatures were remarkably solid throughout the fridge cavity. It also has more storage space than the average side-by-side fridge.

While “very even temperatures” and “extra space” might not be as flashy as some other features on this list, these are two areas where side-by-sides often have difficulty.

The RS27T5200SR is one of the better side-by-sides to come through our labs. If you’re interested in a fridge with this design, it’s a great option.

Reviewed’s appliance testing team has spent years testing major appliances, including washers, dryers, refrigerators, and dishwashers.

We have plenty of experience testing these products in the lab, but we’ve also used them as normal people would in the course of their daily lives, which means that we have a great sense for what appliances are bargains at their price points, and which appliances have really useful extra features.

We test each fridge from two perspectives—first, from a data-driven, objective point of view, and second, as a regular person trying to get at the leftover Chinese food. The combination of these two types of experiences allows us to recommend the best fridge for you at any price point.

To avoid extreme temperatures that negatively impact fridge performance, we test each refrigerator in a lab that conditions the air temperature to 72°F +/- 5°F (basically, room temperature), and relative humidity to 50% RH +/- 15% RH. This way, each fridge can perform at its best, and doesn’t get penalized by dealing with warmer or colder air than its competitors.

We spend a week putting each refrigerator through its paces. After packing the fridge with water filled containers (since fridges operate better when there’s less empty space), we measure the fridge’s temperature, humidity loss, freezing time, usable space, and energy use.

Our ideal temperature settings for the fridge and the freezer are 37°F and 0°F, respectively. With fridge temperatures higher than 37°F, you may have to start worrying about bacteria growth, as 40°F is the start of the bacteria “danger zone”. Food isn’t properly frozen at freezer temperatures above 0°F. Once we set each fridge to those temperatures, we collect temperature data throughout the week’s testing that tells us not only how close the temperature in the fridge and freezer are to 37°F and 0°F, respectively, but how close the air temperature stayed to those ideal values.

For this test, we focus on the refrigerator’s veggie crisper. We add water to a floral foam ball, and measure how quickly it dries. Humidity matters because if the crisper is too dry, your leafy greens will quickly dry out. If the crisper is too humid, your fruits will rot. Fridges that strike a balance between the extremes will preserve your fruits and veggies for longer.

Once the fridge is plugged in, we measure the time it takes for the freezer to cool down from room temperature to 32°F (the freezing temperature of water). This is a good measure of how quickly your fridge and freezer can cool down food or beverages that have just been placed inside the refrigerator.

Most manufacturers measure the interior of a fridge by essentially flooding it with water and accounting for every empty inch inside the fridge. While it makes a kind of sense, we don’t use these measurements for our testing, because they don’t cleanly translate into a usable datapoint. The way we measure the interior of a fridge is to get the measurements of each shelf, bin, or other storage location—the places you can actually put food—and add those together. That way we’re only accounting for the usable storage inside the fridge, and different models’ capacities are more cross-comparable.

Using an electric meter, we measure the fridge’s energy usage (in Watt-hours) over the week of testing. The less energy used, the more efficient that fridge is, and the more money it’ll save you on utility bills in the future.

We also use each fridge in a more casual sense so we can answer usability questions about the fridge’s specs and features, like the doors, shelves, controls, water/ice dispenser, and extras like smart connectivity, door-in-door or flexible storage options, etc. If a refrigerator keeps the temperature at a perfect 37°F, but it’s very difficult to open the doors and the control panel makes no sense, we’re going to penalize that fridge with respect to its ease of use.

Checkout one of our in-depth refrigerator reviews below:

A new fridge is one of the biggest investments you make in your kitchen. Here are some things you should know before purchasing your new appliance.

A refrigerator can say a lot about the person who owns it. It’s one of the first things that people see when they come into your kitchen. Here are the four main types of refrigerators and some of the benefits and drawbacks of each:

One of the most common refrigerator specs is the total capacity, or the volume inside the fridge, in cubic feet. You’d think that a higher capacity means more storage, but that’s not always the case as shelves, drawers, and ice makers can eat into that capacity. In our testing, we prefer usable space—how much empty space is actually available in the fridge’s interior to store your food and drinks.

If you’re looking to fit your new fridge into an existing enclosure, then getting the right measurements is crucial. The old adage about measuring twice can be applied to refrigerators, because you definitely don’t want to do any cutting to make your new fridge fit your kitchen space.

The measurement people generally get tripped up by is the door: If the front of your fridge is flush with your cabinetry, you won’t be able to open the door properly. Fortunately, this is an easy fix: just make sure enough of your fridge is sticking out past your cabinetry so the door can swing freely.

Refrigerators pull in air and cool it down to temperatures cold enough (usually around 37°F) to preserve food and limit bacterial growth. This cooling method means that fridges are very sensitive to air conditions.

In hot weather, the condenser and cooling coils have to work harder to cool the warmer air. In cold weather, it may get so cold that the fridge condenser doesn’t turn on. This is why, if you happen to have a second fridge in your sweltering hot or freezing cold garage, you may have noticed that the air inside that fridge is not as cold as the air inside your kitchen fridge.

Ideally, your fridge should be exactly 37°F and your freezer should be 0°F.

These temperatures are important because food needs to be kept within a very narrow band of temperatures to maximize its shelf life. If your fridge, for example, were to drop to 32°F—just 5°F below the ideal temperature—some food in your refrigerator will start to freeze. On the other end of the spectrum, temperatures of 40°F and higher are dangerous, because that’s the temperature at which bacteria really start to proliferate quickly.

If your freezer gets warmer than 0°F, it means your food isn’t being truly frozen. Furthermore, if temperatures in your freezer bounce around, that will greatly exacerbate the build-up of freezer burn.

While the lifespan of any appliance can vary wildly due to several factors, you should expect your fridge to last for about 10 years.

Most manufacturers will at least cover the first year in their refrigerator warranty, but some companies will offer more robust programs that will cover specific parts up to five years, 10 years, or for the lifetime of the product.

Mark Brezinski  
   
  
  
 Senior Writer

Mark Brezinski is a senior writer with over ten years of experience reviewing consumer tech and home appliances.

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Jonathan Chan  
   
  
  
 Senior Manager of Lab Operations

Jonathan Chan currently serves as the Lab Manager at Reviewed. If you clean with it, it’s likely that Jon oversees its testing. Since joining the Reviewed in 2012, Jon has helped launch the company’s efforts in reviewing laptops, vacuums, and outdoor gear. He thinks he’s a pretty big deal. In the pursuit of data, he’s plunged his hands into freezing cold water, consented to be literally dragged through the mud, and watched paint dry. Jon demands you have a nice day.

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Julia MacDougall  
   
  
  
 Senior Scientist

Julia is the Senior Scientist at Reviewed, which means that she oversees (and continually updates) the testing of products in Reviewed’s core categories such as televisions, washing machines, refrigerators, and more. She also determines the testing methods and standards for Reviewed’s “The Best Right Now” articles.

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# The Best Touchscreen Gloves of 2022

## Men’s vs. Women’s Gloves

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

If you like leather and insulation, this glove offers touchscreen capability on all ten fingers.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The North Face gloves offer touchscreen capability on all fingers and great grip in wet weather but the long-term use might be short.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 An affordable touch screen glove option (on first three fingers), with a secure grip and machine washable.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 These may not be the most comfortable or fashionable gloves you'll ever wear, but they're fantastic for touchscreen use.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 These are warm and good for touchscreen use, but they'll shrink after getting wet, so you'll likely have to replace them sooner than you'd like.  
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Updated August 31, 2022

Having spent years in a wintry climate, I’ve yet to find a good pair of gloves that have touchscreen compatibility. I’ve seen leggings that refuse to rip and anxiety-reducing blankets, but where are the gloves that can keep your fingers toasty while texting? So, I rounded up the best touchscreen gloves on the market to recommend great ones to you. The Harrms Leather Gloves (available at Amazon) is our top pick because of its chic design, comfortable material, and extra grip. If you’re looking for gloves that fit like a second skin, then the North Face Etip Gloves (available at Amazon) are for you. But if these picks aren’t your cup of tea, don’t worry, we’ve got plenty of other options.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

How Do Touchscreen Gloves Work? The devices we use daily (phones, tablets, laptops, etc) have touchscreens made of capacitive technology. In other words, touchscreens have sensors in them that can detect anything with an electric charge. Conveniently, our bodies have the ability to store an electric charge. So, when your finger touches the screen, a connection forms between the electrical field in your body and the device. Depending on where your finger is on the screen, this circuit “tells” your device what letter to type or emoji to Tweet.

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In order for this to work, the electrical charge from your finger needs to interact with the touch screen. When you put on grandma’s handmade gloves, the cloth or wool is now blocking that circuit from connecting. Touchscreen gloves are different because they have a conductive wire at the fingertips. This allows for the electricity in your body to travel through the wires in the glove. These wires are so minuscule you shouldn’t be able to feel them. Men’s vs. Women’s Gloves At the end of the day, hands are hands. However, women’s gloves tend to be smaller and lighter whereas men’s are bigger and bulkier. That said, some women have larger hands than men and may feel more comfortable ordering gloves that are designed for men. Unfortunately, after hours of research, I discovered that there aren’t too many unisex touchscreen gloves out there. That’s why I included a good mix of men’s and women’s gloves on this list—all black in color and large in size. To get different thoughts and opinions, I asked my coworkers (both men and women) to wear these gloves for a day or so. My coworkers weren’t given gender-specific gloves, so men wore women’s gloves and vice versa.

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Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser Between the premium lambskin leather and all 10 fingertips having touchscreen function,, the Harrms Leather Gloves have a lot to offer.

Best Overall Harrms Touchscreen Leather Knitted Cuff Gloves Between the premium lambskin leather material and all 10 fingertips having touchscreen function, the Harrms Leather Gloves have a lot to offer. The interior is lined with polyester fiber, so it’s like slipping your hand into a warm pair of fuzzy socks. Even though these are men’s gloves, most of our testers (men and women) loved wearing these gloves because they worked great on touchscreens. When I ran these gloves under a running faucet for a solid minute, I never felt the wet of the wet or the cold. Leather is the kind of material you either love or hate. I’ve never owned leather gloves before, but the Harrms are so easy to clean and maintain that I consider myself a convert. That said, some of our testers had different opinions. One of our testers found the gloves to be overly stiff and large, as they didn’t provide the right amount of dexterity or nimbleness. In addition to the stiff material, we also noticed that the sizing was off. You should always measure your palm girth and middle finger length before buying, which allows you to compare the sizes listed online. For me, the palms fit well on this pair but the fingers were a little long. But the gloves still worked great on all of my devices. Pros Great insulation Leather All ten fingertips have touchscreen function Cons Sizing a bit off - measure your hand first Buy now at Amazon

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Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The North Face Etip Gloves are awesome because it feels like you're wearing a second skin.

Best Fit The North Face Etip Gloves The North Face Etip Gloves are awesome because it feels like you’re wearing a second skin. Unlike other touchscreen gloves, you can use all five digits (not just the thumb and index finger). Not only do they work great on phones, but the design is really chic. Plus, the silicone material on the palm of the glove provides a sturdy grip even when wet. They’re not the warmest gloves in the world, but they’re fine for chilly days. During testing, a small hole formed at the fingertip (likely due to the thin material). While the gloves kept our hands nice and warm, the hole made us question the long-term use. They also got dirty pretty quickly, but it’s nothing a quick toss in the washer can’t fix. Pros Can use all ten digits on touchscreen Good grip even in wet Washing machine washable Cons Quick wear visible in fingertip Dirt was noticeable Buy now at The North Face Buy now at Amazon

Achiou Winter Knit Gloves Not only are the Achiou Winter Knit Gloves affordable, but they're also comfortable and fit close to your hand. They're great for outdoor activities like running or hiking. Our testers raved over the strong grip of the gloves and how comfortable the material was. You can easily toss it in the washing machine to clean them, which is a plus. But if it's the warmth you're after, you're better off going with a bulkier glove. The major downfall? They don’t work great on touchscreens—which is kind of their purpose. Our testers described it as a difficult, frustrating experience. Unfortunately, only the first 3 fingertips are touchscreen-capable, but one of our testers complained the thumbs just didn’t work at all for them. Their affordable price is very tempting and the form-fitting style is super comfortable, but they just aren’t touchscreen gloves. Pros Affordable Strong grip Machine washable Cons Only first three fingers work on touchscreen Thin Buy now at Amazon

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GliderGloves Copper Infused Touchscreen Gloves The GliderGloves Copper Infused Touch Screen Gloves work incredibly well with touchscreens. There's even a non-slip grip layer sewn onto the palms, which keeps your phone or coffee from slipping out of your hands. The idea behind this is great but when gripping something, the layer underneath tends to slide away from the non-slip layer on the outside. One tester described it as having a similar feeling to your sock slightly coming off your foot. It was a little annoying, but a quick readjustment fixes it. But for this price? You can’t really get much better. The one real downside is that they're a little stiff. The testers also had mixed feelings about the aesthetics—one saying they looked great, one saying they were ugly, and one saying they didn’t mind the neutral color. That said, if you like getting work done on the go and don’t care too much about looks, then these might be the ones for you. Pros Great for touchscreen typing Non-slip grip layer Cons A little stiff Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Mujjo Insulated Winter Touchscreen Gloves I really enjoyed testing the Mujjo Insulated Winter Touchscreen Gloves with 3M Thinsulate, as the thick material kept my fingers warm and I was able to swipe and text with zero issues. However, our testers had a different experience. After running these gloves under cold water, they shrunk in size the following day. Our testers also had a difficult time using their phones. Pros Keeps your fingers warm Great for touchscreen typing Cons The gloves have a tendency to shrink Buy now at Amazon

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Ozero Winter Gloves with Sensitive Touchscreen Fingers If you're looking for something stylish, you should definitely check out the Ozero Leather Gloves. Not only are they stylish, but the velour lining on the inside is really soft and comfortable for day-to-day use. However, when it comes to using a touchscreen, they're a bit finicky. Our testers ended up taking off the gloves to text or navigate their social media pages. Many of them also disliked the deerskin suede material, as it left their fingers feeling cold. Pros Stylish Comfortable velour lining Cons Finicky response to touchscreen Cold Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Warmen Touchscreen Cashmere Blend-Lined Gloves Made of soft sheepskin, the Warmen Touchscreen Gloves are both stylish and warm. They're also lined with cashmere and wool, which is pretty fancy. While we ordered the same size for all the gloves we tested, these were the smallest fit. They were difficult for our testers to get on and off their hands. They even split at the bottom seams. In the rain, it was almost impossible to navigate a touchscreen with them as well. They also don't work well on touchscreens. One of our testers said it took forever to type out a message, as it's difficult to find the right amount of pressure to use. So, if you favor fashion over function, the Warmen gloves are for you. Pros Leather, lined with cashmere and wool Cons Split at seams Touchscreen did not respond well Small fit Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Bruceriver Pure Wool Knitted Touchscreen Gloves The Bruceriver Pure Wool Knitted Gloves are so long they go up to your forearms, which is great if you're looking for maximum coverage. Although they kept our hands nice and toasty, there were some drawbacks. The material was itchy and there was no grip support, so objects would easily slip out of our hands. There was no protection from the cold, either. One of our testers said their hands felt cold when running the gloves underwater for five seconds. Overall, using these gloves was a frustrating and difficult experience. Pros Long coverage up arms Cons Itchy, thin wool no grip support Buy now at Amazon

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The Best Products for Surviving Winter The Best Snow Shovels The Best Work Gloves

Having spent years in a wintry climate, I’ve yet to find a good pair of gloves that have touchscreen compatibility. I’ve seen leggings that refuse to rip and anxiety-reducing blankets, but where are the gloves that can keep your fingers toasty while texting? So, I rounded up the best touchscreen gloves on the market to recommend great ones to you.

The Harrms Leather Gloves (available at Amazon) is our top pick because of its chic design, comfortable material, and extra grip. If you’re looking for gloves that fit like a second skin, then the North Face Etip Gloves (available at Amazon) are for you. But if these picks aren’t your cup of tea, don’t worry, we’ve got plenty of other options.

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In order for this to work, the electrical charge from your finger needs to interact with the touch screen. When you put on grandma’s handmade gloves, the cloth or wool is now blocking that circuit from connecting. Touchscreen gloves are different because they have a conductive wire at the fingertips. This allows for the electricity in your body to travel through the wires in the glove. These wires are so minuscule you shouldn’t be able to feel them.

At the end of the day, hands are hands. However, women’s gloves tend to be smaller and lighter whereas men’s are bigger and bulkier. That said, some women have larger hands than men and may feel more comfortable ordering gloves that are designed for men.

Unfortunately, after hours of research, I discovered that there aren’t too many unisex touchscreen gloves out there. That’s why I included a good mix of men’s and women’s gloves on this list—all black in color and large in size. To get different thoughts and opinions, I asked my coworkers (both men and women) to wear these gloves for a day or so. My coworkers weren’t given gender-specific gloves, so men wore women’s gloves and vice versa.

Between the premium lambskin leather and all 10 fingertips having touchscreen function,, the Harrms Leather Gloves have a lot to offer.

Between the premium lambskin leather material and all 10 fingertips having touchscreen function, the Harrms Leather Gloves have a lot to offer. The interior is lined with polyester fiber, so it’s like slipping your hand into a warm pair of fuzzy socks. Even though these are men’s gloves, most of our testers (men and women) loved wearing these gloves because they worked great on touchscreens. When I ran these gloves under a running faucet for a solid minute, I never felt the wet of the wet or the cold.

Leather is the kind of material you either love or hate. I’ve never owned leather gloves before, but the Harrms are so easy to clean and maintain that I consider myself a convert. That said, some of our testers had different opinions. One of our testers found the gloves to be overly stiff and large, as they didn’t provide the right amount of dexterity or nimbleness.

In addition to the stiff material, we also noticed that the sizing was off. You should always measure your palm girth and middle finger length before buying, which allows you to compare the sizes listed online. For me, the palms fit well on this pair but the fingers were a little long. But the gloves still worked great on all of my devices.

Great insulation   
  
 Leather   
  
 All ten fingertips have touchscreen function   
  
 Sizing a bit off - measure your hand first

The North Face Etip Gloves are awesome because it feels like you’re wearing a second skin.

The North Face Etip Gloves are awesome because it feels like you’re wearing a second skin. Unlike other touchscreen gloves, you can use all five digits (not just the thumb and index finger). Not only do they work great on phones, but the design is really chic. Plus, the silicone material on the palm of the glove provides a sturdy grip even when wet.

They’re not the warmest gloves in the world, but they’re fine for chilly days. During testing, a small hole formed at the fingertip (likely due to the thin material). While the gloves kept our hands nice and warm, the hole made us question the long-term use. They also got dirty pretty quickly, but it’s nothing a quick toss in the washer can’t fix.

Can use all ten digits on touchscreen   
  
 Good grip even in wet   
  
 Washing machine washable   
  
 Quick wear visible in fingertip   
  
 Dirt was noticeable

Not only are the Achiou Winter Knit Gloves affordable, but they’re also comfortable and fit close to your hand. They’re great for outdoor activities like running or hiking. Our testers raved over the strong grip of the gloves and how comfortable the material was. You can easily toss it in the washing machine to clean them, which is a plus. But if it’s the warmth you’re after, you’re better off going with a bulkier glove.

The major downfall? They don’t work great on touchscreens—which is kind of their purpose. Our testers described it as a difficult, frustrating experience. Unfortunately, only the first 3 fingertips are touchscreen-capable, but one of our testers complained the thumbs just didn’t work at all for them. Their affordable price is very tempting and the form-fitting style is super comfortable, but they just aren’t touchscreen gloves.

Affordable   
  
 Strong grip   
  
 Machine washable   
  
 Only first three fingers work on touchscreen   
  
 Thin

The GliderGloves Copper Infused Touch Screen Gloves work incredibly well with touchscreens. There’s even a non-slip grip layer sewn onto the palms, which keeps your phone or coffee from slipping out of your hands. The idea behind this is great but when gripping something, the layer underneath tends to slide away from the non-slip layer on the outside. One tester described it as having a similar feeling to your sock slightly coming off your foot. It was a little annoying, but a quick readjustment fixes it. But for this price? You can’t really get much better.

The one real downside is that they’re a little stiff. The testers also had mixed feelings about the aesthetics—one saying they looked great, one saying they were ugly, and one saying they didn’t mind the neutral color. That said, if you like getting work done on the go and don’t care too much about looks, then these might be the ones for you.

Great for touchscreen typing   
  
 Non-slip grip layer   
  
 A little stiff

I really enjoyed testing the Mujjo Insulated Winter Touchscreen Gloves with 3M Thinsulate, as the thick material kept my fingers warm and I was able to swipe and text with zero issues. However, our testers had a different experience. After running these gloves under cold water, they shrunk in size the following day. Our testers also had a difficult time using their phones.

Keeps your fingers warm   
  
 Great for touchscreen typing   
  
 The gloves have a tendency to shrink

If you’re looking for something stylish, you should definitely check out the Ozero Leather Gloves. Not only are they stylish, but the velour lining on the inside is really soft and comfortable for day-to-day use. However, when it comes to using a touchscreen, they’re a bit finicky. Our testers ended up taking off the gloves to text or navigate their social media pages. Many of them also disliked the deerskin suede material, as it left their fingers feeling cold.

Stylish   
  
 Comfortable velour lining   
  
 Finicky response to touchscreen   
  
 Cold

Made of soft sheepskin, the Warmen Touchscreen Gloves are both stylish and warm. They’re also lined with cashmere and wool, which is pretty fancy. While we ordered the same size for all the gloves we tested, these were the smallest fit. They were difficult for our testers to get on and off their hands. They even split at the bottom seams. In the rain, it was almost impossible to navigate a touchscreen with them as well.

They also don’t work well on touchscreens. One of our testers said it took forever to type out a message, as it’s difficult to find the right amount of pressure to use. So, if you favor fashion over function, the Warmen gloves are for you.

Leather, lined with cashmere and wool   
  
 Split at seams   
  
 Touchscreen did not respond well   
  
 Small fit

The Bruceriver Pure Wool Knitted Gloves are so long they go up to your forearms, which is great if you’re looking for maximum coverage. Although they kept our hands nice and toasty, there were some drawbacks.

The material was itchy and there was no grip support, so objects would easily slip out of our hands. There was no protection from the cold, either. One of our testers said their hands felt cold when running the gloves underwater for five seconds. Overall, using these gloves was a frustrating and difficult experience.

Long coverage up arms   
  
 Itchy, thin wool   
  
 no grip support   
  
  
 Melissa Rorech  
   
  
  
 Video Producer / Editor

Melissa Rorech is the Video Producer/Editor for Reviewed. She is always up-to-date on the latest trends since she also helps run Reviewed’s TikTok account (@reviewed). Aside from her video and audio work, Melissa is a great product tester, writer, dog lover, crocheter, and so much more.

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# The Best Credit Cards for Groceries of 2022

## Learn more about the Blue Cash Preferred

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Need cash back on streaming services, transit, or groceries? The Blue Cash Preferred Card has you covered with great reward rates in every category.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This cash-back card with ample returns on supermarket and gas station spending has what everyday shoppers are looking for.  
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 With this card you must have a Prime membership. If you do, you’ll earn Amazon-specific rewards like points and gift cards.  
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 The Cash Rewards card lets you choose the category you each cash back in each month. Plus, there’s no annual fee for that bonus.  
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 Walmart teamed up with Capital One to provide cash back on not only store-related purchases, but also anywhere else Mastercard is accepted.  
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Updated October 21, 2022

Buying groceries can take a large chunk out of your budget each month. A grocery card offering rewards gives you an incentive for shopping that you could use to pay yourself back. Rewards rates for grocery cards can vary, but you can earn as much as 6% cash back with cards on this list, and you can redeem rewards for gift cards, statement credits, or purchases.  
Aside from giving you a reward for grocery hauls, some of our favorite cards have no foreign transaction fees and offer sign-up bonuses to sweeten the deal. You may also be able to earn additional rewards when you spend money at restaurants, gas stations, department stores, and more. If you’re ready to get a grocery rewards card, consider these options:

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Best Overall: Blue Cash Preferred® Card from American Express

Best Value: Blue Cash Everyday® Card from American Express

Best for Whole Foods and Amazon Customers: Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Signature Card

Best for Costco Shoppers: Bank of America Cash Rewards Credit Card

Best for Walmart Lovers: Capital One Walmart Rewards® Card

Best for Target Loyalists: RedCard™ Mastercard® Things to Know About Credit Cards

Most cards on this list have no annual fee, but don’t rule out the one that does—as long as the math makes sense. A credit card that comes with a fee (like the Blue Cash Preferred) can be a valuable addition to your wallet as long as the rewards you earn are worth more than the annual cost. Credit card issuers often have strict guidelines on what stores qualify for grocery rewards. Bodegas and local bakeries may or may not be included in the grocery category, so be mindful that cardholders will only receive cash back on select purchases. If you do most of your shopping at specialty shops or corner stores, check that they’re included in the rewards program before applying. Warehouses and superstores are also typically excluded from the supermarket category unless expressly stated in the rewards offer. Rewards caps are common. Credit cards may have a spending cap that limits how much you can earn in each bonus category. One card’s spending cap may be generous for a small household but limiting for a large one. Add up how much you spend buying groceries per month and compare spending caps before choosing one. Check your existing cards to see if you’re already rewarded for grocery shopping. Since people are spending more time at home and less time traveling or dining out, many issuers, including Chase and American Express, have recently added grocery rewards for a limited time. Paying off rewards cards each month is key. No matter which you choose, the goal should be to pay off the balance each month. Making minimum payments and revolving a balance means you’ll rack up interest charges which can negate the rewards you earn, and this can also have an effect on your credit score.

How We Evaluated My name is Taylor, and I’m a personal finance writer who’s been reviewing credit cards and rewards programs since 2015. For this roundup, I took a look at 16 options that offer grocery rewards and categorized them by rewards opportunity, annual cost, and ease of use.

Credit: Reviewed / Naidin Concul-Ticas

Best Overall Blue Cash Preferred Card from American Express The Blue Cash Preferred from American Express makes our list as the best overall choice with a whopping 6% back at U.S. supermarkets. There’s a $0 intro annual fee for the first year, then a $95 annual fee for each subsequent year. One the intro fee offer ends, the cash back you earn can easily cover the cost. You only need to spend about $1,600 per year ($133 per month or $30 per week) in the grocery category to break even. See rates and fees. Music lovers and binge-watchers may find this particularly worthwhile with 6% cash back on Apple Music, Netflix, HBO Max, and select U.S. streaming subscriptions. However, if you don’t think you’ll use the it enough to offset the cost with rewards earnings, consider the no-annual-fee Blue Cash Everyday instead. We’ll discuss that one next. Annual fee: $0 intro annual fee for the first year, then $95 Grocery points: 6% cash back at U.S. supermarkets, which does not include superstores and warehouse clubs. You’re eligible to earn rewards on the first $6,000 you spend each year—this works out to about $115 per week—and then an unlimited 1% thereafter. Additional points: 6% on U.S. streaming subscriptions, 3% on transit spending, 3% at U.S. gas stations, and 1% on other eligible purchases. You can redeem rewards for a statement credit when your rewards balance reaches $25. Perks: Spend $3,000 in purchases within the first six months and you’ll get a $250 statement credit. There’s also an intro offer with zero interest on purchases and balance transfers for 12 months before a variable APR of 16.99% - 27.99% is introduced. There is a fee of either $5 or 5% (whichever is greater) for each balance transfer. Terms apply. See rates and fees. Learn more about the Blue Cash Preferred Pros High reward rate Robust rewards program Cons Annual fee

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Credit: Reviewed / Naidin Concul-Ticas American Express Blue Cash Everyday

Best Value Blue Cash Everyday Card from American Express The Blue Cash Everyday is a no-fee grocery and gas card that packs a punch. You earn 3% cash back on the first $6,000 per year you spend at U.S. supermarkets, and 3% cash back at U.S. gas stations. Although this card and the Blue Cash Preferred have a $6,000 spending cap on groceries, Americans on average spend about $4,500 annually for “food at home,” according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, so shopping for your household may fit comfortably under this limit. See rates and fees. Annual fee: None Grocery points: 3% cash back at U.S. supermarkets up to $6,000 per year—this works out to about $115 per week—and 1% thereafter. As with the Blue Cash Preferred, grocery hauls at superstores and warehouse clubs do not qualify for rewards. Additional points: 3% Cash Back at U.S. gas stations up to $6,000 per year and 1% thereafter. You can redeem rewards for a statement credit when your balance reaches $25. Perks: Spend $2,000 within the first six months and you’ll get $100 back as a statement credit. Additionally, cardholders can earn 20% back as a statement credit (up to $150) on purchases when using their new card to check out with PayPal in the first 6 months. Plus, there’s a 0% introductory APR on new purchases for the first 15 months. After that, a variable rate of 16.99% - 27.99% applies. Terms apply. See rates and fees. Learn more about the Blue Cash Everyday Pros No annual fee High reward rate Cons Spending limit on some rewards

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Credit: Whole Foods Market / Georg Beyer   
 Best For Whole Foods and Amazon Customers Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Signature Card The Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Signature is another no-fee card that gives 5% back to eligible Amazon Prime members who shop at Amazon.com and Whole Foods Market. To be eligible for 5% back, you must keep the card connected to your Amazon account and maintain Prime membership by paying the annual or monthly membership fee. While the card itself doesn’t have an annual fee, Prime membership costs $119 per year ($12.99 per month) and $59 per year ($6.49 per month) for students. But maintaining membership probably won’t be a dealbreaker for shoppers who’ve already joined to receive other Prime perks like two-day and same-day shipping. If someone invited you to get shipping perks through their membership, you'll earn 3% back instead of the full 5% in the top category. You can, however, upgrade to the higher rewards rate if you join Amazon Households with an eligible Prime member. Annual fee: None, although an Amazon Prime membership is required Grocery points: 5% back at Amazon.com (including Amazon Fresh orders, digital downloads, Amazon gift cards, and Amazon Prime subscriptions) and 5% back at Whole Foods Market locations and online. Additional points: 2% at restaurants, gas stations, and drug stores, and 1% on all other eligible purchases. Perks: There’s no minimum balance to redeem cash back. The card has no foreign transaction fee and comes with benefits like travel and emergency insurance. Learn more about the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Signature Pros No annual fee No foreign transaction fees Robust rewards program Cons Membership exclusivity

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Credit: Dave Swanson / Reviewed.com   
 Best for Costco Shoppers Bank of America Cash Rewards The Bank of America Cash Rewards offers 2% cash back when you shop at grocery stores and wholesale clubs—unique in the world of grocery cards since club shopping is usually excluded from the supermarket category. This may be a smart choice for BJ’s and Sam’s Club shoppers, and especially people who frequent Costco since the warehouse exclusively accepts Visa. The rewards offer is 2% cash back on groceries and 3% cash back on a category of your choice. Pay close attention to the rewards cap: The combined spending limit for the 2% and 3% categories is $2,500 per quarter. The money you spend beyond the $2,500 cap earns just 1% back until the next quarter. Bank of America customers with large account balances get an even better rewards deal. Preferred Rewards members qualify for 25% to 75% more in cash back. For the supermarket category, this equals up to a total of 3.5% cash back. Annual fee: None Grocery points: 2% cash back at grocery stores and wholesale clubs. Additional points: 3% in the category of your choice (including gas, online shopping, dining, travel, drug stores, or home improvement) and 1% on all other purchases. The combined spending cap for the 3% and 2% categories is $2,500 every three months. Let’s say you choose gas for the 3% category. You’ll earn 3% and 2% back on the first $2,500 spent on gas and groceries purchased each quarter. Spend more than the limit and you’ll earn 1% cash back in those categories until the next quarter. Perks: Spend $1,000 in purchases during the first 90 days and you’ll earn a $200 cash bonus. The card also has an introductory 0% APR on new purchases for 15 months. Learn more about the Bank of America Cash Rewards Card Pros No annual fee Robust rewards program High reward rate Cons Spending limits on rewards Membership required for best rewards

ADVERTISEMENT

Credit: Walmart   
 Best for Walmart Lovers Capital One Walmart Rewards Card Loyal Walmart shoppers—especially those who order products and groceries online—may find a lot of value in this offer. You get 5% back when shopping at Walmart.com, and it includes grocery pickup and delivery. You typically earn 2% back at Walmart locations and Walmart gas stations. However, for the first 12 months, the card gives 5% at the store checkout if you use Walmart Pay, a virtual wallet that stores your payment information for touch-free checkout. Rewards are tracked in points and each point is worth one cent. Word of warning though: To get the most value from this card, you must be a dedicated Walmart shopper because the money you spend at other retailers that accept Mastercard will only earn 1% back. Annual fee: None Grocery points: 5% back at Walmart.com, including grocery pickup and delivery. Additional points: 2% back at Walmart, Walmart gas stations, restaurants, and travel, and 1% cash back on everything else. You can redeem rewards for statement credit, gift cards, travel, or to make purchases at Walmart.com. Perks: For the first year, you earn 5% back at brick-and-mortar Walmart locations as long as you use Walmart Pay. Afterward, you earn 2% back in the store. Learn more about the Capital One Walmart Rewards Pros No annual fee High reward rate Cons Not many perks   
  
  
Credit: Target   
 Best for Target Loyalists RedCard Mastercard At Target, RedCard cardholders receive 5% off in-store and online purchases. The 5% discount is automatically applied when you swipe at checkout, but there are some restrictions. Prescriptions, over-the-counter pharmacy products, and eye exams at Target don’t qualify. Cardholders get free shipping, exclusive store offers, and discount gift cards. You don’t earn rewards that can be redeemed for travel or merchandise from other retailers, so diehard Target fans will see the most value here. You could consider coupling this with a flat-rate or revolving category card to earn and redeem rewards for the spending you do outside of the big-box retailer. Annual fee: None Grocery points: You get 5% off at checkout each time you shop online or in the store. Additional points: 5% off on clearance items and in-store Starbucks locations. Perks: Free shipping and exclusive store offers, like an extra 30 days for eligible returns. Learn more about the RedCard Pros No annual fee Good store perks Cons High interest rate

Other Credit Cards We Tested American Express® Gold Card You can earn 4X Membership Rewards points on up to $25,000 spent at U.S. supermarkets per year, but it comes at a high price: $250 per year. (See rates and fees.) This card is best for big spenders who also dine out and travel frequently. Learn more Pros Robust rewards program No foreign transaction fees Cons Annual fee

Capital One SavorOne Cash Rewards Credit Card If you’re a foodie experimenting in the kitchen on Monday and ordering jerk chicken from the Jamaican restaurant on Tuesday, this card can reward you for enjoying the best of both worlds, with 3% cash back on dining out and groceries. The issuer recently introduced the higher rate for the supermarket category, though it does exclude Walmart, Target, and other superstores. Learn more   
  
 Citi Double Cash You'll earn 1% when you shop and another 1% when you pay the bill. Ideally, you should always pay off a credit card each month to avoid interest charges. But several grocery rewards cards offer a 0% APR introductory special, so you could technically sit on a balance for a little while if you’re facing a reduction in income at the moment. Learn more Pros No annual fee High reward rate Cons Not many perks   
  
 U.S. Bank Cash+ Visa Signature You'll get an enticing 5% cash back on two bonus categories of your choosing (e.g., streaming services, home utilities, ground transportation, and department stores), but it doesn’t include supermarket spending. You earn just 2% cash back on groceries, and you must register online quarterly to earn the rebates. Learn more Pros No annual fee High reward rate Robust rewards program Cons Some spending limits on rewards   
  
 Costco Anywhere Visa Card by Citi Even with 4% cash back at gas stations on eligible gas and EV charging purchases for the first $7,000 per year and then 1% thereafter, 3% on restaurants and travel, and 2% at Costco and Costco.com, redemption options are extremely limited. You only get access to cash back once per year through a credit card reward certificate that can be spent exclusively at the wholesaler. Learn more Pros No annual fee Good cash back No foreign transaction fees Cons Membership exclusivity Complicated rewards

Please note: The offers mentioned above are subject to change at any time and some may no longer be available. Reviewed has partnered with CardRatings for our coverage of credit card products. Reviewed and CardRatings may receive a commission from card issuers. See rates and fees for the Blue Cash Preferred Card from American Express. See rates and fees for the Blue Cash Everyday Card from American Express. See rates and fees for the American Express Gold Card. How Many Credit Cards Should You Have in Your Wallet?

We hate to break it to you, but there’s no one-size-fits-all answer here. The right number for you depends on what you can responsibly manage. Does having a piece of shiny plastic an arm’s length away often encourage you to spend money you don’t have? Be honest. You may want to think twice before applying for more credit. Carrying a balance you can’t afford contributes to interest charges, and in the long run costs you more money—money that you could’ve used for that air fryer you’ve been eyeing. If you’re financially responsible and stick to making purchases that you can pay off, there may be some upsides to adding another card to your arsenal. If you’re a jet-setter without a card that rewards you for hitting the road, or one that skips foreign transaction fees, a travel credit card may make sense for you. There are a few other things to consider before opening a new account, like adding a different payment processing network, or taking note of any annual fees.

What Is a Good APR for a Credit Card?

Credit card annual percentage rates range from 13% to 25%, with the national average in January 2022 around 16%. Credit cards marketed for applicants with bad credit tend to be on the higher side, as do credit cards with rewards programs. Before you submit an application, you can see this range in the cardmember agreement. You won’t know the rate until you’re approved, as it’s determined by the issuer based on your creditworthiness. The higher your credit score, the lower the rate you can expect. Remember that with a variable rate, an issuer can change the interest it charges at any time—and, per your cardmember agreement, it may not have to notify you. An issuer may charge a different APR for purchases, balance transfers, and cash advances. It may even offer an introductory rate that includes zero interest for a period of 12 to 18 (or 21) months. Lastly, a penalty APR may kick in if you’re late for a payment, exceed your credit limit, or break other terms and conditions laid out by the issuer. We’ll say it till we’re blue in the face: Pay off your balance each month, and you won’t have to think about interest.

How Does Credit Card Interest Work?

Despite the term “annual percentage rate,” credit card issuers calculate interest daily. The daily periodic rate is determined by dividing your APR by 365 days, which is then applied to your average daily balance. Crunch this number by adding up the total you carry each and every day of the billing cycle, and then dividing that by the number of days in the billing cycle. Let’s say your APR is 16%, and this month you carried an average daily balance of $2,000. The issuer first calculates the daily periodic rate (0.16 divided by 365). That rate (0.00043) is applied to your average balance (0.00043 x $2,000), which brings us to 0.87. Over the course of the 30-day billing cycle (0.87 x 30), you’ll pay $26.30 in interest. If crunching numbers isn’t really your thing, some issuers include tools that calculate how much interest you’ll owe based on your monthly payment. Petal, for example, shares this information in a mobile app for its two credit cards. Remember: You won’t be charged interest if you pay off your balance in full and on time each billing cycle. We get that life happens. So if on occasion that’s not possible, consider paying more than the minimum amount to lessen the interest you’ll pay over time, or make more than one payment during the billing cycle to lower your average balance.

Why Should You Check Your Credit Score?

Some of us may deal with our credit score the way we deal with our bank statements. Ignorance can be bliss—but we don’t recommend avoiding either, for the record. Keeping tabs on your credit score will let you know if something needs attention. A sudden drop might mean you missed a payment, or maybe someone else got ahold of your personal information. You can get monthly updates from issuers—even ones you’re not a cardholder with—and there are a few other ways to stay in the loop, too. Don’t neglect your credit report either, as mistakes can arise there. In fact, as many as one in four have an error that can affect your score. The best news? Staying on top of these details doesn’t cost you any money.

What Else Should You Know About Credit Cards?

Long introductory period APR rates are only a short-term incentive. Potentially high APR rates snap into effect after the intro period ends, which could cost you a lot in interest if you’ve left your balance unpaid. It’s really important—especially when getting a card for a big purchase—to keep an eye on your finances, and keep an eye on the calendar. APR rates and credit limits vary based on your creditworthiness. Credit limits and interest rates are determined based on each cardholder’s personal situation, so we did not take that information into account when evaluating. Remember to pay your balance in full every month, so you will not be charged interest. Banks have final say on who they accept for a credit card. These recommendations were put together with the assumption that applicants would have average or excellent credit. That being said, banks decide who they will issue credit cards to using criteria including, but not always limited to, an individual’s credit score when evaluating each applicant.

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Buying groceries can take a large chunk out of your budget each month. A grocery card offering rewards gives you an incentive for shopping that you could use to pay yourself back.

Rewards rates for grocery cards can vary, but you can earn as much as 6% cash back with cards on this list, and you can redeem rewards for gift cards, statement credits, or purchases.

Aside from giving you a reward for grocery hauls, some of our favorite cards have no foreign transaction fees and offer sign-up bonuses to sweeten the deal. You may also be able to earn additional rewards when you spend money at restaurants, gas stations, department stores, and more. If you’re ready to get a grocery rewards card, consider these options:

Best for Target Loyalists: RedCard™ Mastercard®

Most cards on this list have no annual fee, but don’t rule out the one that does—as long as the math makes sense. A credit card that comes with a fee (like the Blue Cash Preferred) can be a valuable addition to your wallet as long as the rewards you earn are worth more than the annual cost.

Credit card issuers often have strict guidelines on what stores qualify for grocery rewards. Bodegas and local bakeries may or may not be included in the grocery category, so be mindful that cardholders will only receive cash back on select purchases. If you do most of your shopping at specialty shops or corner stores, check that they’re included in the rewards program before applying. Warehouses and superstores are also typically excluded from the supermarket category unless expressly stated in the rewards offer.

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Paying off rewards cards each month is key. No matter which you choose, the goal should be to pay off the balance each month. Making minimum payments and revolving a balance means you’ll rack up interest charges which can negate the rewards you earn, and this can also have an effect on your credit score.

My name is Taylor, and I’m a personal finance writer who’s been reviewing credit cards and rewards programs since 2015. For this roundup, I took a look at 16 options that offer grocery rewards and categorized them by rewards opportunity, annual cost, and ease of use.

The Blue Cash Preferred from American Express makes our list as the best overall choice with a whopping 6% back at U.S. supermarkets. There’s a $0 intro annual fee for the first year, then a $95 annual fee for each subsequent year. One the intro fee offer ends, the cash back you earn can easily cover the cost. You only need to spend about $1,600 per year ($133 per month or $30 per week) in the grocery category to break even. See rates and fees.

Music lovers and binge-watchers may find this particularly worthwhile with 6% cash back on Apple Music, Netflix, HBO Max, and select U.S. streaming subscriptions. However, if you don’t think you’ll use the it enough to offset the cost with rewards earnings, consider the no-annual-fee Blue Cash Everyday instead. We’ll discuss that one next.

Annual fee: $0 intro annual fee for the first year, then $95

Grocery points: 6% cash back at U.S. supermarkets, which does not include superstores and warehouse clubs. You’re eligible to earn rewards on the first $6,000 you spend each year—this works out to about $115 per week—and then an unlimited 1% thereafter.

Additional points: 6% on U.S. streaming subscriptions, 3% on transit spending, 3% at U.S. gas stations, and 1% on other eligible purchases. You can redeem rewards for a statement credit when your rewards balance reaches $25.

Perks: Spend $3,000 in purchases within the first six months and you’ll get a $250 statement credit. There’s also an intro offer with zero interest on purchases and balance transfers for 12 months before a variable APR of 16.99% - 27.99% is introduced. There is a fee of either $5 or 5% (whichever is greater) for each balance transfer.

Terms apply. See rates and fees.

High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Annual fee

American Express Blue Cash Everyday

The Blue Cash Everyday is a no-fee grocery and gas card that packs a punch. You earn 3% cash back on the first $6,000 per year you spend at U.S. supermarkets, and 3% cash back at U.S. gas stations. Although this card and the Blue Cash Preferred have a $6,000 spending cap on groceries, Americans on average spend about $4,500 annually for “food at home,” according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, so shopping for your household may fit comfortably under this limit. See rates and fees.

Annual fee: None

Grocery points: 3% cash back at U.S. supermarkets up to $6,000 per year—this works out to about $115 per week—and 1% thereafter. As with the Blue Cash Preferred, grocery hauls at superstores and warehouse clubs do not qualify for rewards.

Additional points: 3% Cash Back at U.S. gas stations up to $6,000 per year and 1% thereafter. You can redeem rewards for a statement credit when your balance reaches $25.

Perks: Spend $2,000 within the first six months and you’ll get $100 back as a statement credit. Additionally, cardholders can earn 20% back as a statement credit (up to $150) on purchases when using their new card to check out with PayPal in the first 6 months. Plus, there’s a 0% introductory APR on new purchases for the first 15 months. After that, a variable rate of 16.99% - 27.99% applies.

Terms apply. See rates and fees.

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Spending limit on some rewards

The Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Signature is another no-fee card that gives 5% back to eligible Amazon Prime members who shop at Amazon.com and Whole Foods Market. To be eligible for 5% back, you must keep the card connected to your Amazon account and maintain Prime membership by paying the annual or monthly membership fee.

While the card itself doesn’t have an annual fee, Prime membership costs $119 per year ($12.99 per month) and $59 per year ($6.49 per month) for students. But maintaining membership probably won’t be a dealbreaker for shoppers who’ve already joined to receive other Prime perks like two-day and same-day shipping.

If someone invited you to get shipping perks through their membership, you’ll earn 3% back instead of the full 5% in the top category. You can, however, upgrade to the higher rewards rate if you join Amazon Households with an eligible Prime member.

Annual fee: None, although an Amazon Prime membership is required

Grocery points: 5% back at Amazon.com (including Amazon Fresh orders, digital downloads, Amazon gift cards, and Amazon Prime subscriptions) and 5% back at Whole Foods Market locations and online.

Additional points: 2% at restaurants, gas stations, and drug stores, and 1% on all other eligible purchases.

Perks: There’s no minimum balance to redeem cash back. The card has no foreign transaction fee and comes with benefits like travel and emergency insurance.

No annual fee   
  
 No foreign transaction fees   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Membership exclusivity

The Bank of America Cash Rewards offers 2% cash back when you shop at grocery stores and wholesale clubs—unique in the world of grocery cards since club shopping is usually excluded from the supermarket category. This may be a smart choice for BJ’s and Sam’s Club shoppers, and especially people who frequent Costco since the warehouse exclusively accepts Visa.

The rewards offer is 2% cash back on groceries and 3% cash back on a category of your choice. Pay close attention to the rewards cap: The combined spending limit for the 2% and 3% categories is $2,500 per quarter. The money you spend beyond the $2,500 cap earns just 1% back until the next quarter.

Bank of America customers with large account balances get an even better rewards deal. Preferred Rewards members qualify for 25% to 75% more in cash back. For the supermarket category, this equals up to a total of 3.5% cash back.

Annual fee: None

Grocery points: 2% cash back at grocery stores and wholesale clubs.

Additional points: 3% in the category of your choice (including gas, online shopping, dining, travel, drug stores, or home improvement) and 1% on all other purchases. The combined spending cap for the 3% and 2% categories is $2,500 every three months. Let’s say you choose gas for the 3% category. You’ll earn 3% and 2% back on the first $2,500 spent on gas and groceries purchased each quarter. Spend more than the limit and you’ll earn 1% cash back in those categories until the next quarter.

Perks: Spend $1,000 in purchases during the first 90 days and you’ll earn a $200 cash bonus. The card also has an introductory 0% APR on new purchases for 15 months.

No annual fee   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Spending limits on rewards   
  
 Membership required for best rewards

Loyal Walmart shoppers—especially those who order products and groceries online—may find a lot of value in this offer. You get 5% back when shopping at Walmart.com, and it includes grocery pickup and delivery.

You typically earn 2% back at Walmart locations and Walmart gas stations. However, for the first 12 months, the card gives 5% at the store checkout if you use Walmart Pay, a virtual wallet that stores your payment information for touch-free checkout.

Rewards are tracked in points and each point is worth one cent. Word of warning though: To get the most value from this card, you must be a dedicated Walmart shopper because the money you spend at other retailers that accept Mastercard will only earn 1% back.

Annual fee: None

Grocery points: 5% back at Walmart.com, including grocery pickup and delivery.

Additional points: 2% back at Walmart, Walmart gas stations, restaurants, and travel, and 1% cash back on everything else. You can redeem rewards for statement credit, gift cards, travel, or to make purchases at Walmart.com.

Perks: For the first year, you earn 5% back at brick-and-mortar Walmart locations as long as you use Walmart Pay. Afterward, you earn 2% back in the store.

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Not many perks

At Target, RedCard cardholders receive 5% off in-store and online purchases. The 5% discount is automatically applied when you swipe at checkout, but there are some restrictions. Prescriptions, over-the-counter pharmacy products, and eye exams at Target don’t qualify.

Cardholders get free shipping, exclusive store offers, and discount gift cards. You don’t earn rewards that can be redeemed for travel or merchandise from other retailers, so diehard Target fans will see the most value here. You could consider coupling this with a flat-rate or revolving category card to earn and redeem rewards for the spending you do outside of the big-box retailer.

Annual fee: None

Grocery points: You get 5% off at checkout each time you shop online or in the store.

Additional points: 5% off on clearance items and in-store Starbucks locations.

Perks: Free shipping and exclusive store offers, like an extra 30 days for eligible returns.

No annual fee   
  
 Good store perks   
  
 High interest rate

You can earn 4X Membership Rewards points on up to $25,000 spent at U.S. supermarkets per year, but it comes at a high price: $250 per year. (See rates and fees.) This card is best for big spenders who also dine out and travel frequently. Learn more

Robust rewards program   
  
 No foreign transaction fees   
  
 Annual fee

If you’re a foodie experimenting in the kitchen on Monday and ordering jerk chicken from the Jamaican restaurant on Tuesday, this card can reward you for enjoying the best of both worlds, with 3% cash back on dining out and groceries. The issuer recently introduced the higher rate for the supermarket category, though it does exclude Walmart, Target, and other superstores. Learn more

You’ll earn 1% when you shop and another 1% when you pay the bill. Ideally, you should always pay off a credit card each month to avoid interest charges. But several grocery rewards cards offer a 0% APR introductory special, so you could technically sit on a balance for a little while if you’re facing a reduction in income at the moment. Learn more

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Not many perks

You’ll get an enticing 5% cash back on two bonus categories of your choosing (e.g., streaming services, home utilities, ground transportation, and department stores), but it doesn’t include supermarket spending. You earn just 2% cash back on groceries, and you must register online quarterly to earn the rebates. Learn more

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Some spending limits on rewards

Even with 4% cash back at gas stations on eligible gas and EV charging purchases for the first $7,000 per year and then 1% thereafter, 3% on restaurants and travel, and 2% at Costco and Costco.com, redemption options are extremely limited. You only get access to cash back once per year through a credit card reward certificate that can be spent exclusively at the wholesaler. Learn more

No annual fee   
  
 Good cash back   
  
 No foreign transaction fees   
  
 Membership exclusivity   
  
 Complicated rewards

Please note: The offers mentioned above are subject to change at any time and some may no longer be available.

Reviewed has partnered with CardRatings for our coverage of credit card products. Reviewed and CardRatings may receive a commission from card issuers.

See rates and fees for the Blue Cash Preferred Card from American Express. See rates and fees for the Blue Cash Everyday Card from American Express. See rates and fees for the American Express Gold Card.

We hate to break it to you, but there’s no one-size-fits-all answer here. The right number for you depends on what you can responsibly manage.

Does having a piece of shiny plastic an arm’s length away often encourage you to spend money you don’t have? Be honest. You may want to think twice before applying for more credit. Carrying a balance you can’t afford contributes to interest charges, and in the long run costs you more money—money that you could’ve used for that air fryer you’ve been eyeing.

If you’re financially responsible and stick to making purchases that you can pay off, there may be some upsides to adding another card to your arsenal. If you’re a jet-setter without a card that rewards you for hitting the road, or one that skips foreign transaction fees, a travel credit card may make sense for you.

There are a few other things to consider before opening a new account, like adding a different payment processing network, or taking note of any annual fees.

Credit card annual percentage rates range from 13% to 25%, with the national average in January 2022 around 16%. Credit cards marketed for applicants with bad credit tend to be on the higher side, as do credit cards with rewards programs.

Before you submit an application, you can see this range in the cardmember agreement. You won’t know the rate until you’re approved, as it’s determined by the issuer based on your creditworthiness. The higher your credit score, the lower the rate you can expect. Remember that with a variable rate, an issuer can change the interest it charges at any time—and, per your cardmember agreement, it may not have to notify you.

An issuer may charge a different APR for purchases, balance transfers, and cash advances. It may even offer an introductory rate that includes zero interest for a period of 12 to 18 (or 21) months. Lastly, a penalty APR may kick in if you’re late for a payment, exceed your credit limit, or break other terms and conditions laid out by the issuer.

We’ll say it till we’re blue in the face: Pay off your balance each month, and you won’t have to think about interest.

Despite the term “annual percentage rate,” credit card issuers calculate interest daily. The daily periodic rate is determined by dividing your APR by 365 days, which is then applied to your average daily balance. Crunch this number by adding up the total you carry each and every day of the billing cycle, and then dividing that by the number of days in the billing cycle.

Let’s say your APR is 16%, and this month you carried an average daily balance of $2,000. The issuer first calculates the daily periodic rate (0.16 divided by 365). That rate (0.00043) is applied to your average balance (0.00043 x $2,000), which brings us to 0.87. Over the course of the 30-day billing cycle (0.87 x 30), you’ll pay $26.30 in interest.

If crunching numbers isn’t really your thing, some issuers include tools that calculate how much interest you’ll owe based on your monthly payment. Petal, for example, shares this information in a mobile app for its two credit cards.

Remember: You won’t be charged interest if you pay off your balance in full and on time each billing cycle. We get that life happens. So if on occasion that’s not possible, consider paying more than the minimum amount to lessen the interest you’ll pay over time, or make more than one payment during the billing cycle to lower your average balance.

Some of us may deal with our credit score the way we deal with our bank statements. Ignorance can be bliss—but we don’t recommend avoiding either, for the record.

Keeping tabs on your credit score will let you know if something needs attention. A sudden drop might mean you missed a payment, or maybe someone else got ahold of your personal information.

You can get monthly updates from issuers—even ones you’re not a cardholder with—and there are a few other ways to stay in the loop, too.

Don’t neglect your credit report either, as mistakes can arise there. In fact, as many as one in four have an error that can affect your score. The best news? Staying on top of these details doesn’t cost you any money.

Long introductory period APR rates are only a short-term incentive. Potentially high APR rates snap into effect after the intro period ends, which could cost you a lot in interest if you’ve left your balance unpaid. It’s really important—especially when getting a card for a big purchase—to keep an eye on your finances, and keep an eye on the calendar.

APR rates and credit limits vary based on your creditworthiness. Credit limits and interest rates are determined based on each cardholder’s personal situation, so we did not take that information into account when evaluating. Remember to pay your balance in full every month, so you will not be charged interest.

Banks have final say on who they accept for a credit card. These recommendations were put together with the assumption that applicants would have average or excellent credit. That being said, banks decide who they will issue credit cards to using criteria including, but not always limited to, an individual’s credit score when evaluating each applicant.

Taylor Medine  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Taylor Medine is a personal finance writer with over five years of experience writing about credit, credit cards, personal loans, and money management. She’s written for Credit Karma, CompareCards, LendingTree, MagnifyMoney, Student Loan Hero, and more.

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Our team is here for one purpose: to help you buy the best stuff and love what you own. Our writers, editors, and lab technicians obsess over the products we cover to make sure you're confident and satisfied. Have a different opinion about something we recommend? Email us and we'll compare notes.  
  
  
  
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# The Best Credit Cards of 2022

## How We Evaluated

Recommendations are independently chosen by Reviewed’s editors. Purchases made through the links below may earn us and our publishing partners a commission.

Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

Chase's Freedom Flex card gives you the power to decide when and where you want cash back, as well as general cash back on all purchases.  
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 Uniquely, this card earns 1% cash back on a purchase and an additional 1% when you pay it off. The 2% cash back on all purchases has great value.  
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 Need cash back on streaming services, transit, or groceries? The Blue Cash Preferred Card has you covered with great reward rates in every category.  
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 While most secured cards stake their value only on accepting those with poor credit, this card does that and offers great rewards with no annual fee.  
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 With no annual fee and cash back on every purchase, this credit card allows for flexibility. Just don't expect many other perks or bonuses in return.  
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Updated October 18, 2022

Not sure what’s the best credit card for you? Don’t worry—we’re here to help you figure it out. Credit card issuers offer many options that can help you meet different goals. If your goal is earning cash back without a lot of rules to follow, the Citi® Double Cash card lets you earn unlimited 1% cash back when you make a purchase and another 1% cash back when you pay it off. If you’re a Prime member who shops on Amazon for most essentials (and also everything else), the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Signature will help you earn 5% cash back each time you check out. When comparing cards, you also want to look at the rates and fees because various terms apply and can make one card better for you than another. For example, a card with a 0% APR balance transfer deal and a low balance transfer fee may be ideal if you want to pay off debt, whereas no foreign transaction fee may be the bigger priority when planning travel.

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Reviewed’s experts compared rewards card terms to develop this short list of the top cards on the market. Here’s the best of the best! The best credit cards of 2022

Best no-annual-fee credit card: Chase Freedom Flex

Best for unlimited cash back: Citi Double Cash

Best card for groceries: Blue Cash Preferred® Card from American Express

Best secured credit card: Discover it Secured

Best to save money: Capital One Quicksilver Cash Rewards Credit Card

Best business card: American Express® Business Gold Card

Best credit card for travel: Chase Sapphire Preferred Card

Best for no foreign transaction fees: Chase Sapphire Reserve

Best credit card for Amazon: Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Signature

What Is the Best Credit Card, You Ask? In short, the best credit card is whatever works for you. But if you want a little more specific guidance when choosing a credit card, here are a few pointers.

Rewards credit cards should align with your spending habits. In other words, those of us who rely on public transportation likely don’t need gas perks. Take a look at your checking account to see if your bank breaks down where your money goes. Are your grocery bills a considerable amount? Are you a big entertainment spender? Or is your phone bill a good chunk of your spending? Those are the types of credit card rewards you should seek out. If a credit card charges an annual fee, its benefits should outweigh the out-of-pocket cost. Generally, the more rewards the card has, the higher the fee. For instance, the Chase Sapphire Reserve will cost you $550 every year, but there’s an annual travel credit worth a few hundred dollars that knocks down the price tag. Not to mention, you’ll score premium travel perks, including complimentary airport lounge access. On the other hand, with a no-annual-fee credit card, any rewards you earn from your very first swipe is money in your pocket. Some credit card issuers allow you to change your payment date; others do not. If choosing a particular time of the month will help you keep on top of your bills, be sure that’s an option. Late payments not only come with a fee, but affect your credit history, which is vital for everything from job applications to getting approved for a mortgage and even utilities. When all else fails, there’s always automatic payments.

What Is a Good APR for a Credit Card?

Credit card annual percentage rates range from 13% to 25%, with the national average in January 2022 around 16%. Credit cards marketed for applicants with bad credit tend to be on the higher side, as do credit cards with rewards programs. Before you apply for a credit card, you can see this range in the cardmember agreement. You won’t know the rate until you’re approved, as it’s determined by the issuer based on your creditworthiness. The higher your credit score, the lower the rate you can expect. Remember that with a variable rate, an issuer can change the interest it charges at any time—and, per your cardmember agreement, it may not have to notify you. An issuer may charge a different APR for purchases, balance transfers, and cash advances. It may even offer an introductory rate that includes zero interest for a period of 12 to 18 (or 21) months. Lastly, a penalty APR may kick in if you’re late for a payment, exceed your credit limit, or break other terms and conditions laid out by the issuer. We’ll say it till we’re blue in the face: Pay off your balance each month, and you won’t have to think about interest.

How We Evaluated Our experts have covered credit cards and studied card benefits for years, and they have experience writing for outlets like The New York Times, Associated Press, Bankrate, and The Points Guy. We looked at credit cards from major banks as well as co-branded cards from issuers like retail stores, airlines, and hotels, and evaluated our options to choose the best overall card in different situations.

Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best no-annual-fee credit card Chase Freedom Flex The Chase Freedom Flex is the latest card from Chase, and it offers a combination of flat cash-back rates and a rotating bonus category, so you can have the best of both worlds. The best news: All of these big-time benefits come at no cost, which is why it’s our best credit card with no annual fee. Points: All year round, cardholders earn 3% cash back on dining, including takeout and delivery orders from eligible services. You’ll also snag 3% on drugstore spending. Even better, travelers can earn 5% cash back when they book hotels, airfare, car rentals, and more through Chase Ultimate Rewards. Additionally, there’s a 5% bonus category that changes each quarter, which Chase usually announces a few weeks in advance. It may focus on specific retailers such as Amazon or Walmart. Or, it might include areas like groceries, wholesalers, or department stores. Just remember to activate the bonus category in order to grab the extra cash back, and take note that there’s a combined cap of $1,500 per quarter. For all of your spending in between, you’ll earn 1%. All in all, not too shabby. Perks: For the first 15 months, take advantage of 0% introductory APR on purchases (after which a variable rate between 17.24% and 25.99% applies). There’s also a few built-in Chase benefits, like cell phone protection, which means if you pay your monthly bill with your card, you’re covered up to $1,000 per year should your device be stolen or damaged. It comes with extended warranty protection and trip cancellation/interruption insurance as well. Learn more about the Chase Freedom Flex Pros No annual fee High reward rate Robust rewards program Cons Requires excellent credit

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Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best credit card for unlimited cash back Citi Double Cash When it comes to unlimited cash-back credit cards, the standard rate is 1.5%. The Citi Double Cash card beats that at 2%, plus it makes redeeming points a breeze—a nice combination for those of us looking for a no-fuss rewards program. Oh, and there’s no annual fee. Points: You’ll earn unlimited 1% cash back on your purchases when you swipe your card, and another 1% when you make your minimum payment on time. If you regularly pay your bills, this is a 2% cash-back card with no spending caps. You can redeem cash back as ThankYou points to use in Citi’s rewards portal, or once you reach $25, as a statement credit, direct deposit, or check. Perks: Like most no-annual-fee credit cards, there’s not much in the way of extra benefits. At the moment, the Citi Double Cash card includes a balance transfer offer. While there is a balance transfer fee for any transactions you make within the first four months, there is a bit more wiggle room—18 months on balance transfers—to finish your payments. Keep in mind that after the introductory period, the variable APR will increase to 16.99% - 26.99%, based on your creditworthiness. And for a limited time only, Citi is offering $200 cash back after you spend $1,500 on purchases in the first six months of your account opening. Learn more about the Citi Double Cash Pros No annual fee High reward rate Cons Not many perks

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Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best card for groceries Blue Cash Preferred Card from American Express These days, with the refrigerator mere feet from your makeshift work-from-home desk at the dining table, who isn’t spending a lot of money on groceries? The Blue Cash Preferred rewards you for your weekly errand, with a generous spending cap for the top rewards rate—a whopping 6%. For this reason, the Blue Cash Preferred is our best card for groceries. There’s a $0 intro annual fee for the first year, then $95 for each subsequent year. While the fee seems high, you can easily make up for it depending on your grocery budget. As always, terms apply. See rates and fees. Points: Each year, cardholders earn an impressive 6% back on up to $6,000 spent at U.S. supermarkets. Budget-wise, that works out to about $115 per week—after that, the rate drops to 1%. Just note that like most credit cards that reward grocery spending, the terms exclude wholesale clubs like BJ’s and Costco as well as superstores such as Target and Walmart—but if that’s where you regularly spend your money, we have some recommendations. Beyond stocking your pantry, the Blue Cash Preferred rewards spending on select U.S. streaming services, with 6% cash back on payments to Apple Music, HBO Max, Netflix, and other platforms that fuel your workout soundtracks and weekend TV marathons. Cardholders also earn 3% on transit spending—think train fare, ride-shares, and parking—and at U.S. gas stations, plus 1% on other eligible purchases. Cardholders can redeem the cash-back as a statement credit. Perks: The Blue Cash Preferred is a solid choice for its introductory APR offer. You can make interest-free purchases and balance transfers for 12 months from the date of opening an account, after which a variable interest rate (16.99% - 27.99%) kicks in. See rates and fees as other terms apply. There is a fee of either $5 or 5% (whichever is greater) for each balance transfer. There’s also a few built-in AmEx perks, including car rental loss and damage protection, return protection, and a Global Assist Hotline while you’re on the road. Learn more about the Blue Cash Preferred Pros High reward rate Robust rewards program Cons Annual fee

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Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best secured credit card Discover it Secured Some of us have made mistakes and face a hard time getting approved for new accounts with bad credit. Or, we’re brand-new to credit altogether, which can lead to the same difficulties. Enter Discover it Secured, one of the rare secured cards that will help you get your credit on track and offers a rewards program. While approved applicants need to put down a deposit equivalent to their credit limit—at least $200 or as much as $2,500—it is refundable. Plus, there’s no annual fee. Points: Each quarter, cardholders earn 2% cash back on up to $1,000 at gas stations and restaurants—a potential annual return of $80 if you max out the spending cap. Everything else earns 1%. Perks: Discover matches the cash-back you earn in the first year. Translation: Rack up $100 in rewards, and they’ll add another $100 on top of that. After eight months, the issuer will review your account every billing cycle to see if you’re eligible to receive your security deposit back and upgrade to an unsecured card. You’ll also have access to your FICO score through the mobile app, your online account, and monthly statements to track your progress as you build your credit. You’ll get a pass on your first late payment, and won’t face a penalty APR. As always, we recommend paying your balance in full and on time every month—subsequent late payments incur a fee up to $40. Learn more about the Discover it Secured Pros No annual fee Good for bad or no credit High reward rate Cons Security deposit required Some spending limits on rewards

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Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best to save money on big purchases Capital One Quicksilver Cash Rewards Credit Card If you have a big purchase on the horizon, the Capital One Quicksilver Cash Rewards Credit Card is a great pick to help you save money. There’s no annual fee on this card, which also comes with a long-term 0% APR introductory period and solid cash back rewards programs. Points: The Capital One Quicksilver awards 1.5% cash back on all your purchases, no matter the vendor or price. So, if you buy a $1,000 item, you’ll receive $15 in points to redeem as a statement credit or check. And, because there’s no cap to the awards limit on your potential rewards, collecting points can pay big dividends in the long run term. Perks: You’ll get a $200 cash bonus after you spend $500 in the first three months—a pretty good reward for simply spending money. Add that to an introductory 0% APR for purchases (and balance transfers) during the first 15 months, and that $1,000 item becomes fifteen $67 dollar monthly payments. There is still a 3% fee on balance transfer amounts transferred within the first 15 months and once the grace period expires, the APR hikes to between 17.99%-27.99% (Variable). Learn more about the Capital One Quicksilver Cash Rewards Credit Card Pros No annual fee High reward rate Cons Not many perks

Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best business card American Express® Business Gold Card With a $295 annual fee, the American Express® Business Gold Card can help you organize expenses and earn rewards for purchases you make to build your business. Keep in mind that terms and restrictions apply. See rates and fees. Points: You’ll earn points on any employee cards you set up, for a number of expenses including travel, computer equipment, shipping, and advertising, which could go a long way in helping you get your business off the ground. Specifically, you’ll get 4x Membership Rewards points on up to $150,000 in combined purchases in two categories where your business spent the most each billing cycle. If your business spends $150,000 on, say, software and online advertising, the primary account will receive 600,000 points to spend in the Membership Rewards portal, or cash out into your bank account. After that, you’ll earn 1 point per dollar spent. Perks: You can earn a welcome offer of 70,000 Membership Rewards points after spending $10,000 within three months of account opening. The card also offers several expense management options. You can set up employee cards with customizable spending limits, transfer data from your American Express online statement directly into your QuickBooks account, and use a mobile app to add receipts and notes to transactions. Learn more about the American Express Business Gold Pros Generous welcome offer Robust rewards program Cons Annual fee

Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best travel credit card Chase Sapphire Preferred The Chase Sapphire Preferred Card is a solid pick whether you’re big on staycations, plan to sightsee abroad, or love to cruise the seas. The card’s top-tier benefits come with a $95 annual fee, plus there’s a major sign-up bonus for new cardholders. Points: The Sapphire Preferred card earns 2 Ultimate Rewards points per dollar spent on travel, or 5 points when booked through the Chase travel portal. Cardholders also earn 3 Ultimate Reward points for dining at restaurants, on takeout, and with eligible delivery services, and that same rewards rate applies to online grocery orders (except at Target, Walmart, and wholesale clubs). All other purchases bring in 1 Ultimate Reward point per dollar. Points can then be used to book hotels, cruises, car rentals, vacation rentals, and more directly through Chase’s travel portal with a value of 1.25 cents per point ($0.0125). For additional flexibility, points can be transferred—at the same value—to Ultimate Rewards partners, including programs with Hyatt and United Airlines. If you just want the cash back, Ultimate Rewards points can be redeemed for cash at a rate of 1 point for $0.01. So, those 10,000 points could cover a $125 night in a partner hotel, or could put a cool $100 back in your bank account. Perks: The Sapphire Preferred has many great benefits in addition to how flexible the points are, and at the moment Chase offers a sign-up bonus for new cardholders: Spend $4,000 within the first three months of account opening, and you’ll earn 60,000 points. That’s $750 if you book travel through the issuer’s portal. Year-round, it offers primary car rental insurance coverage, so you can avoid paying extra for insurance with the rental company. Primary means that if something happens to your rental car you won’t have to first make a claim with your own insurance policy. For jet-setters out there, it also doesn’t charge foreign transaction fees for any trips you make abroad, which is key to saving up to 3% on your purchases when you travel internationally. Learn more about the Chase Sapphire Preferred Pros High reward rate Robust rewards program Good travel perks Cons Annual fee

Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best credit card with no foreign transaction fees Chase Sapphire Reserve If you frequently travel abroad, you’ll save a lot on your trip if you have a credit card that doesn’t charge foreign transaction fees, and the Chase Sapphire Reserve is our top pick for this category. There is a $550 annual fee, however, the $300 annual travel credit, along with a few other perks, can make this card worth the cost. Points: Chase created a proprietary reward system called Ultimate Reward points. The Sapphire Reserve card offers 3 Ultimate Rewards points per dollar spent on all travel and dining purchases after you receive your $300 travel credit, and 1 Ultimate Reward point per dollar spent on everything else. The points can then be used to book hotels, cruises, car rentals, vacation rentals, and tourist activities directly through Chase’s travel portal at a rate of 1.5 cents per point ($0.015). For additional flexibility, points can also be transferred to partners like Hyatt and United Airlines. Or for a rewards boost, travelers can use their card to book excursions through the Chase portal and rack up 10 points per dollar on dining, hotel stays, and car rentals, and 5 points per dollar on flights. It’s also possible to earn 80,000 bonus points if you spend $4,000 on purchases in the first 3 months of opening an account. That translates to $1,200 that can be used towards travel costs when redeemed through the Chase Ultimate Rewards program. Perks: The Chase Sapphire Reserve offers purchase protection (basically, insurance for your purchases) and extended warranty protection (to extend the manufacturer’s warranty for items you purchase) that may come in handy when purchasing kitchen appliances, televisions, and other big-ticket items. It also offers primary car rental insurance coverage up to $75,000 in physical damages or theft, meaning you don’t have to pay extra for the car rental company’s insurance, and if something happens to your rental car, you won’t have to make a claim to your own insurance policy first. You’ll benefit from trip delay coverage, trip cancellation coverage, and lost and damaged baggage coverage. What’s more, the Sapphire Reserve offers a $300 annual travel credit, where the first $300 in travel purchases (from taxi fares to hotels to flights) made on your card each year will be refunded via a statement credit, effectively reducing the annual fee to $250. As you’d expect with a premium travel card, You’ll also receive a TSA PreCheck or Global Entry application fee credit (a $85 or $100 value) every four years, and a Priority Pass Select Membership, giving you access to more than 1,300 airport lounges across the world. Learn more about the Chase Sapphire Reserve Pros High reward rate Robust rewards program Good travel perks Cons Annual fee Requires excellent credit

Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby

Best credit card for Amazon Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Signature Facing a global pandemic, a lot of us turned to shopping on the internet. More specifically, we logged into Amazon. The e-commerce giant reported a huge surge in sales in a recent quarterly report as we tracked down toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and just about everything else from the comfort of our homes. If you’re a Prime member who already pays for perks like free two-day shipping, and the site is your go-to for household essentials, groceries, and everything in between, you might want to add the Amazon Prime Rewards card to your wallet. That goes extra if you’re a regular shopper at your nearby Whole Foods. Points: Eligible cardholders earn 5% cash back at Amazon and Whole Foods Market. For groceries, that includes shopping in-person, online orders with the supermarket chain, and even Amazon Fresh. While a slightly lower rate than our best credit card for groceries, this one does not have a spending cap. (One thing to note: Should you cancel your Prime membership, the cash-back percentage will be reduced to 3% for this category.) You’ll also rack up 2% on dining, gas, and drugstore purchases. For other spending, you’ll earn 1%. Perks: Travelers in particular may get some extra benefits out of this card. Take advantage of no foreign transaction fees, travel accident insurance, and reimbursements for delayed or missing luggage. Beyond that, cardholders also benefit from extended warranty protection and an auto rental collision damage waiver. Learn more about the Amazon Prime Rewards card Pros No annual fee No foreign transaction fees Robust rewards program Cons Membership exclusivity

Please note: The offers mentioned above were valid at time of publication but are subject to change at any time. Some may no longer be available. Reviewed has partnered with CardRatings for our coverage of credit card products. Reviewed and CardRatings may receive a commission from card issuers. See rates and fees for the Blue Cash Preferred Card from American Express. See rates and fees for the American Express Business Gold Card. How Does Credit Card Interest Work?

Despite the term “annual percentage rate,” credit card issuers calculate interest daily. The daily periodic rate is determined by dividing your APR by 365 days, which is then applied to your average daily balance. Crunch this number by adding up the total you carry each and every day of the billing cycle, and then dividing that by the number of days in the billing cycle. Let’s say your card’s APR is 16%, and this month you carried an average daily balance of $2,000. The issuer first calculates the daily periodic rate (0.16 divided by 365). That rate (0.00043) is applied to your average balance (0.00043 x $2,000), which brings us to 0.87. Over the course of the 30-day billing cycle (0.87 x 30), you’ll pay $26.30 in interest. If crunching numbers isn’t really your thing, some issuers include tools that calculate how much interest you’ll owe based on your monthly payment. Petal, for example, shares this information in a mobile app for its two credit cards. Remember: You won’t be charged interest if you pay off your balance in full and on time each billing cycle. We get that life happens. So if on occasion that’s not possible, consider paying more than the minimum amount to lessen the interest you’ll pay over time, or make more than one payment during the billing cycle to lower your average balance.

How Many Credit Cards Should You Have?

We hate to break it to you, but there’s no one-size-fits-all answer here. The right number for you depends on what you can responsibly manage. Does having a piece of shiny plastic an arm’s length away often encourage you to spend money you don’t have? You may want to think twice before applying for more credit. Carrying a balance you can’t afford contributes to interest charges, and in the long run costs you more money. If you’re financially responsible and stick to making purchases that you can pay off, there may be some upsides to adding another card to your arsenal. For instance, if you’re a jet-setter without a card that rewards you for hitting the road, a travel card may make sense for you. There are a few other things to consider before opening a new account, like adding a different payment processing network, or taking note of any annual fees.

How to Cancel a Credit Card

Pay your outstanding balance and redeem any rewards. Then, call the issuer to confirm you have no balance, and ask to close your account. But before you pick up the phone, there are a few things to consider. First, your score is based partly on the length of your credit history. Closing an older account will temporarily knock your score. If you’re applying for a mortgage in the near future—or anything else that may require a credit check—think twice about the timing. Saying goodbye to a card also means you’ll have less credit available. And that means your utilization ratio will likely go up. (If you need a refresher: That’s the balance you carry divided by your credit line—and finance experts recommend keeping this at 30% or less.) Your utilization ratio is another major factor in calculating your score. In addition to being mindful of your balance, you can ask another issuer to increase your limit to help out a little. Keep in mind, if you’re a responsible credit user, your score will eventually rebound. But there are a few other factors to consider when deciding to close an account, such as whether you’re close to hitting a rewards milestone. Closing the account could still be the right move for you, especially if you’re tempted to spend money you don’t have, or you feel you already have too much credit at your disposal. In that case, call the issuer and then destroy your physical card. In a month or two, check your credit report to confirm that the account has been closed at your request. Contact the issuer if it states otherwise.

What Is a Secured Credit Card?

Secured credit cards are geared toward those of us who have made mistakes with credit in the past, or those of us with limited credit histories. Students and people new to the U.S. often fall under these categories. Unlike an unsecured credit card, cardholders are required to put down a security deposit—often around $200—that is typically equivalent to their credit line. There are, however, a few that require a smaller amount, including the Capital One Platinum Secured Credit Card, which is among our best secured credit cards, as you may put down as little as $49. Many credit card issuers will review your account after several months. If you’ve responsibly used your credit card, the issuer may consider upgrading your card or refunding your deposit.

How to Build Credit Without a Credit Card

Revolving credit isn’t the only factor that impacts your score. Do you have student or car loans, or another type of installment loan? The lender likely reports your payments to the major credit bureaus, which impacts your score. Consider taking out a credit-builder loan with a small bank or credit union. This type of installment loan will add to your credit mix. (“Credit mix” refers to the types of accounts that make up your credit report. It’s one of the factors that affects credit scores.) Making on-time payments gives it a boost, too. Even though your credit score can affect your utilities, your utility payments are not reported to credit bureaus. We don’t make the rules! There are some services, such as LevelCredit and RentTrack, that will report your utility and rent payments to the credit bureau to give you credit for your timeliness. There are other tools, like Experian Boost, that may make sense for you. It taps your phone and utility payments—and even your Netflix subscription—to nudge your score a bit. According to the credit bureau, users who sign up for the service see an average jump of 13 points in their FICO scores.

What Else Should You Know About How Credit Cards Work?

APR rates and credit limits vary based on your individual credit. Credit limits and interest rates for each card are determined based on each cardholder’s personal situation, so we did not take that information into account when evaluating these cards. One thing to remember is that if you pay your card off in full every month, you will not be charged interest. Banks have the final say on who they accept for a credit card. These recommendations were put together with the assumption that applicants would have average credit or above. That being said, banks decide who they will issue credit cards to using criteria including, but not always limited to, an individual’s credit score when evaluating each applicant. Business credit cards work a bit differently. Nearly every business card requires a personal guarantee, which is an agreement between the business owner and the credit card issuer. It means the issuer can go after your personal assets to satisfy any balance owed if your business defaults on the card payments—even if you leave the company. That goes for expenses you or your employees charge to the credit card.

More Credit Card Reviews

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Not sure what’s the best credit card for you? Don’t worry—we’re here to help you figure it out. Credit card issuers offer many options that can help you meet different goals.

If your goal is earning cash back without a lot of rules to follow, the Citi® Double Cash card lets you earn unlimited 1% cash back when you make a purchase and another 1% cash back when you pay it off. If you’re a Prime member who shops on Amazon for most essentials (and also everything else), the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Signature will help you earn 5% cash back each time you check out.

When comparing cards, you also want to look at the rates and fees because various terms apply and can make one card better for you than another. For example, a card with a 0% APR balance transfer deal and a low balance transfer fee may be ideal if you want to pay off debt, whereas no foreign transaction fee may be the bigger priority when planning travel.

Reviewed’s experts compared rewards card terms to develop this short list of the top cards on the market. Here’s the best of the best!

In short, the best credit card is whatever works for you. But if you want a little more specific guidance when choosing a credit card, here are a few pointers.

Rewards credit cards should align with your spending habits. In other words, those of us who rely on public transportation likely don’t need gas perks. Take a look at your checking account to see if your bank breaks down where your money goes. Are your grocery bills a considerable amount? Are you a big entertainment spender? Or is your phone bill a good chunk of your spending? Those are the types of credit card rewards you should seek out.

If a credit card charges an annual fee, its benefits should outweigh the out-of-pocket cost. Generally, the more rewards the card has, the higher the fee. For instance, the Chase Sapphire Reserve will cost you $550 every year, but there’s an annual travel credit worth a few hundred dollars that knocks down the price tag. Not to mention, you’ll score premium travel perks, including complimentary airport lounge access. On the other hand, with a no-annual-fee credit card, any rewards you earn from your very first swipe is money in your pocket.

Some credit card issuers allow you to change your payment date; others do not. If choosing a particular time of the month will help you keep on top of your bills, be sure that’s an option. Late payments not only come with a fee, but affect your credit history, which is vital for everything from job applications to getting approved for a mortgage and even utilities. When all else fails, there’s always automatic payments.

Credit card annual percentage rates range from 13% to 25%, with the national average in January 2022 around 16%. Credit cards marketed for applicants with bad credit tend to be on the higher side, as do credit cards with rewards programs.

Before you apply for a credit card, you can see this range in the cardmember agreement. You won’t know the rate until you’re approved, as it’s determined by the issuer based on your creditworthiness. The higher your credit score, the lower the rate you can expect. Remember that with a variable rate, an issuer can change the interest it charges at any time—and, per your cardmember agreement, it may not have to notify you.

An issuer may charge a different APR for purchases, balance transfers, and cash advances. It may even offer an introductory rate that includes zero interest for a period of 12 to 18 (or 21) months. Lastly, a penalty APR may kick in if you’re late for a payment, exceed your credit limit, or break other terms and conditions laid out by the issuer.

We’ll say it till we’re blue in the face: Pay off your balance each month, and you won’t have to think about interest.

Our experts have covered credit cards and studied card benefits for years, and they have experience writing for outlets like The New York Times, Associated Press, Bankrate, and The Points Guy. We looked at credit cards from major banks as well as co-branded cards from issuers like retail stores, airlines, and hotels, and evaluated our options to choose the best overall card in different situations.

The Chase Freedom Flex is the latest card from Chase, and it offers a combination of flat cash-back rates and a rotating bonus category, so you can have the best of both worlds. The best news: All of these big-time benefits come at no cost, which is why it’s our best credit card with no annual fee.

Points: All year round, cardholders earn 3% cash back on dining, including takeout and delivery orders from eligible services. You’ll also snag 3% on drugstore spending. Even better, travelers can earn 5% cash back when they book hotels, airfare, car rentals, and more through Chase Ultimate Rewards.

Additionally, there’s a 5% bonus category that changes each quarter, which Chase usually announces a few weeks in advance. It may focus on specific retailers such as Amazon or Walmart. Or, it might include areas like groceries, wholesalers, or department stores. Just remember to activate the bonus category in order to grab the extra cash back, and take note that there’s a combined cap of $1,500 per quarter.

For all of your spending in between, you’ll earn 1%. All in all, not too shabby.

Perks: For the first 15 months, take advantage of 0% introductory APR on purchases (after which a variable rate between 17.24% and 25.99% applies). There’s also a few built-in Chase benefits, like cell phone protection, which means if you pay your monthly bill with your card, you’re covered up to $1,000 per year should your device be stolen or damaged. It comes with extended warranty protection and trip cancellation/interruption insurance as well.

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Requires excellent credit

When it comes to unlimited cash-back credit cards, the standard rate is 1.5%. The Citi Double Cash card beats that at 2%, plus it makes redeeming points a breeze—a nice combination for those of us looking for a no-fuss rewards program. Oh, and there’s no annual fee.

Points: You’ll earn unlimited 1% cash back on your purchases when you swipe your card, and another 1% when you make your minimum payment on time. If you regularly pay your bills, this is a 2% cash-back card with no spending caps.

You can redeem cash back as ThankYou points to use in Citi’s rewards portal, or once you reach $25, as a statement credit, direct deposit, or check.

Perks: Like most no-annual-fee credit cards, there’s not much in the way of extra benefits. At the moment, the Citi Double Cash card includes a balance transfer offer. While there is a balance transfer fee for any transactions you make within the first four months, there is a bit more wiggle room—18 months on balance transfers—to finish your payments. Keep in mind that after the introductory period, the variable APR will increase to 16.99% - 26.99%, based on your creditworthiness.

And for a limited time only, Citi is offering $200 cash back after you spend $1,500 on purchases in the first six months of your account opening.

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Not many perks

These days, with the refrigerator mere feet from your makeshift work-from-home desk at the dining table, who isn’t spending a lot of money on groceries? The Blue Cash Preferred rewards you for your weekly errand, with a generous spending cap for the top rewards rate—a whopping 6%. For this reason, the Blue Cash Preferred is our best card for groceries.

There’s a $0 intro annual fee for the first year, then $95 for each subsequent year. While the fee seems high, you can easily make up for it depending on your grocery budget. As always, terms apply. See rates and fees.

Points: Each year, cardholders earn an impressive 6% back on up to $6,000 spent at U.S. supermarkets. Budget-wise, that works out to about $115 per week—after that, the rate drops to 1%.

Just note that like most credit cards that reward grocery spending, the terms exclude wholesale clubs like BJ’s and Costco as well as superstores such as Target and Walmart—but if that’s where you regularly spend your money, we have some recommendations.

Beyond stocking your pantry, the Blue Cash Preferred rewards spending on select U.S. streaming services, with 6% cash back on payments to Apple Music, HBO Max, Netflix, and other platforms that fuel your workout soundtracks and weekend TV marathons.

Cardholders also earn 3% on transit spending—think train fare, ride-shares, and parking—and at U.S. gas stations, plus 1% on other eligible purchases. Cardholders can redeem the cash-back as a statement credit.

Perks: The Blue Cash Preferred is a solid choice for its introductory APR offer. You can make interest-free purchases and balance transfers for 12 months from the date of opening an account, after which a variable interest rate (16.99% - 27.99%) kicks in. See rates and fees as other terms apply. There is a fee of either $5 or 5% (whichever is greater) for each balance transfer.

There’s also a few built-in AmEx perks, including car rental loss and damage protection, return protection, and a Global Assist Hotline while you’re on the road.

High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Annual fee

Some of us have made mistakes and face a hard time getting approved for new accounts with bad credit. Or, we’re brand-new to credit altogether, which can lead to the same difficulties.

Enter Discover it Secured, one of the rare secured cards that will help you get your credit on track and offers a rewards program. While approved applicants need to put down a deposit equivalent to their credit limit—at least $200 or as much as $2,500—it is refundable. Plus, there’s no annual fee.

Points: Each quarter, cardholders earn 2% cash back on up to $1,000 at gas stations and restaurants—a potential annual return of $80 if you max out the spending cap. Everything else earns 1%.

Perks: Discover matches the cash-back you earn in the first year. Translation: Rack up $100 in rewards, and they’ll add another $100 on top of that.

After eight months, the issuer will review your account every billing cycle to see if you’re eligible to receive your security deposit back and upgrade to an unsecured card. You’ll also have access to your FICO score through the mobile app, your online account, and monthly statements to track your progress as you build your credit.

You’ll get a pass on your first late payment, and won’t face a penalty APR. As always, we recommend paying your balance in full and on time every month—subsequent late payments incur a fee up to $40.

No annual fee   
  
 Good for bad or no credit   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Security deposit required   
  
 Some spending limits on rewards

If you have a big purchase on the horizon, the Capital One Quicksilver Cash Rewards Credit Card is a great pick to help you save money. There’s no annual fee on this card, which also comes with a long-term 0% APR introductory period and solid cash back rewards programs.

Points: The Capital One Quicksilver awards 1.5% cash back on all your purchases, no matter the vendor or price. So, if you buy a $1,000 item, you’ll receive $15 in points to redeem as a statement credit or check. And, because there’s no cap to the awards limit on your potential rewards, collecting points can pay big dividends in the long run term.

Perks: You’ll get a $200 cash bonus after you spend $500 in the first three months—a pretty good reward for simply spending money. Add that to an introductory 0% APR for purchases (and balance transfers) during the first 15 months, and that $1,000 item becomes fifteen $67 dollar monthly payments. There is still a 3% fee on balance transfer amounts transferred within the first 15 months and once the grace period expires, the APR hikes to between 17.99%-27.99% (Variable).

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Not many perks

With a $295 annual fee, the American Express® Business Gold Card can help you organize expenses and earn rewards for purchases you make to build your business. Keep in mind that terms and restrictions apply. See rates and fees.

Points: You’ll earn points on any employee cards you set up, for a number of expenses including travel, computer equipment, shipping, and advertising, which could go a long way in helping you get your business off the ground.

Specifically, you’ll get 4x Membership Rewards points on up to $150,000 in combined purchases in two categories where your business spent the most each billing cycle. If your business spends $150,000 on, say, software and online advertising, the primary account will receive 600,000 points to spend in the Membership Rewards portal, or cash out into your bank account. After that, you’ll earn 1 point per dollar spent.

Perks: You can earn a welcome offer of 70,000 Membership Rewards points after spending $10,000 within three months of account opening.

The card also offers several expense management options. You can set up employee cards with customizable spending limits, transfer data from your American Express online statement directly into your QuickBooks account, and use a mobile app to add receipts and notes to transactions.

Generous welcome offer   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Annual fee

The Chase Sapphire Preferred Card is a solid pick whether you’re big on staycations, plan to sightsee abroad, or love to cruise the seas. The card’s top-tier benefits come with a $95 annual fee, plus there’s a major sign-up bonus for new cardholders.

Points: The Sapphire Preferred card earns 2 Ultimate Rewards points per dollar spent on travel, or 5 points when booked through the Chase travel portal. Cardholders also earn 3 Ultimate Reward points for dining at restaurants, on takeout, and with eligible delivery services, and that same rewards rate applies to online grocery orders (except at Target, Walmart, and wholesale clubs).

All other purchases bring in 1 Ultimate Reward point per dollar. Points can then be used to book hotels, cruises, car rentals, vacation rentals, and more directly through Chase’s travel portal with a value of 1.25 cents per point ($0.0125).

For additional flexibility, points can be transferred—at the same value—to Ultimate Rewards partners, including programs with Hyatt and United Airlines. If you just want the cash back, Ultimate Rewards points can be redeemed for cash at a rate of 1 point for $0.01. So, those 10,000 points could cover a $125 night in a partner hotel, or could put a cool $100 back in your bank account.

Perks: The Sapphire Preferred has many great benefits in addition to how flexible the points are, and at the moment Chase offers a sign-up bonus for new cardholders: Spend $4,000 within the first three months of account opening, and you’ll earn 60,000 points. That’s $750 if you book travel through the issuer’s portal.

Year-round, it offers primary car rental insurance coverage, so you can avoid paying extra for insurance with the rental company. Primary means that if something happens to your rental car you won’t have to first make a claim with your own insurance policy.

For jet-setters out there, it also doesn’t charge foreign transaction fees for any trips you make abroad, which is key to saving up to 3% on your purchases when you travel internationally.

High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Good travel perks   
  
 Annual fee

If you frequently travel abroad, you’ll save a lot on your trip if you have a credit card that doesn’t charge foreign transaction fees, and the Chase Sapphire Reserve is our top pick for this category. There is a $550 annual fee, however, the $300 annual travel credit, along with a few other perks, can make this card worth the cost.

Points: Chase created a proprietary reward system called Ultimate Reward points. The Sapphire Reserve card offers 3 Ultimate Rewards points per dollar spent on all travel and dining purchases after you receive your $300 travel credit, and 1 Ultimate Reward point per dollar spent on everything else.

The points can then be used to book hotels, cruises, car rentals, vacation rentals, and tourist activities directly through Chase’s travel portal at a rate of 1.5 cents per point ($0.015). For additional flexibility, points can also be transferred to partners like Hyatt and United Airlines. Or for a rewards boost, travelers can use their card to book excursions through the Chase portal and rack up 10 points per dollar on dining, hotel stays, and car rentals, and 5 points per dollar on flights.

It’s also possible to earn 80,000 bonus points if you spend $4,000 on purchases in the first 3 months of opening an account. That translates to $1,200 that can be used towards travel costs when redeemed through the Chase Ultimate Rewards program.

Perks: The Chase Sapphire Reserve offers purchase protection (basically, insurance for your purchases) and extended warranty protection (to extend the manufacturer’s warranty for items you purchase) that may come in handy when purchasing kitchen appliances, televisions, and other big-ticket items.

It also offers primary car rental insurance coverage up to $75,000 in physical damages or theft, meaning you don’t have to pay extra for the car rental company’s insurance, and if something happens to your rental car, you won’t have to make a claim to your own insurance policy first.

You’ll benefit from trip delay coverage, trip cancellation coverage, and lost and damaged baggage coverage. What’s more, the Sapphire Reserve offers a $300 annual travel credit, where the first $300 in travel purchases (from taxi fares to hotels to flights) made on your card each year will be refunded via a statement credit, effectively reducing the annual fee to $250.

As you’d expect with a premium travel card, You’ll also receive a TSA PreCheck or Global Entry application fee credit (a $85 or $100 value) every four years, and a Priority Pass Select Membership, giving you access to more than 1,300 airport lounges across the world.

High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Good travel perks   
  
 Annual fee   
  
 Requires excellent credit

Facing a global pandemic, a lot of us turned to shopping on the internet. More specifically, we logged into Amazon. The e-commerce giant reported a huge surge in sales in a recent quarterly report as we tracked down toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and just about everything else from the comfort of our homes.

If you’re a Prime member who already pays for perks like free two-day shipping, and the site is your go-to for household essentials, groceries, and everything in between, you might want to add the Amazon Prime Rewards card to your wallet. That goes extra if you’re a regular shopper at your nearby Whole Foods.

Points: Eligible cardholders earn 5% cash back at Amazon and Whole Foods Market. For groceries, that includes shopping in-person, online orders with the supermarket chain, and even Amazon Fresh.

While a slightly lower rate than our best credit card for groceries, this one does not have a spending cap. (One thing to note: Should you cancel your Prime membership, the cash-back percentage will be reduced to 3% for this category.)

You’ll also rack up 2% on dining, gas, and drugstore purchases. For other spending, you’ll earn 1%.

Perks: Travelers in particular may get some extra benefits out of this card. Take advantage of no foreign transaction fees, travel accident insurance, and reimbursements for delayed or missing luggage.

Beyond that, cardholders also benefit from extended warranty protection and an auto rental collision damage waiver.

No annual fee   
  
 No foreign transaction fees   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Membership exclusivity

Please note: The offers mentioned above were valid at time of publication but are subject to change at any time. Some may no longer be available.

Reviewed has partnered with CardRatings for our coverage of credit card products. Reviewed and CardRatings may receive a commission from card issuers.

See rates and fees for the Blue Cash Preferred Card from American Express. See rates and fees for the American Express Business Gold Card.

Despite the term “annual percentage rate,” credit card issuers calculate interest daily. The daily periodic rate is determined by dividing your APR by 365 days, which is then applied to your average daily balance. Crunch this number by adding up the total you carry each and every day of the billing cycle, and then dividing that by the number of days in the billing cycle.

Let’s say your card’s APR is 16%, and this month you carried an average daily balance of $2,000. The issuer first calculates the daily periodic rate (0.16 divided by 365). That rate (0.00043) is applied to your average balance (0.00043 x $2,000), which brings us to 0.87. Over the course of the 30-day billing cycle (0.87 x 30), you’ll pay $26.30 in interest.

If crunching numbers isn’t really your thing, some issuers include tools that calculate how much interest you’ll owe based on your monthly payment. Petal, for example, shares this information in a mobile app for its two credit cards.

Remember: You won’t be charged interest if you pay off your balance in full and on time each billing cycle. We get that life happens. So if on occasion that’s not possible, consider paying more than the minimum amount to lessen the interest you’ll pay over time, or make more than one payment during the billing cycle to lower your average balance.

We hate to break it to you, but there’s no one-size-fits-all answer here. The right number for you depends on what you can responsibly manage.

Does having a piece of shiny plastic an arm’s length away often encourage you to spend money you don’t have? You may want to think twice before applying for more credit. Carrying a balance you can’t afford contributes to interest charges, and in the long run costs you more money.

If you’re financially responsible and stick to making purchases that you can pay off, there may be some upsides to adding another card to your arsenal. For instance, if you’re a jet-setter without a card that rewards you for hitting the road, a travel card may make sense for you.

There are a few other things to consider before opening a new account, like adding a different payment processing network, or taking note of any annual fees.

Pay your outstanding balance and redeem any rewards. Then, call the issuer to confirm you have no balance, and ask to close your account. But before you pick up the phone, there are a few things to consider.

First, your score is based partly on the length of your credit history. Closing an older account will temporarily knock your score. If you’re applying for a mortgage in the near future—or anything else that may require a credit check—think twice about the timing.

Saying goodbye to a card also means you’ll have less credit available. And that means your utilization ratio will likely go up. (If you need a refresher: That’s the balance you carry divided by your credit line—and finance experts recommend keeping this at 30% or less.) Your utilization ratio is another major factor in calculating your score. In addition to being mindful of your balance, you can ask another issuer to increase your limit to help out a little.

Keep in mind, if you’re a responsible credit user, your score will eventually rebound. But there are a few other factors to consider when deciding to close an account, such as whether you’re close to hitting a rewards milestone.

Closing the account could still be the right move for you, especially if you’re tempted to spend money you don’t have, or you feel you already have too much credit at your disposal. In that case, call the issuer and then destroy your physical card.

In a month or two, check your credit report to confirm that the account has been closed at your request. Contact the issuer if it states otherwise.

Secured credit cards are geared toward those of us who have made mistakes with credit in the past, or those of us with limited credit histories. Students and people new to the U.S. often fall under these categories.

Unlike an unsecured credit card, cardholders are required to put down a security deposit—often around $200—that is typically equivalent to their credit line. There are, however, a few that require a smaller amount, including the Capital One Platinum Secured Credit Card, which is among our best secured credit cards, as you may put down as little as $49.

Many credit card issuers will review your account after several months. If you’ve responsibly used your credit card, the issuer may consider upgrading your card or refunding your deposit.

Revolving credit isn’t the only factor that impacts your score. Do you have student or car loans, or another type of installment loan? The lender likely reports your payments to the major credit bureaus, which impacts your score.

Consider taking out a credit-builder loan with a small bank or credit union. This type of installment loan will add to your credit mix. (“Credit mix” refers to the types of accounts that make up your credit report. It’s one of the factors that affects credit scores.) Making on-time payments gives it a boost, too.

Even though your credit score can affect your utilities, your utility payments are not reported to credit bureaus. We don’t make the rules! There are some services, such as LevelCredit and RentTrack, that will report your utility and rent payments to the credit bureau to give you credit for your timeliness.

There are other tools, like Experian Boost, that may make sense for you. It taps your phone and utility payments—and even your Netflix subscription—to nudge your score a bit. According to the credit bureau, users who sign up for the service see an average jump of 13 points in their FICO scores.

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The Reviewed staff is based in the heart of Cambridge, MA. Backed by our knowledgeable writers and rigorous test labs, we’re working hard to make sure you can make the right decisions about what to buy.

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# The Best Wireless Chargers of 2022

## How Does a Wireless Charger Work?

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

Offers a great combination of fast charging, versatility, and a reasonable price. Plus, its small footprint means it won’t take up much space on your table or bureau.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This attractive stand has a rotating base that lets you position your phone at a 30-degree angle, which is a luxurious touch. It performs well, too.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Tylt Puck certainly looks great, but our tester found its performance a bit lackluster for the price.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This straightforward charging pad is light on features, but the green LED ring is a cool touch if you're into that aesthetic.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Belkin's wireless charging stand boasts solid charge times as well as a clever design. Just don't forget your power cord; it won't take a USB cable.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated September 8, 2022

Plugging in a power cable to charge a mobile device? How 20th century of you! These days, thanks to the power of electromagnetism, all of the cool kids are charging their gadgets wirelessly: Drop your smartphone on top of a wireless charging dock and it’ll instantly start powering up—no cables required. Our favorite wireless charging stand is the Yootech X2 (available at Amazon), a simple, low-cost charger that offers speedy, flexible charging.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar The Yootech X2 Wireless Charging Stand offers speedy charging at a reasonable price.

Best Charging Stand Yootech X2 Of all the charging stands we tested for this guide, the Yootech X2 Wireless Charging Stand offered the best combination of fast charging, versatility, and a reasonable price. The X2 charged our Samsung Note 8 in just over 2.5 hours and Apple’s iPhone XS in just under three. Its dual charging coils make it possible to charge your smartphone in either landscape or portrait orientation, without any loss in charging power. Plus, its small footprint means that it won’t take up much space on your bedside table or bureau. Missing, however, is a USB charger, so you’ll have to consider this additional cost as part of the X2’s total purchase price if you don’t have one already. Pros Fast charging Works across multiple smartphone brands Cons Doesn’t come with a USB charger Buy now at Amazon $33.00 from Walmart

ADVERTISEMENT

Tylt Twisty The Tylt Twisty is an attractive charging stand, built on a carved wooden base. Attached to this is the plastic top, which is where the twist comes in. Literally: spin this around and it rotates from the phone sitting horizontally to sitting at a 30-degree angle. That puts the phone at just enough of a tilt that you can roll over and see what time it is without raising your head too much. A soft, plastic ring on the top stops the phone from sliding off, and a small white LED lets you know when charging starts. Charging was pretty speedy: my iPhone XS took two hours and 53 minutes to charge, while the Samsung Note 8 took two hours and 56 minutes. The Twisty’s aesthetic is unique, but this device doesn’t come cheap. Pros Carved wooden base Keeps your phone in place Fast charge times Cons None that we could find Buy now at Amazon $21.00 from Walmart   
  
 Tylt Puck What do you get if you cross a beer mat and a wireless charger? Something like the Tylt Puck, a pricey wireless charger that combines cork and plastic into one smart-looking package. On the bottom of the 0.9-inch thick puck is a cork base, which should stop both your bedside table from being scratched and soak up any spills. On the top of the puck is the white plastic cover that the wireless charger sits under. Plonk your phone on the top and a small, inconspicuous white LED lights up to let you know that charging has begun. We did find, however, that the top of this charger was somewhat slick: even a slight tap on the phone sent it sliding off the charger or moved it so that the charging process stopped. All of the usual wireless charging modes are here, so it can pump out 7.5 Watts for iPhones and 10 Watts for Android devices, or 5 Watts for standard QI. We found that charging times were pretty average, taking 2 hours and 34 minutes to charge the iPhone XS and just under three hours to juice up the Samsung Note 8. It certainly looks cool, but at $45, you seem to be paying a lot more for looks then performance. Not that there's anything wrong with things looking nice, but is double the price of other chargers that do just as good a job worth it? Probably not. Pros Soft, tasteful cork base Supports all three charging modes Cons Slick charging area Average charging times Buy now at Amazon $22.65 from Walmart

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Yootech F500 Want a no-frills wireless charging pad with a little blinky LED charm? The F500 has it. When you plonk your phone onto this small, svelte charging pad, a ring of green LEDs around the edge light up. After about 30 seconds the lights dim, so you’ll know that the phone is charging but you won’t be blinded by them. It took three hours to charge the iPhone XS and just over three and a quarter hours to charge the Samsung note 8: decent, but not overly fast time. What you don’t get with this wireless charger is a USB power adapter, so factor the extra cost of an appropriate one into your sums. It was also a little slower to charge than some others, taking just under three hours to charge both the Note and the iPhone XS in our tests. Pros Easy-to-read LED cues Solid charge times Cons No USB power adapter included Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Belkin Boost Up Wireless Charging Stand The Belkin Wireless Charging stand looks more like a piece of geometric sculpture than a charger. Aesthetics aside, this black plastic stand is large, but it does the job: We found that it charged both our test Samsung Note 8 and iPhone XS in decent times: just over two and a half hours and three hours 18 minutes, respectively. The unusual design of the Bold stand also allows you to sit the phone in landscape orientation: a plus if you like to lie in bed and watch movies while you doze off. One interesting thing to note is that this charger doesn’t use a USB cable: Instead, it uses an old-school barrel plug and a dedicated wall charger. While that means it can handle the higher power 7.5W and 10W modes without issues, it also means that it is useless if you take the charger with you on a trip but forget the power adapter: You can’t plug it into a USB port on your computer. Pros Good charge times The stand design is nice for video Cons No USB support Buy now at Amazon $19.90 from Walmart

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Belkin P-F7U050 Boost Up Bold Wireless Charging Pad The Belkin Bold Wireless Charging Pad goes for an Apple-like aesthetic but doesn’t quite pull it off. For one thing, at 0.64 inches thick and 3.7 inches wide, it feels too big and clumsy to be an Apple product. There are some nice touches though: a ring of soft rubber on the top that stops the phone from getting scratched and the soft rubber base that keeps it steady and doesn’t scratch the surface it is on. Its performance was lackluster: it took over three hours to charge the Note 8. Most of the other chargers we tested completed the task in about 30 minutes less time. Performance with the iPhone XS was better, however: it took three hours and 18 minutes to fully charge it. Pros Rubber ring that prevents damage to your phone Cons Large and unwieldy Lackluster performance Buy now at Amazon $48.00 from Walmart   
  
 Anker PowerPort Wireless 5 Pad The Anker PowerPort pad is a blocky stand with a single LED on the bottom. It looks cheap and, to be fair, it is cheap; it was one of the least expensive chargers we tested. The PowerPort includes a USB cable, but no charger. This means that you’ll have to buy a QuickCharge USB power adapter if you are using it away from your computer, which will add to the charging pad’s total purchase price. There is no support for the Apple 7.5W charging mode, but in tests, we found that it didn’t make that much difference, taking three hours and 18 minutes to charge an iPhone XS. The Samsung Note 8 was another matter: It took just two hours and 20 minutes to charge the large battery of this Android phone, the quickest charge time out of any of our tests. Pros Outstanding charge times on certain devices Cons No charger included Doesn't support Apple's 7.5W charging mode Buy now at Amazon $14.97 from Walmart

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What You Should Know About Wireless Chargers How Does a Wireless Charger Work? Credit: Reviewed / Naidin Concul-Ticas Better living through magnetism. A wireless charger works by creating a quickly alternating magnetic field with a coil inside the charger. A similar coil inside the smartphone picks up this magnetic field and converts it back into electrical energy, which is used to charge the battery. Because this magnetic field passes through the air, you don’t need a charging cable. And, because the field can also go through most materials, the phone can typically stay in its case while charging. Although they are convenient, wireless chargers have their downsides. Most need to be plugged into an electrical socket via a wall adapter to work unless they come with a built-in battery, like the Mophie Powerstation Wireless External Battery Charger for Qi Enabled Smartphones. They won’t work with some thicker phone cases, and some are finicky about where you place your device in relation to the wireless charger’s coils. If you miss the right spot, your phone won’t charge, or will charge very slowly. Wireless Charging Standards There are a number of wireless charging standards out there. The most widely adopted one, and therefore, the one your smartphone is most likely to use, is a standard called Qi, created by the Wireless Power Consortium. This allows any compatible wireless charger to deliver up to 5 Watts of juice to a Qi-compatible device, like the ones listed here.

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The Best Power Banks for Laptops and Tablets The Best Wireless Headphones The Best Media Streaming Devices iPhone or Android phone won’t charge? Here’s how to fix it

Plugging in a power cable to charge a mobile device? How 20th century of you! These days, thanks to the power of electromagnetism, all of the cool kids are charging their gadgets wirelessly: Drop your smartphone on top of a wireless charging dock and it’ll instantly start powering up—no cables required.

Our favorite wireless charging stand is the Yootech X2 (available at Amazon), a simple, low-cost charger that offers speedy, flexible charging.

The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

The Yootech X2 Wireless Charging Stand offers speedy charging at a reasonable price.

Of all the charging stands we tested for this guide, the Yootech X2 Wireless Charging Stand offered the best combination of fast charging, versatility, and a reasonable price. The X2 charged our Samsung Note 8 in just over 2.5 hours and Apple’s iPhone XS in just under three. Its dual charging coils make it possible to charge your smartphone in either landscape or portrait orientation, without any loss in charging power. Plus, its small footprint means that it won’t take up much space on your bedside table or bureau.

Missing, however, is a USB charger, so you’ll have to consider this additional cost as part of the X2’s total purchase price if you don’t have one already.

Fast charging   
  
 Works across multiple smartphone brands   
  
 Doesn't come with a USB charger

The Tylt Twisty is an attractive charging stand, built on a carved wooden base. Attached to this is the plastic top, which is where the twist comes in. Literally: spin this around and it rotates from the phone sitting horizontally to sitting at a 30-degree angle. That puts the phone at just enough of a tilt that you can roll over and see what time it is without raising your head too much. A soft, plastic ring on the top stops the phone from sliding off, and a small white LED lets you know when charging starts.

Charging was pretty speedy: my iPhone XS took two hours and 53 minutes to charge, while the Samsung Note 8 took two hours and 56 minutes.

The Twisty’s aesthetic is unique, but this device doesn’t come cheap.

Carved wooden base   
  
 Keeps your phone in place   
  
 Fast charge times   
  
 None that we could find

What do you get if you cross a beer mat and a wireless charger? Something like the Tylt Puck, a pricey wireless charger that combines cork and plastic into one smart-looking package. On the bottom of the 0.9-inch thick puck is a cork base, which should stop both your bedside table from being scratched and soak up any spills. On the top of the puck is the white plastic cover that the wireless charger sits under. Plonk your phone on the top and a small, inconspicuous white LED lights up to let you know that charging has begun. We did find, however, that the top of this charger was somewhat slick: even a slight tap on the phone sent it sliding off the charger or moved it so that the charging process stopped.

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It certainly looks cool, but at $45, you seem to be paying a lot more for looks then performance. Not that there’s anything wrong with things looking nice, but is double the price of other chargers that do just as good a job worth it? Probably not.

Soft, tasteful cork base   
  
 Supports all three charging modes   
  
 Slick charging area   
  
 Average charging times

Want a no-frills wireless charging pad with a little blinky LED charm? The F500 has it. When you plonk your phone onto this small, svelte charging pad, a ring of green LEDs around the edge light up. After about 30 seconds the lights dim, so you’ll know that the phone is charging but you won’t be blinded by them. It took three hours to charge the iPhone XS and just over three and a quarter hours to charge the Samsung note 8: decent, but not overly fast time.

What you don’t get with this wireless charger is a USB power adapter, so factor the extra cost of an appropriate one into your sums. It was also a little slower to charge than some others, taking just under three hours to charge both the Note and the iPhone XS in our tests.

Easy-to-read LED cues   
  
 Solid charge times   
  
 No USB power adapter included

The Belkin Wireless Charging stand looks more like a piece of geometric sculpture than a charger. Aesthetics aside, this black plastic stand is large, but it does the job: We found that it charged both our test Samsung Note 8 and iPhone XS in decent times: just over two and a half hours and three hours 18 minutes, respectively. The unusual design of the Bold stand also allows you to sit the phone in landscape orientation: a plus if you like to lie in bed and watch movies while you doze off.

One interesting thing to note is that this charger doesn’t use a USB cable: Instead, it uses an old-school barrel plug and a dedicated wall charger. While that means it can handle the higher power 7.5W and 10W modes without issues, it also means that it is useless if you take the charger with you on a trip but forget the power adapter: You can’t plug it into a USB port on your computer.

Good charge times   
  
 The stand design is nice for video   
  
 No USB support

The Belkin Bold Wireless Charging Pad goes for an Apple-like aesthetic but doesn’t quite pull it off. For one thing, at 0.64 inches thick and 3.7 inches wide, it feels too big and clumsy to be an Apple product. There are some nice touches though: a ring of soft rubber on the top that stops the phone from getting scratched and the soft rubber base that keeps it steady and doesn’t scratch the surface it is on.

Its performance was lackluster: it took over three hours to charge the Note 8. Most of the other chargers we tested completed the task in about 30 minutes less time. Performance with the iPhone XS was better, however: it took three hours and 18 minutes to fully charge it.

Rubber ring that prevents damage to your phone   
  
 Large and unwieldy   
  
 Lackluster performance

The Anker PowerPort pad is a blocky stand with a single LED on the bottom. It looks cheap and, to be fair, it is cheap; it was one of the least expensive chargers we tested.

The PowerPort includes a USB cable, but no charger. This means that you’ll have to buy a QuickCharge USB power adapter if you are using it away from your computer, which will add to the charging pad’s total purchase price.

There is no support for the Apple 7.5W charging mode, but in tests, we found that it didn’t make that much difference, taking three hours and 18 minutes to charge an iPhone XS. The Samsung Note 8 was another matter: It took just two hours and 20 minutes to charge the large battery of this Android phone, the quickest charge time out of any of our tests.

Outstanding charge times on certain devices   
  
 No charger included   
  
 Doesn't support Apple's 7.5W charging mode

Better living through magnetism.

A wireless charger works by creating a quickly alternating magnetic field with a coil inside the charger. A similar coil inside the smartphone picks up this magnetic field and converts it back into electrical energy, which is used to charge the battery. Because this magnetic field passes through the air, you don’t need a charging cable. And, because the field can also go through most materials, the phone can typically stay in its case while charging.

Although they are convenient, wireless chargers have their downsides. Most need to be plugged into an electrical socket via a wall adapter to work unless they come with a built-in battery, like the Mophie Powerstation Wireless External Battery Charger for Qi Enabled Smartphones. They won’t work with some thicker phone cases, and some are finicky about where you place your device in relation to the wireless charger’s coils. If you miss the right spot, your phone won’t charge, or will charge very slowly.

There are a number of wireless charging standards out there. The most widely adopted one, and therefore, the one your smartphone is most likely to use, is a standard called Qi, created by the Wireless Power Consortium. This allows any compatible wireless charger to deliver up to 5 Watts of juice to a Qi-compatible device, like the ones listed here.

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# The Best Front-load Washers of 2022

## The Testers

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

This excellent washer tops our best list, and it should top yours. It boasts remarkable cleaning prowess, and is easy to use and see.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 In addition to stellar cleaning performance and loads of features, this LG is one of the most water- and energy-efficient washers we've tested.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Boasts great form and function. LG has cleverly designed its angled basin so that it's easier to unload without having to bend over as much. It also has an extremely quiet operation.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This 4.5-cu.-ft. front-load washer packs a lot of cleaning power into its price point and works with Google Assistant.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Maytag MHW8630HC is a powerful washer that lets you do laundry on your terms. It's 5.0-cu.-ft. drum can handle just about anything.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated October 10, 2022

While top-load washers might have nostalgia factor for some consumers, many have embraced the front-load washer. It’s true that front-loaders have come a long way since their inception: Modern models run more efficiently and get clothes cleaner when compared to top-loaders. Best of all, most front-load washers embrace both form and function, and often have neat features and beautiful finishes to complement their strong cleaning performance. Once you’ve decided to buy (or replace) a front-load washer, your next step is to actually pick one out. The process of selecting a front-loader can be daunting since every major appliance manufacturer makes at least one front-load washer. This is where we come in: We’ve compiled a list of the best front-load washers available on the market today. Our current favorite front-load washer is the Electrolux ELFW7637AT (available at Best Buy for $1,099.99) because of its incredible cleaning performance and stain removal, a sprinting speed cycle, and a nifty detergent pod dispenser.

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Editor’s Note Due to supply chain challenges and soaring demand, there is widespread unavailability of home appliances and long wait times for delivery of backordered product. If you’re a consumer in need of a washer or dryer, here are the best places to buy in-stock appliances right now.

Credit: Reviewed / Jonathan Chan The front-loading ELFW7637AT has excellent stain removal performance, a detergent pod dispenser, and a 15-minute Fast wash.

Best Overall Electrolux ELFW7637AT The Electrolux ELFW7637AT checks all the right boxes. First and foremost, it’s a great washing machine. During testing, we found that it can deal with various stains, from protein to oil. The internal water heater also adds a lot of versatility, allowing you to sanitize clothing of common diseases, like E. coli, get rid of allergens, and help keep your whites as bright as can be. Secondly, the ELFW7637AT comes equipped with plenty of features that just make life better. For example, instead of tossing Tide pods in the drum where soap won’t get evenly distributed, this washer has a special spot for them in the detergent drawer. There are also options like Extended Refresh that will tumble laundry after a cycle is finished to keep it from getting musty. Finally, this Electrolux just has a great fit and finish. You can tell that the manufacturing is well done by the clean text on the control panel and the satisfying click on the dial. After all our testing, we also think the Electrolux ELFW7637AT is perfect for most families. It has the drum capacity, cleaning performance, and features to cover all the major laundry bases. That’s why it takes the top spot in our washing machine rankings. Pros Extraordinary cleaning power Has its own internal heater Easy-to-read controls Cons A few slow cycles Occasionally smelly gasket $1,099.99 from Best Buy $1,220.00 from Home Depot

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Other Front-load Washers We Tested LG WM3700HWA We love LG front loader washing machines, and the LG WM3700HWA is one of the reasons why. In addition to its stellar cleaning performance, it’s also one of the most water- and energy-efficient washers we’ve tested. With a dizzying array of features, including an Allergiene cycle that combats pet dander, to the Add Garments button, which allows you to easily pause the cycle and throw in more laundry, it’s not surprising that we found this washer to be a people-pleaser. Even better, the WM3700HWA has a door stop that props the door open after a cycle finishes to help the door gasket dry. This feature may seem minor, but allowing the gasket proper time to dry can prevent mold growth that results in terrible smells. One thing to consider is that the control panel isn’t backlit, so to prevent eyestrain, we recommend this washer for well-lit laundry rooms, rather than sparsely-lit basements. That shouldn’t be a problem though, since this washer’s performance and energy savings mean you’ll be dying to show it off to anyone who drops by. Matching dryer: LG DLEX3700W Pros Many customizations Easy to use Door stopper lets gasket dry Cons Hard-to-read control panel Delicate cycle has high water retention $699.99 from Best Buy

LG WM9000HVA With a steam cycle, a sanitizing wash, and a large 5.2-cubic-foot capacity, the giant LG WM9000HVA has a unique, sleek look that will class up a laundry room. Despite knowing that its 29-inch width is 2 inches wider than most other washers, we were impressed by how much this front-load washer could fit—and how well it cleaned. The Heavy cycle removed about 81% of the stains in our test, which makes it one of the highest performing washers we've ever tested when it comes to stain removal. If you've got a lot of laundry to do, this LG will make short work of it. Since it's compatible with LG's TwinWash system, you can do two loads at once if you need to. Plus, it boasts both great form and function. LG has cleverly designed this washer to have an angled basin so that it's easier to unload it without having to bend over as much. It also has an extremely quiet operation; not only does it look like a fashion statement in your laundry room, but it won't disrupt conversation in the next room over. Matching dryer: LG DLEX9000V Pros Fast cycles Well-above-average stain removal Efficient with power Cons Unimpressive smart app $1,799.99 from Best Buy

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LG WM3500CW If you want a lot of bang for your buck, then the 4.5-cubic-foot LG WM3500CW is the front-load washer for you. Like most LG washers, you can customize each part of the cycle, from the timing, to the amount of spin, to the level of soil on your clothes. This washer did stellar in our lab tests; its stain-removal capabilities has it cleaning as well as or better than more expensive washers. The Cold Wash feature makes it easy for you to save money on your utility bills, and if you're going to be away from home for a while, the Fresh Care feature continues to tumble your clean laundry so that it doesn't sit and get stale in the washer. Last but not least, this washer works with Google Assistant. You could, in fact, turn your washer on with a voice command. The LG WM3500CW packs great cleaning performance and neat features into a relatively small price tag. Matching dryer: LG DLE3500W Pros Many customizations Excellent stain removal on all cycles Voice control with Google Assistant Cons No internal water heater Slower Normal cycle $899.99 from Best Buy   
  
 Maytag MHW8630HC Combining excellent stain removal ability, a massive drum, and a plethora of features, the MHW8630HC is the best Maytag washer we’ve tested to date. The Heavy Duty cycle aced our cleaning tests, dealing with everything from red wine to oil. We also appreciated the MHW8630HC’s internal water heater. With it, the Sanitize cycle achieved temperatures of around 130°F, allowing you to easily eliminate the most common illness-causing bacteria. Cleaning alone does not make a great washer. This Maytag also makes the chore of doing laundry easier. It has an automatic detergent dispenser that holds soap for up to eight loads so you don’t need to keep busting out the bottle. In addition, the MHW8630HC comes with Fresh Hold and Overnight Wash & Dry. Both these features tumble the drum after a wash has finished, which means that for full-sized loads, it keeps a musty odor from developing or can wash and dry a shirt or two. Pros Power Heavy Duty cycle High number of features Streamlined controls Cons Expensive Slow cycles Buy now at Appliances Connection

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LG WM4500 If you need to get through tons of laundry, the LG WM4500HBA should be your go-to front-loader. Its huge 5-cubic-foot drum will help you tumble through piles of dirty clothes, and its automatic detergent and fabric softener dispensers only need to be refilled every 18 cycles. It also has some nice smart features, like remote start and notifications, which can help with accessibility (or for those of us who set a cycle going and then completely forget about it). The WM4500HBA has average cleaning performance, which is more than enough for lightly-soiled laundry, but it might struggle with scrubbing out significant stains. Still, we believe this machine succeeds at what it's trying to do, which is clean lots of laundry very quickly. As such, we'd mainly recommend this washer for large families, those who pile up their beds with comforters or warm blankets, or anyone who has trouble keeping up with the sheer volume of their laundry. Matching dryer: LG DLEX4500B Pros Large capacity drum Fast cycle times Smart features Cons Average cleaning power Expensive $1,349.99 from Best Buy $1,348.00 from Home Depot $1,349.00 from Abt   
  
 LG WM8100HVA The LG WM8100HVA is a great-looking washer with a graphite steel finish, clean lines, and curved edges. Beyond its looks, this LG is also just a solid washer. When it comes to scrubbing out stubborn stains, it’s better than average. Its spin cycle is pretty good at removing excess water, which makes for quicker and cheaper drying. Its 5.2-cubic-foot capacity drum accommodates large loads of laundry—an asset for families. The cherry on top: It finishes most cycles very, very fast. It also has some great extra features, like steam cleaning and a sanitize cycle for particularly gross garments. If that weren’t enough it’s also covered by a pretty robust warranty. The one sticking point—as so very often is the case—is its price point. While we think the LG WM8100HVA is a great washer that just about everybody would be happy to have in their laundry room, we also have to point out you can find similarly great performance and features from models that cost hundreds of dollars less. Matching dryer: LG DLEX8100V Pros Good cleaning Low water retention Steam features Cons Not very gentle Expensive $1,199.00 from Abt

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Samsung WF45R6300AV If you want a workhorse front-load washing machine that has fast cycles and is both tough on stains and gentle with delicates, look no further than the Samsung WF45R6300AV. Like most Samsung washing machines, it has a dizzying array of cycles and cycle options, but the ones that stands out the most are the Sanitize cycle, which gets hot enough to kill all sorts of germs and bacteria, and the No Spin option, which is the best and safest choice for delicate clothes like sports gear, lingerie, bathing suits, and blouses. The WF45R6300AV is no slouch when it comes to stain removal; the Heavy and Normal cycles are among the best cycles we've ever tested in our labs, hands down. The Quick Wash cycle is effective as well, but the best part of the Quick Wash cycle is its short run time of 28 minutes. If you're a big believer in smart home gadgetry and the Internet of Things, this Bixby-enabled washer won't disappoint. You can get alerts on your phone when a cycle finishes, and download a cycle from Samsung's cycle library that matches your exact stain needs. For a washer that gets the job done right the first time and has useful extra features, be sure to check out the Samsung WF45R6300AV. Matching dryer: Samsung DVE45R6300V Pros Great at stain removal Gentle on fabrics Bixby-enabled Cons Hard-to-read control panel Buy now at Samsung $1,079.00 from Samsung Buy now at Home Depot   
  
 Samsung WF42H5000AW With its lower upfront cost, it's no surprise that the Samsung WF42H5000AW is pretty bare bones. However, you'll be pleasantly surprised to fine that this washer, which has a fairly average cleaning performance in general, also has an absolutely stellar Heavy Duty cycle that blasted stains away. There are a number of extra wash and cycle options, but the panel is legible and easy to navigate. The WF42H5000AW isn't a fancy washer by any definition, but it will clean your clothes without a lot of extra fuss, and that's all you need. Matching dryer: Samsung DV42H5000EW Pros Excellent stain removal on Heavy Duty cycle Easy-to-use control panel Cons Bare bones machine $719.99 from Best Buy   
  
 Maytag MHW6630HC Long-time fans of Maytag washing machines won’t be disappointed with the Maytag MHW6630HC. In addition to the Normal and Heavy cycles, which both have very strong cleaning performances, this washer also has a speedy, highly effective 13-minute-long Quick cycle. While our testing indicates that this washer is less gentle with clothes than we’d hoped, we think that the MHW6630HC makes up for it with some neat features. You can’t go wrong with a steam option, an extended tumble cycle to keep post-wash clothes from clumping and wrinkling, and the “Extra Power” button, which can help get tough stains out of family-sized loads of laundry. If you need tough stains removed in a short time span, check out the Maytag MHW6630HC front-load washer. Matching dryer: Maytag MED6630HC Pros Streamlined interface Strong cleaning performance Fast Quick cycle Cons HIgher than average wear and tear on Normal and Delicates cycles $1,079.99 from Best Buy Buy now at Home Depot $1,079.00 from Abt   
  
 Samsung WF45R6100AW There’s a lot to like about the Samsung WF45R6100AW washer. Not only does it have an amazing number of cycle options (water temperature, load dirtiness, number of rinses, etc.), but its Heavy cycle is near-perfect, and one of the best stain removing cycles we’ve ever seen during lab testing. While we found that this washer was a little harder, wear-and-tear-wise, on clothes than we usually prefer, we think that the trade-off with its amazing stain removal ability is worth it. Like all of the more recent Samsung front-load washers, the WF45R6100AW has one additional feature that you’ll really appreciate: instead of having one or two specific steam cycles, this washer uses steam cleaning in half of the available cycles, including Normal, Heavy, and Sanitize. If you need a washer to tackle your toughest, dirtiest laundry, the WF45R6100AW won’t let you down. Matching dryer: Samsung DVE45R6100W Pros Great cleaning performance Intuitive controls Cons Adds a lot of wear and tear to clothes $899.00 from Samsung $629.99 from Best Buy $898.00 from Home Depot $729.00 from Abt   
  
 GE GFW850SPNRS The GE GFW850SPNRS is a feature-packed, high-performing washing machine that won’t break the bank. This washer debuts GE’s take on the smelly washing machine problem, which involves a door gasket that incorporates Microban antibacterial materials and a through-door vent system that doubles as a dryer for small laundry loads. With built-in WiFi, a reversible door, a stunning sapphire blue finish, automatic detergent dispensing, and a steam cycle, this washer is really pushing the envelope when it comes to useful features. While the features are nice, what you really need in a washer is performance, and this washing machine doesn’t disappoint. Its stain removal abilities were strong across the board for the four cycles we tested (Normal, PowerWash, Quick Wash, and Delicates), and it exhibited relatively low wear and tear on our test laundry. Its 21-minute-long Quick Wash cycle will get your laundry clean in the blink of an eye. For a washing machine that’s tough on stains and that you won’t mind showing off to visitors, check out the GE GFW850SPNRS. Matching dryer: GE GFD85ESPNRS Pros Good stain removal Venting system controls odors Excellent sanitize feature Cons Poor Quick Dry and Bulky/Bedding cycle Expensive $1,099.99 from Best Buy $1,098.00 from Home Depot $1,094.00 from Abt   
  
 Whirlpool WFW9620HC Younger, tech-savvy families will definitely appreciate the Whirlpool WFW9620HC washer. With its automatic detergent dispenser, touchscreen control panel, and large 5.0-cu.-ft. capacity, you’ll be able to get a lot of laundry done in very little time. Additionally, for those who want to be able to monitor your laundry without checking on it manually, you can easily start, stop, and track the cycles for this smart washer in the Whirlpool app. For the most bang for your buck, use the Normal cycle, which did a good job of cleaning our test load, and only took about 40 minutes to finish. While the Quick cycle didn’t do as well cleaning-wise, it clocked in at a shockingly short 13 minutes; if you only need to wash a couple of lightly-soiled outfits, this washer will get you out the door in record time. While it still left the clothes a bit damper than we were expecting at the end of the cycle, well, that’s what a dryer is for. If you want a washer that does its best to solve common laundry pain points, the Whirlpool WFW9620HC may be the right washer for you. Matching dryer: Whirlpool WED9620HC Pros Very fast quick wash Intuitive app Cons Cycles finish with very wet laundry Not very gentle Expensive Buy now at Home Depot   
  
 Kenmore Elite 41983 In the laundry world, Kenmore only gives its "Elite" badge to the best of the best. The Kenmore Elite 41983 lives up to its moniker in every sense of the word. This 5.2-cubic-foot washer is amazingly fast, needing just 30 minutes for a Normal cycle, and 18 minutes for a Quick cycle. Not only is it fast, but it cleans well. Another clever feature that's included is Stay Fresh: The machine continues to gently tumble your laundry load for up to 19 hours after a cycle has finished so that your clothes don't dry in a clump if you can't get to the washing machine in time. Matching dryer: Kenmore Elite 81983 Pros Excels at stain removal Fast cycle times WiFi connectivity Cons Pricey $1,899.00 from Sears   
  
 Whirlpool WFW6620HW If you’re in the market for a closet-depth washer, the Whirlpool WFW6620HW is a great choice. Its cleaning performance is on point, especially when you access the Sanitize and Steam options. For a washer in its price range, the WFW6620HW is jam packed with special features. It also has unique cycle selection where you choose "what to wash" and "how to wash it," which might be a more intuitive system for some. Our one caveat: make sure that the machine is perfectly level during installation. Otherwise, the vibrations and noise might sour your experience. Matching dryer: Whirlpool WED6620HW Pros Can automatically dispense detergent Dozens of wash cycles Can achieve high temperatures Cons Detergent residue Can rattle while in operation $879.99 from Best Buy Buy now at Home Depot

How We Tested Front-load Washers The Testers Hi there! We’re Reviewed’s appliance testing team. Between us, we’ve spent many years testing major appliances including washers, dryers, refrigerators, and dishwashers. We have plenty of experience testing these products in the lab, but we’ve also used them like normal people would in the course of their daily lives, which means that we have a great sense for what appliances are bargains at their price points, and which appliances have really useful extra features (as opposed to the kitchen-sink approach to features). The Tests Every washing machine that comes into Reviewed’s labs gets put through the same testing regimen, which addresses both performance and user-friendliness. We test for stain removal power, wear and tear on clothes, water retention and the spin cycle, and cycle duration. The best washers have solid stain removal abilities, do not damage your clothes, retain little water, and have short cycle times. Beyond these performance tests, we also assess the usability of each washing machine. Our main goal is to get the answer to one question: How easy is it to actually use this washing machine? By combining the performance data with our own observations, we can make solid recommendations for someone looking for any type of washing machine at any price point. What You Should Know About Buying Front-load Washers Credit: Reviewed.com / Jackson Ruckar  
Front-load washers are exactly what they sound like—instead of lifting up your washer’s lid and arranging your clothes in a circle around a pole agitator or impeller, the door opens from the front, and you put your laundry in from the side of the machine. Where you put your laundry may not seem like a big deal, but it really makes a difference in terms of the appliance’s engineering. Additionally, front-loaders tend to outpace top-loaders when it comes to cleaning performance and efficiency.  
Are front-load washers better cleaners than top-load washers? Some studies, including our own, indicate that front-loaders may do a better job at cleaning dirty laundry than top-load washers do. This may have to do with the dynamics of a horizontally-oriented washer drum: in a top-loader, stains are removed from clothes by being in contact with the pole agitator (the big spiral column in the middle), the outside of the washer drum, or rubbing against other nearby laundry. In a front-loader, the stain removal happens when clothing interacts with the wash drum and when it spins to the top of the wash drum and then falls down onto the laundry at the bottom of the drum. Because each piece of laundry will go through this process multiple times, there’s an increased likelihood that stains will be removed from all of your laundry. Is a front-load washer efficient? Unlike a top-load washer, a front-load washer does not have to fill a tub with water. Because the drum is oriented horizontally, the washer relies on the fact that your load of laundry is going to be mingling with all of the other laundry a lot, whether they’re spun on the drum together or whether they’re squished together when wet laundry falls from the top of the wash drum. Front-loaders use water much more efficiently than top-loaders, because all they have to do is spray water while spinning the drum. This gets all of the clothes wet in two ways: firstly, most of the clothes will get wet because of the water spray, and secondly, those that don’t get hit with the initial spray will absorb water from other wet clothes during the spinning-and-falling process. By using less water in each wash cycle, front-loaders are typically more efficient (i.e. they cost less to operate on a per cycle and per year basis) than top-load washers.

More Articles You May Enjoy

The Best Top-load Washers The Best Front-load Washers Under $1000 The Best Washer and Dryer Sets Why your washing machine smells—and how to clean it

While top-load washers might have nostalgia factor for some consumers, many have embraced the front-load washer. It’s true that front-loaders have come a long way since their inception: Modern models run more efficiently and get clothes cleaner when compared to top-loaders. Best of all, most front-load washers embrace both form and function, and often have neat features and beautiful finishes to complement their strong cleaning performance.

Once you’ve decided to buy (or replace) a front-load washer, your next step is to actually pick one out. The process of selecting a front-loader can be daunting since every major appliance manufacturer makes at least one front-load washer.

This is where we come in: We’ve compiled a list of the best front-load washers available on the market today.

Our current favorite front-load washer is the Electrolux ELFW7637AT (available at Best Buy for $1,099.99) because of its incredible cleaning performance and stain removal, a sprinting speed cycle, and a nifty detergent pod dispenser.

Due to supply chain challenges and soaring demand, there is widespread unavailability of home appliances and long wait times for delivery of backordered product. If you’re a consumer in need of a washer or dryer, here are the best places to buy in-stock appliances right now.

The front-loading ELFW7637AT has excellent stain removal performance, a detergent pod dispenser, and a 15-minute Fast wash.

The Electrolux ELFW7637AT checks all the right boxes. First and foremost, it’s a great washing machine. During testing, we found that it can deal with various stains, from protein to oil. The internal water heater also adds a lot of versatility, allowing you to sanitize clothing of common diseases, like E. coli, get rid of allergens, and help keep your whites as bright as can be.

Secondly, the ELFW7637AT comes equipped with plenty of features that just make life better. For example, instead of tossing Tide pods in the drum where soap won’t get evenly distributed, this washer has a special spot for them in the detergent drawer. There are also options like Extended Refresh that will tumble laundry after a cycle is finished to keep it from getting musty.

Finally, this Electrolux just has a great fit and finish. You can tell that the manufacturing is well done by the clean text on the control panel and the satisfying click on the dial.

After all our testing, we also think the Electrolux ELFW7637AT is perfect for most families. It has the drum capacity, cleaning performance, and features to cover all the major laundry bases. That’s why it takes the top spot in our washing machine rankings.

Extraordinary cleaning power   
  
 Has its own internal heater   
  
 Easy-to-read controls   
  
 A few slow cycles   
  
 Occasionally smelly gasket

We love LG front loader washing machines, and the LG WM3700HWA is one of the reasons why. In addition to its stellar cleaning performance, it’s also one of the most water- and energy-efficient washers we’ve tested. With a dizzying array of features, including an Allergiene cycle that combats pet dander, to the Add Garments button, which allows you to easily pause the cycle and throw in more laundry, it’s not surprising that we found this washer to be a people-pleaser.

Even better, the WM3700HWA has a door stop that props the door open after a cycle finishes to help the door gasket dry. This feature may seem minor, but allowing the gasket proper time to dry can prevent mold growth that results in terrible smells. One thing to consider is that the control panel isn’t backlit, so to prevent eyestrain, we recommend this washer for well-lit laundry rooms, rather than sparsely-lit basements. That shouldn’t be a problem though, since this washer’s performance and energy savings mean you’ll be dying to show it off to anyone who drops by.

Matching dryer: LG DLEX3700W

Many customizations   
  
 Easy to use   
  
 Door stopper lets gasket dry   
  
 Hard-to-read control panel   
  
 Delicate cycle has high water retention

With a steam cycle, a sanitizing wash, and a large 5.2-cubic-foot capacity, the giant LG WM9000HVA has a unique, sleek look that will class up a laundry room. Despite knowing that its 29-inch width is 2 inches wider than most other washers, we were impressed by how much this front-load washer could fit—and how well it cleaned. The Heavy cycle removed about 81% of the stains in our test, which makes it one of the highest performing washers we’ve ever tested when it comes to stain removal.

If you’ve got a lot of laundry to do, this LG will make short work of it. Since it’s compatible with LG’s TwinWash system, you can do two loads at once if you need to. Plus, it boasts both great form and function. LG has cleverly designed this washer to have an angled basin so that it’s easier to unload it without having to bend over as much. It also has an extremely quiet operation; not only does it look like a fashion statement in your laundry room, but it won’t disrupt conversation in the next room over.

Matching dryer: LG DLEX9000V

Fast cycles   
  
 Well-above-average stain removal   
  
 Efficient with power   
  
 Unimpressive smart app

If you want a lot of bang for your buck, then the 4.5-cubic-foot LG WM3500CW is the front-load washer for you. Like most LG washers, you can customize each part of the cycle, from the timing, to the amount of spin, to the level of soil on your clothes. This washer did stellar in our lab tests; its stain-removal capabilities has it cleaning as well as or better than more expensive washers.

The Cold Wash feature makes it easy for you to save money on your utility bills, and if you’re going to be away from home for a while, the Fresh Care feature continues to tumble your clean laundry so that it doesn’t sit and get stale in the washer. Last but not least, this washer works with Google Assistant. You could, in fact, turn your washer on with a voice command. The LG WM3500CW packs great cleaning performance and neat features into a relatively small price tag.

Matching dryer: LG DLE3500W

Many customizations   
  
 Excellent stain removal on all cycles   
  
 Voice control with Google Assistant   
  
 No internal water heater   
  
 Slower Normal cycle

Combining excellent stain removal ability, a massive drum, and a plethora of features, the MHW8630HC is the best Maytag washer we’ve tested to date. The Heavy Duty cycle aced our cleaning tests, dealing with everything from red wine to oil. We also appreciated the MHW8630HC’s internal water heater. With it, the Sanitize cycle achieved temperatures of around 130°F, allowing you to easily eliminate the most common illness-causing bacteria.

Cleaning alone does not make a great washer. This Maytag also makes the chore of doing laundry easier. It has an automatic detergent dispenser that holds soap for up to eight loads so you don’t need to keep busting out the bottle. In addition, the MHW8630HC comes with Fresh Hold and Overnight Wash & Dry. Both these features tumble the drum after a wash has finished, which means that for full-sized loads, it keeps a musty odor from developing or can wash and dry a shirt or two.

Power Heavy Duty cycle   
  
 High number of features   
  
 Streamlined controls   
  
 Expensive   
  
 Slow cycles

If you need to get through tons of laundry, the LG WM4500HBA should be your go-to front-loader. Its huge 5-cubic-foot drum will help you tumble through piles of dirty clothes, and its automatic detergent and fabric softener dispensers only need to be refilled every 18 cycles. It also has some nice smart features, like remote start and notifications, which can help with accessibility (or for those of us who set a cycle going and then completely forget about it).

The WM4500HBA has average cleaning performance, which is more than enough for lightly-soiled laundry, but it might struggle with scrubbing out significant stains. Still, we believe this machine succeeds at what it’s trying to do, which is clean lots of laundry very quickly. As such, we’d mainly recommend this washer for large families, those who pile up their beds with comforters or warm blankets, or anyone who has trouble keeping up with the sheer volume of their laundry.

Matching dryer: LG DLEX4500B

Large capacity drum   
  
 Fast cycle times   
  
 Smart features   
  
 Average cleaning power   
  
 Expensive

The LG WM8100HVA is a great-looking washer with a graphite steel finish, clean lines, and curved edges.

Beyond its looks, this LG is also just a solid washer. When it comes to scrubbing out stubborn stains, it’s better than average. Its spin cycle is pretty good at removing excess water, which makes for quicker and cheaper drying. Its 5.2-cubic-foot capacity drum accommodates large loads of laundry—an asset for families. The cherry on top: It finishes most cycles very, very fast.

It also has some great extra features, like steam cleaning and a sanitize cycle for particularly gross garments. If that weren’t enough it’s also covered by a pretty robust warranty.

The one sticking point—as so very often is the case—is its price point. While we think the LG WM8100HVA is a great washer that just about everybody would be happy to have in their laundry room, we also have to point out you can find similarly great performance and features from models that cost hundreds of dollars less.

Matching dryer: LG DLEX8100V

Good cleaning   
  
 Low water retention   
  
 Steam features   
  
 Not very gentle   
  
 Expensive

If you want a workhorse front-load washing machine that has fast cycles and is both tough on stains and gentle with delicates, look no further than the Samsung WF45R6300AV. Like most Samsung washing machines, it has a dizzying array of cycles and cycle options, but the ones that stands out the most are the Sanitize cycle, which gets hot enough to kill all sorts of germs and bacteria, and the No Spin option, which is the best and safest choice for delicate clothes like sports gear, lingerie, bathing suits, and blouses.

The WF45R6300AV is no slouch when it comes to stain removal; the Heavy and Normal cycles are among the best cycles we’ve ever tested in our labs, hands down. The Quick Wash cycle is effective as well, but the best part of the Quick Wash cycle is its short run time of 28 minutes. If you’re a big believer in smart home gadgetry and the Internet of Things, this Bixby-enabled washer won’t disappoint. You can get alerts on your phone when a cycle finishes, and download a cycle from Samsung’s cycle library that matches your exact stain needs. For a washer that gets the job done right the first time and has useful extra features, be sure to check out the Samsung WF45R6300AV.

Matching dryer: Samsung DVE45R6300V

Great at stain removal   
  
 Gentle on fabrics   
  
 Bixby-enabled   
  
 Hard-to-read control panel

With its lower upfront cost, it’s no surprise that the Samsung WF42H5000AW is pretty bare bones. However, you’ll be pleasantly surprised to fine that this washer, which has a fairly average cleaning performance in general, also has an absolutely stellar Heavy Duty cycle that blasted stains away.

There are a number of extra wash and cycle options, but the panel is legible and easy to navigate. The WF42H5000AW isn’t a fancy washer by any definition, but it will clean your clothes without a lot of extra fuss, and that’s all you need.

Matching dryer: Samsung DV42H5000EW

Excellent stain removal on Heavy Duty cycle   
  
 Easy-to-use control panel   
  
 Bare bones machine

Long-time fans of Maytag washing machines won’t be disappointed with the Maytag MHW6630HC. In addition to the Normal and Heavy cycles, which both have very strong cleaning performances, this washer also has a speedy, highly effective 13-minute-long Quick cycle.

While our testing indicates that this washer is less gentle with clothes than we’d hoped, we think that the MHW6630HC makes up for it with some neat features. You can’t go wrong with a steam option, an extended tumble cycle to keep post-wash clothes from clumping and wrinkling, and the “Extra Power” button, which can help get tough stains out of family-sized loads of laundry. If you need tough stains removed in a short time span, check out the Maytag MHW6630HC front-load washer.

Matching dryer: Maytag MED6630HC

Streamlined interface   
  
 Strong cleaning performance   
  
 Fast Quick cycle   
  
 HIgher than average wear and tear on Normal and Delicates cycles

There’s a lot to like about the Samsung WF45R6100AW washer. Not only does it have an amazing number of cycle options (water temperature, load dirtiness, number of rinses, etc.), but its Heavy cycle is near-perfect, and one of the best stain removing cycles we’ve ever seen during lab testing. While we found that this washer was a little harder, wear-and-tear-wise, on clothes than we usually prefer, we think that the trade-off with its amazing stain removal ability is worth it.

Like all of the more recent Samsung front-load washers, the WF45R6100AW has one additional feature that you’ll really appreciate: instead of having one or two specific steam cycles, this washer uses steam cleaning in half of the available cycles, including Normal, Heavy, and Sanitize. If you need a washer to tackle your toughest, dirtiest laundry, the WF45R6100AW won’t let you down.

Matching dryer: Samsung DVE45R6100W

Great cleaning performance   
  
 Intuitive controls   
  
 Adds a lot of wear and tear to clothes

The GE GFW850SPNRS is a feature-packed, high-performing washing machine that won’t break the bank. This washer debuts GE’s take on the smelly washing machine problem, which involves a door gasket that incorporates Microban antibacterial materials and a through-door vent system that doubles as a dryer for small laundry loads. With built-in WiFi, a reversible door, a stunning sapphire blue finish, automatic detergent dispensing, and a steam cycle, this washer is really pushing the envelope when it comes to useful features.

While the features are nice, what you really need in a washer is performance, and this washing machine doesn’t disappoint. Its stain removal abilities were strong across the board for the four cycles we tested (Normal, PowerWash, Quick Wash, and Delicates), and it exhibited relatively low wear and tear on our test laundry. Its 21-minute-long Quick Wash cycle will get your laundry clean in the blink of an eye. For a washing machine that’s tough on stains and that you won’t mind showing off to visitors, check out the GE GFW850SPNRS.

Matching dryer: GE GFD85ESPNRS

Good stain removal   
  
 Venting system controls odors   
  
 Excellent sanitize feature   
  
 Poor Quick Dry and Bulky/Bedding cycle   
  
 Expensive

Younger, tech-savvy families will definitely appreciate the Whirlpool WFW9620HC washer. With its automatic detergent dispenser, touchscreen control panel, and large 5.0-cu.-ft. capacity, you’ll be able to get a lot of laundry done in very little time. Additionally, for those who want to be able to monitor your laundry without checking on it manually, you can easily start, stop, and track the cycles for this smart washer in the Whirlpool app.

For the most bang for your buck, use the Normal cycle, which did a good job of cleaning our test load, and only took about 40 minutes to finish. While the Quick cycle didn’t do as well cleaning-wise, it clocked in at a shockingly short 13 minutes; if you only need to wash a couple of lightly-soiled outfits, this washer will get you out the door in record time. While it still left the clothes a bit damper than we were expecting at the end of the cycle, well, that’s what a dryer is for. If you want a washer that does its best to solve common laundry pain points, the Whirlpool WFW9620HC may be the right washer for you.

Matching dryer: Whirlpool WED9620HC

Very fast quick wash   
  
 Intuitive app   
  
 Cycles finish with very wet laundry   
  
 Not very gentle   
  
 Expensive

In the laundry world, Kenmore only gives its “Elite” badge to the best of the best. The Kenmore Elite 41983 lives up to its moniker in every sense of the word. This 5.2-cubic-foot washer is amazingly fast, needing just 30 minutes for a Normal cycle, and 18 minutes for a Quick cycle. Not only is it fast, but it cleans well.

Another clever feature that’s included is Stay Fresh: The machine continues to gently tumble your laundry load for up to 19 hours after a cycle has finished so that your clothes don’t dry in a clump if you can’t get to the washing machine in time.

Matching dryer: Kenmore Elite 81983

Excels at stain removal   
  
 Fast cycle times   
  
 WiFi connectivity   
  
 Pricey

If you’re in the market for a closet-depth washer, the Whirlpool WFW6620HW is a great choice. Its cleaning performance is on point, especially when you access the Sanitize and Steam options.

For a washer in its price range, the WFW6620HW is jam packed with special features. It also has unique cycle selection where you choose “what to wash” and “how to wash it,” which might be a more intuitive system for some.

Our one caveat: make sure that the machine is perfectly level during installation. Otherwise, the vibrations and noise might sour your experience.

Matching dryer: Whirlpool WED6620HW

Can automatically dispense detergent   
  
 Dozens of wash cycles   
  
 Can achieve high temperatures   
  
 Detergent residue   
  
 Can rattle while in operation

Hi there! We’re Reviewed’s appliance testing team. Between us, we’ve spent many years testing major appliances including washers, dryers, refrigerators, and dishwashers. We have plenty of experience testing these products in the lab, but we’ve also used them like normal people would in the course of their daily lives, which means that we have a great sense for what appliances are bargains at their price points, and which appliances have really useful extra features (as opposed to the kitchen-sink approach to features).

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By combining the performance data with our own observations, we can make solid recommendations for someone looking for any type of washing machine at any price point.

Front-load washers are exactly what they sound like—instead of lifting up your washer’s lid and arranging your clothes in a circle around a pole agitator or impeller, the door opens from the front, and you put your laundry in from the side of the machine.

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Some studies, including our own, indicate that front-loaders may do a better job at cleaning dirty laundry than top-load washers do. This may have to do with the dynamics of a horizontally-oriented washer drum: in a top-loader, stains are removed from clothes by being in contact with the pole agitator (the big spiral column in the middle), the outside of the washer drum, or rubbing against other nearby laundry.

In a front-loader, the stain removal happens when clothing interacts with the wash drum and when it spins to the top of the wash drum and then falls down onto the laundry at the bottom of the drum. Because each piece of laundry will go through this process multiple times, there’s an increased likelihood that stains will be removed from all of your laundry.

Unlike a top-load washer, a front-load washer does not have to fill a tub with water. Because the drum is oriented horizontally, the washer relies on the fact that your load of laundry is going to be mingling with all of the other laundry a lot, whether they’re spun on the drum together or whether they’re squished together when wet laundry falls from the top of the wash drum.

Front-loaders use water much more efficiently than top-loaders, because all they have to do is spray water while spinning the drum. This gets all of the clothes wet in two ways: firstly, most of the clothes will get wet because of the water spray, and secondly, those that don’t get hit with the initial spray will absorb water from other wet clothes during the spinning-and-falling process.

By using less water in each wash cycle, front-loaders are typically more efficient (i.e. they cost less to operate on a per cycle and per year basis) than top-load washers.

Mark Brezinski  
   
  
  
 Senior Writer

Mark Brezinski is a senior writer with over ten years of experience reviewing consumer tech and home appliances.

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Jonathan Chan  
   
  
  
 Senior Manager of Lab Operations

Jonathan Chan currently serves as the Lab Manager at Reviewed. If you clean with it, it’s likely that Jon oversees its testing. Since joining the Reviewed in 2012, Jon has helped launch the company’s efforts in reviewing laptops, vacuums, and outdoor gear. He thinks he’s a pretty big deal. In the pursuit of data, he’s plunged his hands into freezing cold water, consented to be literally dragged through the mud, and watched paint dry. Jon demands you have a nice day.

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Julia MacDougall  
   
  
  
 Senior Scientist

Julia is the Senior Scientist at Reviewed, which means that she oversees (and continually updates) the testing of products in Reviewed’s core categories such as televisions, washing machines, refrigerators, and more. She also determines the testing methods and standards for Reviewed’s “The Best Right Now” articles.

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# The Best Strollers of 2022

## The Tester

Recommendations are independently chosen by Reviewed’s editors. Purchases made through the links below may earn us and our publishing partners a commission.

Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

The UppaBaby Cruz is wide enough to be stable yet narrow enough to fit easily through doorways.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Of all the strollers we tested, this was the easiest to toss in the trunk and slide next to the entryway’s shoe pile.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The large wheels were the best of any I tried at navigating the rough sidewalks that abound in my neighborhood.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Nuna Mixx Next aims to set itself apart with distinctive design—sometimes at the expense of what actually works for real parents.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The City Mini GT2 has the best folding mechanism of any stroller I’ve used in seven years of parenting.  
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Updated October 5, 2022

Three hundred years ago, the first strollers were invented as a diversion for royalty. But back then, even kings and queens couldn’t get their hands on the kind of rides we have today. Just in the eight years since I was pregnant with my first kid, the market has expanded enormously. I poured over more than 200 of today’s top single strollers for this review then personally tested the eight most-loved models. I can say with certainty that every stroller reviewed here will be the best baby stroller for some families. I repeat: These are all excellent choices. This review provides context so you can decide the best option for you right now. We found that the best choice for most families will be the Uppababy Cruz V2 (available at Amazon). It’s one of the smoothest rides out there with a comfy, reversible seat and build quality that can’t be beat. For families looking for the sweet spot of features and affordability, the Britax B-Lively (available at Amazon) is an excellent choice. This go-anywhere stroller can handle any terrain with the best of them. Plus, our 4-year-old tester said it was the comfiest, and I found it was the easiest of any to stow. If you have your heart set on a premium stroller, you can’t do better than the Bugaboo Fox 3 (available at Amazon). It’s more substantial than the Uppababy Cruz V2, comes ready with a from-birth bassinet, and can beast over every bump. Credit: Reviewed / Emily P.G. Erickson The best stroller for most families is the UppaBaby Cruz. Best Overall Uppababy Cruz V2 Stroller weight: 25.5 pounds Max child weight: 50 pounds Max basket weight: 30 pounds Minimum age: 3 months (from birth with sold-separately accessories) Seat style: Reversible Recline: Flat Car seat compatibility: Works with the Mesa Infant Car Seat natively; Maxi-Cosi, Nuna, Cybex, and Chicco (adapter sold separately) Handlebar: Telescoping Brake: Foot Warranty: 2 years (extended to 3 if you register) Have you heard of the bliss point? It’s the precise ratio of sugar, salt, and fat that maximizes deliciousness and makes food irresistible. I daresay the Uppababy Cruz V2 has attained the bliss point of strollers. It’s wide enough to be stable yet narrow enough to fit easily through doorways. It’s cozy enough to hold my 8-month-old, yet gamely adjusts to accommodate my 4-year-old. The large wheels are large enough to absorb bumps, yet it’s slim when folded—and stands on its own! It has a five-point harness yet has just two clips to buckle. It’s luxe enough to feel fancy but straightforward enough that it took me under 10 minutes to put together. Its folding mechanism is convenient and clever, despite requiring two hands. And the storage space? The basket holds a beefy 30 pounds. When I travel during a testing period, which product I want to bring along is telling. When we headed out of town for the weekend this time, if you had peeked between the captain’s chairs in our packed minivan, you would have seen the Uppababy Cruz V2 nestled there. Pros Huge storage basket Smooth ride Adjusts for big and small riders Canopy has excellent coverage Cons Handlebar only has three settings Buy now at Amazon $700.00 from Saks Fifth Avenue

Credit: Reviewed / Emily P.G. Erickson For a budget buy, you can't beat the Britax B-Lively.

Best Value Britax B-Lively Stroller weight: 18.9 pounds Max child weight: 55 pounds Max basket weight: 10 pounds Minimum age: 3 months (from birth with car seat) Seat style: Forward-facing Recline: Flat Bassinet: None Car seat compatibility: Britax with included adaptor Handlebar: Not adjustable Brake: Foot Warranty: 2-year limited warranty The Britax B-Lively is essentially a City Mini GT2 dupe. For about two-thirds of the price, you get a lot of the same functionality. The two strollers had similar (and adequate) cushioning, reclining seats, canopies, and folding mechanisms in a side-by-side comparison. Like the City Mini GT2, the Britax B-Lively’s three-wheel design means it handles irregular terrain like sidewalks, streets, and grass well. It’s also about as lean and lightweight as it gets for a standard stroller. Of all the strollers I tested, this was the easiest to toss in my trunk and slide next to my entryway’s shoe pile. Likewise, assembly was a breeze. The Britax B-Lively took me a speedy five minutes to put together, even with my infant and preschooler on the scene. It does come with tradeoffs. The brakes are a little flimsy feeling, for one. The handle wasn’t stellar—it’s covered in foam, which I could imagine getting ripped or stinky over time. It also does not have an adjustable handlebar to accommodate different heights and grip preferences. The only real bummer of this stroller is the basket. You access it from under the leg rest, which was annoying to negotiate with my 8-month-old, and basically a no-go with my 4-year-old. Even without a kid in the stroller, the basket is lackluster. Its opening was too small to fit my lightly packed diaper bag. On the upside, there’s a clever built-in parent console with two generous pouches, and one zip pouch, which my 4-year-old used to store a very important light-up ball. Overall, the Britax B-Lively gets the job done and can’t be beat for the price. Pros One-hand fold Built-in parent console Lightweight Cons Small storage basket Handle is not adjustable No footrest $199.99 from Amazon $249.99 from Target $249.99 from Bed Bath & Beyond $249.99 from Walmart

Credit: Reviewed / Emily P.G. Erickson The Bugaboo Fox is a luxury stroller that's worth the investment.

Best Upgrade Bugaboo Fox 3 Stroller weight: 26.9 pounds Max child weight: 50 pounds Max basket weight: 22 pounds Minimum age: Birth Seat style: Reversible Recline: Flat Bassinet: Included Car seat compatibility: Nuna with the included adaptor Handlebar: Telescoping Brake: Foot Warranty: 2 years (Extended to 3 if you register) This stroller and I started off on the wrong wheel. It was the second-to-last stroller I assembled, and by then, I fancied myself something of a stroller assembly expert. Even so, the Bugaboo Fox 3 took me the longest to put together. The manual, whose nearly wordless explanations left something to be desired, was not particularly helpful. I definitely gave the stroller the stinkeye as I clicked all four (why so many!?) buckles to secure my baby in the rumble seat. Then I started walking. The stroller glided like a majestic cruise ship, sturdy and smooth. The padded seat and gentle ride lulled my normally-too-curious-to-snooze baby to sleep. The large wheels were the best of any I tried at navigating rough seas that abound in my neighborhood (ok, ok, they’re sidewalks). When we docked at the neighborhood supermarket, the stroller was narrow enough not to be a nuisance in the aisles, and the hull had plenty of space for cargo. On the walk home I readily controlled the vessel with one hand, even loaded down with my 8-month-old and groceries for our family of five, and the wrist strap gave me the confidence I could do so safely, even in my hilly neighborhood. Ship metaphors aside, if you can get past the assembly, the Bugaboo Fox 3 is a magnificent stroller to use. Pretty much everything about it works well and feels high quality. The foot brake engages easily and effectively. The large canopy completely covers your baby. The bassinet—which comes with the stroller—is the kind of place you feel good setting your newborn. The seat—which you can position parent-facing or world-facing—tilts up and down. It fit my 4-year-old best of any in the testing batch. When you’re not using it, you may find the Bugaboo Fox 3 to be a bit bulky. This isn’t the kind of gear you’ll want to lug on a bus every day, but, compared to others of its type, it was somehow less awkward to shlep up my front steps. Likewise, when collapsed, while the Bugaboo Fox 3 doesn’t have a slim profile per se, it does stand up on its own, which sometimes matters more. Pros Easy one-handed steering Sturdy construction Large basket Cons Difficult to assemble Canopy only has one peekaboo vent Buy now at Amazon $1,349.00 from Albee Baby

Other Strollers We Tested Nuna Mixx Next Stroller weight: 28.3 pounds Max child weight: 50 pounds Max basket weight: 10 pounds Minimum age: Birth Seat style: Reversible Recline: Flat Bassinet: Sold separately Car seat compatibility: Nuna PIPPA series infant car seats Handlebar: Telescoping Brake: Foot Warranty: 2 years I loved the Nuna Mixx Next best the day it came with us to pick apples. With a basket full of produce, its wheels gamely ambled over gravel roads and muddy cowpaths. I peeped at my kid using the canopy’s clever mesh side panels and felt both positively autumnal and better equipped than I had been in eight years of these outings. On daily use, the rosy picture flickered in and out as a fog of friction descended. The Nuna Mixx Next aims to set itself apart with distinctive design—sometimes at the expense of what actually works for real parents. Too many of its innovative features seemed to require an extra tug or tap. Assembling the back wheels necessitated a force that I couldn’t accomplish solo, the only stroller set-up requiring reinforcements. Keeping the front wheels inline on uneven pavement was reminiscent of a shopping cart with too-spinny wheels. Braking was blocked when the basket was full. Adjusting the footrest required the left and right sides to be approached separately, which offered no practical benefit but did offer opportunities to have unevenly elevated baby legs. Detaching the belly bar was odd, eliciting comments from my husband and our babysitter. Clasping the seat buckle was not made easier by the magnetic closure, but it was harder to tell if it was actually secured, frequently leaving me fumbling with my too-tired toddler when he didn’t want to trade play time for nap time. This is a fine stroller. Its doorway-friendly width, big basket, smooth ride, and luxe materials reminded me of our best overall pick, the Uppababy Cruz V2. But, for the price, the design hiccups surprised me. Altogether, it gave the overall impression of a prototype rather than a finished model. The Nuna Mixx Next is a good stroller that feels like it’s an iteration or two away from being a great stroller. Pros Lay-flat seat for newborns All-terrain wheels Mesh peek-a-boo window Cons Difficult to buckle Full basket impedes brakes Buy now at Nuna $799.95 from Bloomingdale’s

Baby Jogger City Mini GT2 Stroller weight: 21.4 pounds Max child weight: 65 pounds Max basket weight: 10 pounds Minimum age: Birth Seat style: Reversible Recline: Flat Bassinet: None Car seat compatibility: Baby Jogger with included adaptor; Britax, Chicco, Clek, Cybex, Graco, Maxi Cosi, Peg Perego, and Uppababy (adapter sold separately) Handlebar: Pivot Brake: Hand Warranty: Limited lifetime warranty on frame This nimble, three-wheeled (not-jogging) stroller from Baby Jogger is the same design concept as our value pick the Britax B-Lively, but with a higher quality feel (and a higher price point to match). Nearly all of the features that overlap with the B-Lively work just a little bit better in the City Mini GT2, including the folding mechanism. To wit: The City Mini GT2 has the best folding mechanism of any stroller I’ve used in seven years of parenting. With other details like a rubberized adjustable handle, locking front wheel, serious brakes, a super soft seat, and a limited lifetime warranty, you get the idea that this ride will last all the way through your stroller years. In fact, a previous version of this stroller is the one I had on my first baby registry, and seven years later, it’s still in my garage. The City Mini GT2 is at its best in motion. It hops curbs and cruises over cracks like a boss. I have steps to the front and back of my house, and, while it wasn’t pretty, I was able to carry my baby with one arm and fold then carry the stroller with the other. The City Mini GT2 has a marginally more extensive basket than the Britax B-Lively, but the undercarriage is still smaller than many other full-sized strollers. It’s big enough that during one sunny walk, I could stash my jean jacket, a not-too-full backpack, and odds and ends from my neighborhood supermarket. Still, it wouldn’t have handled a fully packed diaper bag and wasn’t big enough to hold my family of five’s outerwear during our day at the natural history museum. The stretchy mesh sides help make the most of the space it does have, but I wanted more storage for the width of the stroller. The only truly terrible feature of this stroller is its five-point harness. Every time you use it, the lap and shoulder buckle of each side have to connect to each other before connecting to the center buckle, which has no benefit that I can figure out and just adds friction when you’re trying to go. Pros One-hand fold All-terrain wheels Easy to put together Cons Small storage pocket Harness awkward to buckle Tight fit through doorways Buy now at Amazon $279.99 from Albee Baby $412.53 from Walmart   
  
 Mockingbird Stroller Stroller weight: 26.5 pounds Max child weight: 50 pounds Max basket weight: 25 pounds Minimum age: Four months (From birth with sold-separately accessories) Seat style: Reversible, option for second seat Recline: Flat Bassinet: Sold separately Car seat compatibility: Graco, Chicco, Britax, Baby Jogger, Evenflo, Maxi-Cosi, Cybex, Nuna, Uppababy Handle: Pivot Brake: Foot Warranty: Lifetime The Mockingbird Single-to-Double Stroller is a stroller of the social media age, and I mean that in the best way possible. Their attention to customer experience is excellent. The packaging, manual, and welcome email sequence are sprinkled with easy-to-understand illustrations, spot-on pro tips, and animated gifs that communicate care for you and your little bean. The Mockingbird is about the lowest price point at which you can access the features and functionality that are standard among luxury strollers. Its design is similar to the Uppababy Cruz V2, Bugaboo Fox 3, and Cybex Gazelle S. Like those strollers, it has lockable front swivel wheels, a bumper bar, adjustable handlebar, vented sun canopy, fun color options, and lots of accessories available for purchase. It even has a couple of features that those strollers don’t, like a cell phone pocket and a zipper on the footrest that helps with cleaning crumbs. Some features were especially fantastic, like the enormous basket, which easily handled a long spring walk to our neighborhood bakery, bookstore, and falafel place with all the goodies and gear my family of five required. Some features fell a bit short. The white call-out button for the recline was finicky. Likewise, they say this stroller is a one-hand fold, but I always needed two to manage it. When folded, the Mockingbird is bulky and awkward to carry, so it wasn’t ideal on transit or in my trunk. The seat is unusually high up, making it tricky for me as a five-foot-tall adult to see precisely where I was going. This was particularly problematic because the Mockingbird was wider than any other in the testing group. Given its girth, the front wheels are strangely small, and they tend to catch on sidewalks. Pros Huge storage basket Adjustable footrest Canopy has two peekaboo vents Cons Shallow seat Front wheels tend to catch on uneven sidewalks Buy now at Mockingbird   
  
 Cybex Gazelle S Stroller weight: 27.7 pounds Max child weight: 50 pounds Max basket weight: 30 pounds Minimum age: Four months (From birth with sold-separately accessories) Seat style: Reversible, option for second seat Recline: Flat Bassinet: Sold separately Car seat compatibility: Cybex natively Handlebar: Telescoping Brake: Foot Warranty: 3 year Indoors, the Cybex Gazelle S shines. During a grocery trip, the huge basket, which has high sides and easy front and back access, handled everything I needed (plus everything my 6-year-old thought we needed). Likewise, when I headed to the museum with my three kids, the Cybex Gazelle S had plenty of space for my baby bag and all the outerwear Minnesota’s wet, cold weather required. On the streets, it was a different story. The Cybex Gazelle S is the heaviest stroller I tested, but not by much. However, the difference between it and the next-most-heavy felt like approximately 8 gazillion pounds rather than the .8 pounds it actually was. Something about the wheel suspension and the angles of the handle meant that each time I used it, an old overuse injury of mine flared. It was possible to manage the stroller one-handed while I drank my matcha latte, but it wasn’t as easy-breezy as the other strollers I tested. The assembly was tricky, too. I could forgive the harrowing assembly and heft if it seemed like my baby’s experience was excellent, but it just wasn’t. He never zonked during any of our test rides, perhaps because the bumps in the sidewalk jostled him to the point that his toys went flying more than once. In all, the Cybex Gazelle S’s storage and high-quality construction are lovely inside, but outside I found myself wishing for a stroller that was easy to push, provided a smoother ride, and had a bigger canopy. Pros Stylish Multiple configurations Useful features Cons Can only be used with Cybex car seats Second seat not included Not good for all-terrain use $737.09 from Amazon $899.95 from Bloomingdale's   
  
 Graco Modes Pramette Stroller weight: 20 pounds Max child weight: 50 pounds Max basket weight: 10 pounds Minimum age: Birth Seat style: Reversible Recline: Limited Bassinet: Included Car seat compatibility: Graco natively Handle: Not adjustable Brake: Foot Warranty: 1 year The Graco Modes Pramette appears to be a unicorn: It boasts a from-birth bassinet and toddler seat for under $300. Considering the price point is south of any other stroller I tested, I had my doubts. But honestly? The Graco Modes Pramette gets the job done. It’s lightweight, easy to fold (with one hand!), works from birth, and has a reversible seat and spacious basket. There are compromises, of course. Starting with the installation, which was tricky and the manual was no help. Once I set it up, I found that the seat barely reclined. Once I started strolling, I found there isn’t really a suspension, and the front wheels got stuck on curbs, though it’s light enough to lift over obstacles. The accessories are just so-so. The canopy is SPF 50, but not full coverage, so you won’t completely protect your little from sun or rain. The handle isn’t adjustable and is cushioned in foam, which both get old after a while. The cup holder has a warning not to use it with hot beverages, and it’s apt—both the cupholder and phone console rotate as you rumble, so both end up being completely useless. The materials say the stroller can handle kids up to 50 pounds, but my much lighter, average height 4-year-old had to scrunch to fit. Still, for basic use for the younger set, the Graco Modes Pramette is perfectly adequate, which is perfectly awesome for the price. Pros Reversible seat and bassinet Lightweight Easy fold Cons Flimsy construction Difficult to assemble Isn’t tall enough for older kids $219.99 from Amazon

How We Tested Strollers Credit: Reviewed / Emily P.G. Erickson We tested a selection of the most popular strollers. My kids joined me on walks long and short so we could assess how the best strollers on the market today held up to the demands of a real family on the move. While I was the primary stroller captain, my husband took the helm of each to offer another (taller) point of view. My two youngest sons served as our primary passengers. The boys, who were 8 months and 4 years when testing began, neatly straddled the range of sanctioned rider sizes for most models. The Tester Hi! I’m Emily P.G. Erickson. I’m a freelance writer and hold a master’s degree in psychology. Before becoming a writer, I worked as a mental health researcher. Now I love applying my research chops to parenting-related challenges, including “What are the best booster seats for dining?” and “What are the best nursing bras?” I conduct testing for Reviewed from Saint Paul, Minnesota, where I live with my husband and three sons. When I’m not writing, I love baking with my kids and long walks without them. The Tests A stroller is a big purchase, and our testing scope accounts for that. After considering more than 200 models that emerged through market research and word of mouth, I determined the eight most loved strollers right now and ordered samples. Once they arrived (and annexed my guest room), I assessed each stroller across 24 criteria. These accounted for everything important about the stroller experience, from the ease of assembly to the effectiveness of safety features. To give each stroller a fair shake, I exposed each one to a systematic slice of our family life. I explored outdoor terrains, including streets, sidewalks, trails, curbs, and the chaos of school pick-up. Each stroller also accompanied us to indoor outings like museums and grocery stores. In all, I calculate I took about 300,000 steps in service of answering one ultimate question: What is the best stroller right now? What You Should Know About Strollers Buying a stroller is tricky, especially for first-time parents. There are so many of them on the market, and it’s hard to know what will work best for your baby and your life. Here’s what you need to know: There Are Different Types of Strollers Here’s a basic primer on the differences between types of strollers:

Standard stroller: This covers most strollers, including everything in this guide. They are average in size, typically weigh 20 pounds or more, and hold one child from about 6 months until they weigh about 50 to 60 pounds.

Double stroller: Double strollers, like the name suggests, hold two kids at once. Some models convert from a single to a double with the addition of a second seat. Some doubles have seats side-by-side, while others have seats that are aligned vertically.

Jogging stroller: These models typically have large wheels, often filled with air (like bike tires) and locking front wheels. They’re designed for safely running with a child (or two children) in a seat. Locking the front wheel is essential because it helps prevent tip-overs if the front wheel were to hit a snag while you’re running at full speed.

Lightweight/Umbrella stroller: Though new designs mean that many standard strollers are only slightly heavier than these models, umbrella strollers typically weigh 15 pounds or less and fold up compactly into a long, narrow shape (like an umbrella). These models are great for travel, or if you have an older child who doesn’t need a stroller all the time. They’re typically less expensive, but usually don’t hold as much or have as many features.

Consider Your Budget Stroller prices vary widely. Up to a point, higher price strollers are more durable and have superior suspension, bigger baskets, and more options in general. But there are trade-offs, too. They’re often harder to store and carry, which can make the beginning and end of every ride a pain. Plus, features like parent consoles and cup holders are sold separately, which can feel like nickel and dime-ing when you’re already paying a pretty penny. Shop For The Family You Have Now If you’re planning on eventually having two (or more) kids, it can be tempting to select a stroller that has the option for a second “rumble” seat. Most of the strollers that provide this option are heavy to begin with, and adding a second seat—plus a 30 pound kid—makes it incredibly difficult to push and even harder to collapse (and store). Plan For The Newborn Stage Until they have sufficient head and neck control, which happens for most kids between four and six months, your baby will probably need extra support to use your stroller. Accessories like infant inserts, bassinets, and car seat adapters can help you use your stroller right away. Carseat Adaptors Aren’t Perfect While theoretically an adapter exists to attach an infant car seat to a stroller, not all adapters are equal. Many are little more than flimsy metal bars that can clip into the stroller frame, and a stroller that’s stable with a toddler seat can become top-heavy with a car seat attached. It’s wisest to opt for a travel system or a carseat that works natively with your stroller. You May Want More Than One Stroller Even after your kid is big enough to use standard strollers, you may still want to pick up a second lightweight/umbrella stroller. These models are super compact and are perfect to keep at a grandparent’s house or in the trunk of your car. More Articles You Might Enjoy

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Three hundred years ago, the first strollers were invented as a diversion for royalty. But back then, even kings and queens couldn’t get their hands on the kind of rides we have today. Just in the eight years since I was pregnant with my first kid, the market has expanded enormously.

I poured over more than 200 of today’s top single strollers for this review then personally tested the eight most-loved models. I can say with certainty that every stroller reviewed here will be the best baby stroller for some families. I repeat: These are all excellent choices. This review provides context so you can decide the best option for you right now.

We found that the best choice for most families will be the Uppababy Cruz V2 (available at Amazon). It’s one of the smoothest rides out there with a comfy, reversible seat and build quality that can’t be beat.

For families looking for the sweet spot of features and affordability, the Britax B-Lively (available at Amazon) is an excellent choice. This go-anywhere stroller can handle any terrain with the best of them. Plus, our 4-year-old tester said it was the comfiest, and I found it was the easiest of any to stow.

If you have your heart set on a premium stroller, you can’t do better than the Bugaboo Fox 3 (available at Amazon). It’s more substantial than the Uppababy Cruz V2, comes ready with a from-birth bassinet, and can beast over every bump.

The best stroller for most families is the UppaBaby Cruz.

Have you heard of the bliss point? It’s the precise ratio of sugar, salt, and fat that maximizes deliciousness and makes food irresistible. I daresay the Uppababy Cruz V2 has attained the bliss point of strollers.

It’s wide enough to be stable yet narrow enough to fit easily through doorways. It’s cozy enough to hold my 8-month-old, yet gamely adjusts to accommodate my 4-year-old. The large wheels are large enough to absorb bumps, yet it’s slim when folded—and stands on its own!

It has a five-point harness yet has just two clips to buckle. It’s luxe enough to feel fancy but straightforward enough that it took me under 10 minutes to put together. Its folding mechanism is convenient and clever, despite requiring two hands. And the storage space? The basket holds a beefy 30 pounds.

When I travel during a testing period, which product I want to bring along is telling. When we headed out of town for the weekend this time, if you had peeked between the captain’s chairs in our packed minivan, you would have seen the Uppababy Cruz V2 nestled there.

Huge storage basket   
  
 Smooth ride   
  
 Adjusts for big and small riders   
  
 Canopy has excellent coverage   
  
 Handlebar only has three settings

For a budget buy, you can’t beat the Britax B-Lively.

The Britax B-Lively is essentially a City Mini GT2 dupe. For about two-thirds of the price, you get a lot of the same functionality. The two strollers had similar (and adequate) cushioning, reclining seats, canopies, and folding mechanisms in a side-by-side comparison.

Like the City Mini GT2, the Britax B-Lively’s three-wheel design means it handles irregular terrain like sidewalks, streets, and grass well. It’s also about as lean and lightweight as it gets for a standard stroller. Of all the strollers I tested, this was the easiest to toss in my trunk and slide next to my entryway’s shoe pile. Likewise, assembly was a breeze. The Britax B-Lively took me a speedy five minutes to put together, even with my infant and preschooler on the scene.

It does come with tradeoffs. The brakes are a little flimsy feeling, for one. The handle wasn’t stellar—it’s covered in foam, which I could imagine getting ripped or stinky over time. It also does not have an adjustable handlebar to accommodate different heights and grip preferences. The only real bummer of this stroller is the basket. You access it from under the leg rest, which was annoying to negotiate with my 8-month-old, and basically a no-go with my 4-year-old.

Even without a kid in the stroller, the basket is lackluster. Its opening was too small to fit my lightly packed diaper bag. On the upside, there’s a clever built-in parent console with two generous pouches, and one zip pouch, which my 4-year-old used to store a very important light-up ball. Overall, the Britax B-Lively gets the job done and can’t be beat for the price.

One-hand fold   
  
 Built-in parent console   
  
 Lightweight   
  
 Small storage basket   
  
 Handle is not adjustable   
  
 No footrest

The Bugaboo Fox is a luxury stroller that’s worth the investment.

This stroller and I started off on the wrong wheel. It was the second-to-last stroller I assembled, and by then, I fancied myself something of a stroller assembly expert. Even so, the Bugaboo Fox 3 took me the longest to put together. The manual, whose nearly wordless explanations left something to be desired, was not particularly helpful. I definitely gave the stroller the stinkeye as I clicked all four (why so many!?) buckles to secure my baby in the rumble seat. Then I started walking.

The stroller glided like a majestic cruise ship, sturdy and smooth. The padded seat and gentle ride lulled my normally-too-curious-to-snooze baby to sleep. The large wheels were the best of any I tried at navigating rough seas that abound in my neighborhood (ok, ok, they’re sidewalks). When we docked at the neighborhood supermarket, the stroller was narrow enough not to be a nuisance in the aisles, and the hull had plenty of space for cargo. On the walk home I readily controlled the vessel with one hand, even loaded down with my 8-month-old and groceries for our family of five, and the wrist strap gave me the confidence I could do so safely, even in my hilly neighborhood.

Ship metaphors aside, if you can get past the assembly, the Bugaboo Fox 3 is a magnificent stroller to use. Pretty much everything about it works well and feels high quality. The foot brake engages easily and effectively. The large canopy completely covers your baby. The bassinet—which comes with the stroller—is the kind of place you feel good setting your newborn. The seat—which you can position parent-facing or world-facing—tilts up and down. It fit my 4-year-old best of any in the testing batch.

When you’re not using it, you may find the Bugaboo Fox 3 to be a bit bulky. This isn’t the kind of gear you’ll want to lug on a bus every day, but, compared to others of its type, it was somehow less awkward to shlep up my front steps. Likewise, when collapsed, while the Bugaboo Fox 3 doesn’t have a slim profile per se, it does stand up on its own, which sometimes matters more.

Easy one-handed steering   
  
 Sturdy construction   
  
 Large basket   
  
 Difficult to assemble   
  
 Canopy only has one peekaboo vent

I loved the Nuna Mixx Next best the day it came with us to pick apples. With a basket full of produce, its wheels gamely ambled over gravel roads and muddy cowpaths. I peeped at my kid using the canopy’s clever mesh side panels and felt both positively autumnal and better equipped than I had been in eight years of these outings.

On daily use, the rosy picture flickered in and out as a fog of friction descended. The Nuna Mixx Next aims to set itself apart with distinctive design—sometimes at the expense of what actually works for real parents. Too many of its innovative features seemed to require an extra tug or tap.

Assembling the back wheels necessitated a force that I couldn’t accomplish solo, the only stroller set-up requiring reinforcements. Keeping the front wheels inline on uneven pavement was reminiscent of a shopping cart with too-spinny wheels. Braking was blocked when the basket was full. Adjusting the footrest required the left and right sides to be approached separately, which offered no practical benefit but did offer opportunities to have unevenly elevated baby legs. Detaching the belly bar was odd, eliciting comments from my husband and our babysitter. Clasping the seat buckle was not made easier by the magnetic closure, but it was harder to tell if it was actually secured, frequently leaving me fumbling with my too-tired toddler when he didn’t want to trade play time for nap time.

This is a fine stroller. Its doorway-friendly width, big basket, smooth ride, and luxe materials reminded me of our best overall pick, the Uppababy Cruz V2. But, for the price, the design hiccups surprised me. Altogether, it gave the overall impression of a prototype rather than a finished model. The Nuna Mixx Next is a good stroller that feels like it’s an iteration or two away from being a great stroller.

Lay-flat seat for newborns   
  
 All-terrain wheels   
  
 Mesh peek-a-boo window   
  
 Difficult to buckle   
  
 Full basket impedes brakes

This nimble, three-wheeled (not-jogging) stroller from Baby Jogger is the same design concept as our value pick the Britax B-Lively, but with a higher quality feel (and a higher price point to match). Nearly all of the features that overlap with the B-Lively work just a little bit better in the City Mini GT2, including the folding mechanism. To wit: The City Mini GT2 has the best folding mechanism of any stroller I’ve used in seven years of parenting.

With other details like a rubberized adjustable handle, locking front wheel, serious brakes, a super soft seat, and a limited lifetime warranty, you get the idea that this ride will last all the way through your stroller years. In fact, a previous version of this stroller is the one I had on my first baby registry, and seven years later, it’s still in my garage.

The City Mini GT2 is at its best in motion. It hops curbs and cruises over cracks like a boss. I have steps to the front and back of my house, and, while it wasn’t pretty, I was able to carry my baby with one arm and fold then carry the stroller with the other.

The City Mini GT2 has a marginally more extensive basket than the Britax B-Lively, but the undercarriage is still smaller than many other full-sized strollers. It’s big enough that during one sunny walk, I could stash my jean jacket, a not-too-full backpack, and odds and ends from my neighborhood supermarket. Still, it wouldn’t have handled a fully packed diaper bag and wasn’t big enough to hold my family of five’s outerwear during our day at the natural history museum. The stretchy mesh sides help make the most of the space it does have, but I wanted more storage for the width of the stroller.

The only truly terrible feature of this stroller is its five-point harness. Every time you use it, the lap and shoulder buckle of each side have to connect to each other before connecting to the center buckle, which has no benefit that I can figure out and just adds friction when you’re trying to go.

One-hand fold   
  
 All-terrain wheels   
  
 Easy to put together   
  
 Small storage pocket   
  
 Harness awkward to buckle   
  
 Tight fit through doorways

The Mockingbird Single-to-Double Stroller is a stroller of the social media age, and I mean that in the best way possible. Their attention to customer experience is excellent. The packaging, manual, and welcome email sequence are sprinkled with easy-to-understand illustrations, spot-on pro tips, and animated gifs that communicate care for you and your little bean.

The Mockingbird is about the lowest price point at which you can access the features and functionality that are standard among luxury strollers. Its design is similar to the Uppababy Cruz V2, Bugaboo Fox 3, and Cybex Gazelle S. Like those strollers, it has lockable front swivel wheels, a bumper bar, adjustable handlebar, vented sun canopy, fun color options, and lots of accessories available for purchase. It even has a couple of features that those strollers don’t, like a cell phone pocket and a zipper on the footrest that helps with cleaning crumbs.

Some features were especially fantastic, like the enormous basket, which easily handled a long spring walk to our neighborhood bakery, bookstore, and falafel place with all the goodies and gear my family of five required.

Some features fell a bit short. The white call-out button for the recline was finicky. Likewise, they say this stroller is a one-hand fold, but I always needed two to manage it. When folded, the Mockingbird is bulky and awkward to carry, so it wasn’t ideal on transit or in my trunk. The seat is unusually high up, making it tricky for me as a five-foot-tall adult to see precisely where I was going. This was particularly problematic because the Mockingbird was wider than any other in the testing group. Given its girth, the front wheels are strangely small, and they tend to catch on sidewalks.

Huge storage basket   
  
 Adjustable footrest   
  
 Canopy has two peekaboo vents   
  
 Shallow seat   
  
 Front wheels tend to catch on uneven sidewalks

Indoors, the Cybex Gazelle S shines. During a grocery trip, the huge basket, which has high sides and easy front and back access, handled everything I needed (plus everything my 6-year-old thought we needed). Likewise, when I headed to the museum with my three kids, the Cybex Gazelle S had plenty of space for my baby bag and all the outerwear Minnesota’s wet, cold weather required.

On the streets, it was a different story. The Cybex Gazelle S is the heaviest stroller I tested, but not by much. However, the difference between it and the next-most-heavy felt like approximately 8 gazillion pounds rather than the .8 pounds it actually was. Something about the wheel suspension and the angles of the handle meant that each time I used it, an old overuse injury of mine flared. It was possible to manage the stroller one-handed while I drank my matcha latte, but it wasn’t as easy-breezy as the other strollers I tested.

The assembly was tricky, too. I could forgive the harrowing assembly and heft if it seemed like my baby’s experience was excellent, but it just wasn’t. He never zonked during any of our test rides, perhaps because the bumps in the sidewalk jostled him to the point that his toys went flying more than once.

In all, the Cybex Gazelle S’s storage and high-quality construction are lovely inside, but outside I found myself wishing for a stroller that was easy to push, provided a smoother ride, and had a bigger canopy.

Stylish   
  
 Multiple configurations   
  
 Useful features   
  
 Can only be used with Cybex car seats   
  
 Second seat not included   
  
 Not good for all-terrain use

The Graco Modes Pramette appears to be a unicorn: It boasts a from-birth bassinet and toddler seat for under $300. Considering the price point is south of any other stroller I tested, I had my doubts. But honestly? The Graco Modes Pramette gets the job done. It’s lightweight, easy to fold (with one hand!), works from birth, and has a reversible seat and spacious basket.

There are compromises, of course. Starting with the installation, which was tricky and the manual was no help. Once I set it up, I found that the seat barely reclined. Once I started strolling, I found there isn’t really a suspension, and the front wheels got stuck on curbs, though it’s light enough to lift over obstacles.

The accessories are just so-so. The canopy is SPF 50, but not full coverage, so you won’t completely protect your little from sun or rain. The handle isn’t adjustable and is cushioned in foam, which both get old after a while. The cup holder has a warning not to use it with hot beverages, and it’s apt—both the cupholder and phone console rotate as you rumble, so both end up being completely useless.

The materials say the stroller can handle kids up to 50 pounds, but my much lighter, average height 4-year-old had to scrunch to fit. Still, for basic use for the younger set, the Graco Modes Pramette is perfectly adequate, which is perfectly awesome for the price.

Reversible seat and bassinet   
  
 Lightweight   
  
 Easy fold   
  
 Flimsy construction   
  
 Difficult to assemble   
  
 Isn’t tall enough for older kids

We tested a selection of the most popular strollers.

My kids joined me on walks long and short so we could assess how the best strollers on the market today held up to the demands of a real family on the move. While I was the primary stroller captain, my husband took the helm of each to offer another (taller) point of view. My two youngest sons served as our primary passengers. The boys, who were 8 months and 4 years when testing began, neatly straddled the range of sanctioned rider sizes for most models.

Hi! I’m Emily P.G. Erickson. I’m a freelance writer and hold a master’s degree in psychology. Before becoming a writer, I worked as a mental health researcher. Now I love applying my research chops to parenting-related challenges, including “What are the best booster seats for dining?” and “What are the best nursing bras?” I conduct testing for Reviewed from Saint Paul, Minnesota, where I live with my husband and three sons. When I’m not writing, I love baking with my kids and long walks without them.

A stroller is a big purchase, and our testing scope accounts for that. After considering more than 200 models that emerged through market research and word of mouth, I determined the eight most loved strollers right now and ordered samples.

Once they arrived (and annexed my guest room), I assessed each stroller across 24 criteria. These accounted for everything important about the stroller experience, from the ease of assembly to the effectiveness of safety features. To give each stroller a fair shake, I exposed each one to a systematic slice of our family life. I explored outdoor terrains, including streets, sidewalks, trails, curbs, and the chaos of school pick-up. Each stroller also accompanied us to indoor outings like museums and grocery stores. In all, I calculate I took about 300,000 steps in service of answering one ultimate question: What is the best stroller right now?

Buying a stroller is tricky, especially for first-time parents. There are so many of them on the market, and it’s hard to know what will work best for your baby and your life. Here’s what you need to know:

Here’s a basic primer on the differences between types of strollers:

Stroller prices vary widely. Up to a point, higher price strollers are more durable and have superior suspension, bigger baskets, and more options in general. But there are trade-offs, too. They’re often harder to store and carry, which can make the beginning and end of every ride a pain. Plus, features like parent consoles and cup holders are sold separately, which can feel like nickel and dime-ing when you’re already paying a pretty penny.

If you’re planning on eventually having two (or more) kids, it can be tempting to select a stroller that has the option for a second “rumble” seat. Most of the strollers that provide this option are heavy to begin with, and adding a second seat—plus a 30 pound kid—makes it incredibly difficult to push and even harder to collapse (and store).

Until they have sufficient head and neck control, which happens for most kids between four and six months, your baby will probably need extra support to use your stroller. Accessories like infant inserts, bassinets, and car seat adapters can help you use your stroller right away.

While theoretically an adapter exists to attach an infant car seat to a stroller, not all adapters are equal. Many are little more than flimsy metal bars that can clip into the stroller frame, and a stroller that’s stable with a toddler seat can become top-heavy with a car seat attached. It’s wisest to opt for a travel system or a carseat that works natively with your stroller.

Even after your kid is big enough to use standard strollers, you may still want to pick up a second lightweight/umbrella stroller. These models are super compact and are perfect to keep at a grandparent’s house or in the trunk of your car.

Emily P.G. Erickson  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Emily P.G. Erickson is a freelance writer with a master’s degree in psychology. A former mental health researcher, her journalism and essays about mental health, mindfulness, and motherhood have appeared in The New York Times, WIRED, Romper, and elsewhere. Emily lives in Minnesota with her husband and three children. For more from Emily, visit www.emilypgerickson.com.

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# The Best Washer and Dryer Sets of 2022

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

This LG pair is one of the best washer and dryer sets we've tested to date. Both can handle large loads , offering steam and sanitization.  
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 Many wash cycles including a near-perfect heavy cycle, paired with a dryer that gets clothes 100% dry, means this is a match made in heaven.  
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 This washer dryer set is a workhorse team. Cycle times are short in the washer, including one to remove pet dander. Dryer has a range of cycles.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This high-efficiency washer/dryer combo has a large capacity, meaning you can finish your laundry in fewer loads.  
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 Meant for a specific customer with limited space, this washer dryer set offers an excellent cleaning performance.  
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Updated September 2, 2022

Like any large appliance, buying a washing machine and a dryer is an investment, so you want to make sure you do things right. There are a few instances when buying a washer dryer set makes sense: one, you’re in need of both; two, you know you will want to stack them; three, you’re looking to get the most functionality and best compatibility out of your laundry room. Many consumers spend the bulk of their time and effort researching a washer, and then just select the matching dryer as an afterthought. While washers (both top-loaders and front-loaders) do have more of an impact on your “laundry day” experience (a good washer means less work for your dryer and a shorter wash time), you also don’t want to get stuck with a bad dryer with a low spin speed and damp clothes for the next decade. Since we’ve been testing washers and dryers in our labs for more than a decade, we know what to look for in the best washer and dryer sets. At the top of our rankings, the LG WM9000HVA / DLEX9500K (available at Appliances Connection) washer and dryer combo offers one of the best performances we’ve ever seen in our labs. If you’re looking for great value, we love the Samsung WF45R6100AW / DVE45R6100W (available at AJ Madison).

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Editor’s Note Due to supply chain challenges and soaring demand, there is widespread unavailability of home appliances and long wait times for delivery of backordered products. If you’re a consumer in need of a washer or dryer, here are the best places to buy in-stock appliances right now.

Credit: LG This LG pair is one of the best washer and dryer sets we’ve tested to date.

Best Overall LG WM9000HVA / DLEX9500K Dimensions: Washer: 40.75” x 29” x 33.75” Dryer: 40.88” x 29” x 33.38” (H x W x D) Finish: Graphite steel Orientation: Front-load Stackable: Yes Special features: Smart features, energy monitoring, remote start Not only has the LG WM9000HVA washing machine and LG DLEX9000V dryer won our Editor’s Choice badge, it’s won our coveted Best of Year award. This pair is one of the best washer and dryer sets we’ve tested to date. The large capacity LG washing machine offers a steam cycle, a sanitizing wash, and a sleek look. Not to mention it impressed us by how well it cleaned, removing about 81% of the stains in our tests, which makes it one of the highest performing washers to ever come through our labs. Users will notice its angled basin, which makes it easier to unload your laundry after a wash. Do note that this washer’s 29-inch width is 2 inches wider than most other washers on the market. Likewise, its matching 9-cubic-foot (who doesn’t love a large load) LG dryer works better than most dryers we’ve tested—it got the laundry in both the normal and bulky cycles 100% dry. This dryer can easily deal with a variety of fabric types and item sizes—it has no trouble with big items like comforters, and gets shirts wrinkle-free. Even though it’s a big investment, we say its performance justifies the cost. Pros Large capacity Excellent cleaning performance Great value Cons None that we can find Buy now at Appliances Connection

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Credit: Samsung This affordable Samsung set features a great performance for its price.

Best Value Samsung WF45R6100AW / DVE45R6100W Dimensions: Washer: 38.7” x 27” x 31.3” Dryer: 38.7” x 27” x 31.5” (H x W x D) Finish: Champagne, platinum, white Orientation: Front-load Stackable: Yes Special features: Steam wash, self-clean, smart care On our list of best washer and dryer sets, the Samsung WF45R6100AW washer washer and the Samsung DVE45R6100C dryer come out on top as our best value pick. This affordable Samsung washer boasts an amazing number of wash cycle options, and its heavy cycle cleans near-perfectly with one of the best stain removing cycles we’ve ever seen. This washer is a little harder—wear-and-tear-wise—on clothes than we’d like, but the trade-off for its excellent stain removal is worth it. Uniquely, this Samsung washer uses steam cleaning in half of its available cycles, including normal, heavy, and sanitize. If you need a washer to tackle your toughest, dirtiest laundry, this one won’t let you down. For its part, the dryer has a killer normal cycle—getting wet laundry 100% dry in under an hour—one of the most effective normal cycles we’ve ever seen. Additional steam cycles and cycle customization options add to this Samsung dryer’s appeal. Pros Excellent value Highly effective drying capabilities Cons Washer is a little tough on clothing Buy now at Appliances Connection

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Credit: Reviewed / LG The LG WT7900HBA top-loading washer and the LG DLEX7900BE dryer can handle lots of laundry and lots of different laundry situations.

Best Top-load LG WT7900HBA / DLEX7900 Dimensions: Washer: 44.5” x 27” x 28.38” Dryer: 44.5” x 27” x 29.5” (H x W x D) Finish: Black steel, white Orientation: Top-load Stackable: No Special features: Remote start, smart capabilities, steam cycles Laundry traditionalists will always prefer top-loaders vs front-loaders. If this sounds like you, this workhorse of a washer-dryer pair from LG will be right up your alley. The LG WT7900HBA top-loading washer and the LG DLEX7900BE dryer can handle lots of laundry and lots of different laundry situations. This LG washer’s cycle times are short, including the heavy duty cycle, which performed the best in our stain removal tests and takes less than two hours to run. It also boasts the Allergiene cycle, which claims to remove pet dander and dust mites, and seven steam cycles. When tested, the dryer got our laundry loads more than 80% dry, but the speed dry and delicate cycles are highly effective. It’s also full of neat cycle options and features, including an anti-bacterial cycle and wrinkle care. A huge perk, the dryer door can open to the side or open downward, giving you flexibility when it comes to popping wet, heavy laundry loads into the dryer without wrenching your back. Pros Many cycles and cycle options Allergen and pet dander control Antibacterial option in dryer Dryer door opens to the side and downward Cons Washer doesn’t clean as well as a front-loader Buy now at Appliances Connection

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Credit: Reviewed / LG This fully integrated laundry center, meaning it's all one unit rather than two stacked units, features a single, slim design to help it fit into smaller spaces.

Best Laundry Center LG WashTower WKEX200HBA Dimensions: 74.38” x 27” x 30.38” (H x W x D) Finish: White, black steel Orientation: Front-load Stackable: n/a (single unit) Special features: Built-in intelligence, TurboWash 360, Wi-Fi capabilities, smart capabilities The LG WashTower WKEX200HBA makes shopping for washers and dryers a lot easier, as you only have to buy one machine, rather than two. This fully integrated laundry center, meaning it’s all one unit rather than two stacked units, features a single, slim design to help it fit into smaller spaces. The LG WashTower that we lab tested offered an above-average performance and got our laundry up to 4% cleaner than average. Plus, it did so in record time. Drying, too, is a breeze. The dryer coordinates with the washer to automatically assign an appropriate drying cycle based on what you selected for the washer. But you can also make manual cycle selections. We don’t see many washer-dryer pairs that feature such great performance at such a low price. Pros Looks great App controlled Cons Drying monitor isn’t the best $2,299.99 from Best Buy $2,299.00 from Abt $2,298.00 from Lowe’s $2,298.00 from Home Depot

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Credit: Reviewed / Miele For the very specific consumer who needs a compact washer and dryer set, the Miele WXR860WCS compact washer and the Miele TXR860WP Eco & Steam compact dryer is a solid bet.

Best Compact Miele WXR860WCS / TXR860WP Dimensions: Washer: 33.5” x 23.5” x 25.3” Dryer: 33.5” x 23.5” x 25.4” (H x W x D) Finish: White Orientation: Front-load Stackable: Yes Special features: Remote monitoring, auto detergent dispensing For the very specific consumer who needs a compact washer and dryer set, the Miele WXR 860WCS compact washer and the Miele TXR860WP Eco & Steam compact dryer is a solid bet, although you’ll pay for it. This Miele compact front-load washer has versatility and innovations that we’d normally see on a full-sized flagship model. For example, its TwinDos feature utilizes pre-filled detergent and oxygen bleach cartridges to automatically dispense the correct amount of detergent, giving you the optimum clean. Its normal cycle is one of the best in its class when it comes to cleaning, combining high-tech features with good-old-fashioned scrubbing. Miele’s matching dryer features temperatures that are gentle on clothes and 19 specialty cycles to take care of your clothing without adding wear and tear. All of the cycles we ran lasted over an hour, offering longer drying times than vented dryers, but what it lacks in speed it makes up for in quality. In the upper left corner of the machine, you’ll find a water jug into which the condensation from your laundry empties. You will have to manually empty it when it reaches maximum capacity. Pros Automatic detergent dosing in washer 19 specialty cycles in dryer Excellent cleaning performance Cons More expensive than average standard size machines Buy now at Appliances Connection

Other Washer and Dryer Sets We Tested Maytag MHW8630HC / MED8630HC Dimensions: Washer: 38.63” x 27” x 32.94” Dryer: 38.13” x 27” x 30.69” (H x W x D) Finish: Metallic slate, white Orientation: Front-load Stackable: Yes Special features: Smart capabilities, Wi-Fi, remote monitoring, PowerWash System, Fresh Hold option, reversible door on dryer To date, the Maytag MHW8630HC washing machine is the best Maytag washer to have ever been tested in our labs. It has a massive 5-cubic-foot drum, a true Sanitize cycle, and a high performing Heavy Duty cycle. We have not tested its companion dryer, the Maytag MED8630HC, but we feel confident it’s a match for this washer. During our testing on the washer, it showed top-tier cleaning performance, especially when using its heavy cycle. It also features an internal heater that allows it to heartily sanitize your clothing at around 130°F, which is hot enough to kill 99.9% of illness-causing bacteria, like pneumonia. Like this Maytag washer, the dryer offers smart capabilities with both Amazon and Google Home, plus you can employ remote control and remote monitoring through its app as you wash and dry. This dryer also boasts a massive, 7.3-cubic-foot dryer, which is ideal for families and others creating oversized loads. Buy now at Appliances Connection

Maytag MHW6630HC / MED6630HC Dimensions: Washer: 38.62” x 27” x 32.94” Dryer: 38.62” x 27” x 30.75” (H x W x D) Finish: White, metallic slate Orientation: Front-load Stackable: Yes Special features: Extra power, sanitize cycle, wrinkle prevent option Long-time fans of Maytag won’t be disappointed with the Maytag MHW6630HC washer and the Maytag MED6630HC dryer set. During our lab testing, this Maytag washer’s normal and heavy cycles performed strongly, and it also has a speedy, highly effective 13-minute-long quick wash. This washer is less gentle on clothes than we’d hoped, but it makes up for it with some neat features. Three such: A steam option, an extended tumble cycle to keep post-wash clothes from clumping and wrinkling, and the Extra Power button that helps get tough stains out of family-sized loads of laundry. The Maytag dryer is the perfect combination of looks, usability, speed, and power. It has a large, central dial and a streamlined control panel that makes cycle selection a breeze. It dries clothes quickly without raising the temperature to the point where you’d have to worry about heat damage, and the test loads in the normal and delicates cycles came out 100% dry. Buy now at Appliances Connection   
  
 GE GFW850SPNRS / GFD85ESPNRS Dimensions: Washer: 39.75” x 28” x 34” Dryer: 39.75” x 28” x 32” (H x W x D) Finish: White, Sapphire Blue, Diamond Gray Orientation: Front-load Stackable: Yes Special features: Microban antimicrobial gasket, auto dispense, smart connectivity, Wi-Fi, steam features, reversible door in washer The sleek and stylish GE GFW850SPNRS washing machine and its matching GE GFD85ESPNRS dryer are feature packed and high performing. Despite its bells and whistles, this GE washer still comes at an affordable price. Its stain removal abilities are strong across the four main cycles we tested, and it exhibited relatively low wear and tear on our test laundry loads. Common with many front-load washers, a smelly interior is due to bacteria build-up in the gasket. GE solves this problem with Microban antibacterial materials and a through-door vent system that doubles as a dryer for small laundry loads. The matching GE dryer features a wide range of cycles and options (including PowerSteam cycles, a sanitize cycle, and a static reduction option). The cycle times on this dryer are relatively long (quick equals an hour), and its cycles all get the laundry more than 97% dry. Buy now at Appliances Connection

How We Tested Washer and Dryer Sets and Why You Should Trust Us The Testers Many members of the Reviewed Lab staff past and present have tested washing machines and dryers, including our chief scientist David Ellerby, our former senior scientist Julia McDougall, and lab technicians Jonathan Chan, Kyle Hamilton, Beckett Dubay, and Michael Elderbee. The Tests If blood, oil, and sweat sound like something out of a Saw film, you’re right on the money. They’re also some of the elements we use to test washing machines in the Reviewed labs. We’ll know a winner when it can truly tackle those nasty stains. Our chief scientist, team of lab experts, and our appliance reviewers take testing washing machines and gas and electric dryers seriously. We bring in top-rated and best-selling models from brands like Maytag, LG, Samsung, Speed Queen, GE, Miele and more, and we run them through rigorous, science-based tests and gather concrete data that we use to compare, contrast, and rank machines. For washing machines, we look at stain removal prowess (using strips of AHAM-approved stains (which includes cocoa, sweat, pig’s blood, red wine, and oil), wear and tear, water retention, cycle time. For dryers, we look at performance and maximum temperatures, and cycle times, to name a few things. We also take into account user experience factors, so consumers can get the whole picture. We also assess how easy it is to use each washing machine and dryer. This involves cumulatively assessing the control panel, door, detergent dispenser, and any smart features that are included.

Related content best-right-now The Best Laundry Centers of 2022 best-right-now The Best Washing Machines of 2022  
What You Should Know About Buying Washer and Dryer Sets When it comes to laundry pairs, the washing machine and the dryer are designed to work together. For instance, if a washing machine does a great job of removing stains from a laundry load, but has a tougher time spinning out all of the water, the dryer can be programmed to anticipate extra-wet laundry and run at temperatures hot enough to remove all of the moisture. This way, you end up with clean, dry clothes after one full laundry cycle. On the other hand, if you pick a washer and a dryer that are unrelated to one another, you could end up with a washer that leaves clothes wet, and a dryer that doesn’t know to compensate appropriately. How Much Is A Washer And Dryer Set While it’s cheaper to replace just a washer or a dryer when one of your existing ones breaks down and dies, there are definitely some advantages to buying a laundry pair, including a reduced price. Buying a washer and dryer set will typically save you a few hundred dollars—think of it like a bundle. The depth of the savings depends on where you shop. You may also save even more money on major sales times, like Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Memorial Day weekend, President’s Day, and Labor Day. If you have flexibility, you should also consider shopping during the spring when warehouses are cleaning out their inventories, in the fall when brands begin launching new models, and right after the holidays. Where To Buy Washer And Dryer Sets When it comes to where to buy washer and dryer sets, the answer is easy—wherever large appliances are sold. The best—and our favorite—online retailers include AJ Madison, Abt, and Appliances Connection. You can also shop locally or online at stores like Best Buy, The Home Depot, and Lowe’s. We always recommend shopping around for large appliances. With supply chain issues and fluctuating demand, finding the appliances you want in-stock when you want them can be challenging. We strongly recommend against buying a washer and dryer set, or any large appliances for that matter, on Amazon or at Walmart. From mostly third-party sellers to voided warranties to not including installation for all items, buying appliances here could come with more risk than we think is necessary. How To Set Up A Washer And Dryer You should consider buying a laundry pair if there’s a chance you’ll want or need to stack the washer and dryer. The first rule of stacking a washer and dryer is to never stack them unless the manufacturer indicates they are meant to be stacked, and you’ve purchased a stacking kit. The washer also needs to be a front-load washing machine, and the washer and dryer should be a matching set. You’ll typically need tools like a screwdriver, wrench, level, and tape measure. You’ll also want to locate your owner’s manual or look on the brand’s website for installation instructions. You won’t be able to do this job on your own, so bring in a friend or partner who can lift. The washer goes on the bottom, and the dryer goes on the top—always. Dryers are much lighter, and they never fill with water. More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best Washing Machines The Best Dryers This is why your washing machine smells—here’s how to clean it

6 tips that make doing laundry so much easier

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Prices were accurate at the time this article was published but may change over time.

Like any large appliance, buying a washing machine and a dryer is an investment, so you want to make sure you do things right. There are a few instances when buying a washer dryer set makes sense: one, you’re in need of both; two, you know you will want to stack them; three, you’re looking to get the most functionality and best compatibility out of your laundry room.

Many consumers spend the bulk of their time and effort researching a washer, and then just select the matching dryer as an afterthought. While washers (both top-loaders and front-loaders) do have more of an impact on your “laundry day” experience (a good washer means less work for your dryer and a shorter wash time), you also don’t want to get stuck with a bad dryer with a low spin speed and damp clothes for the next decade.

Since we’ve been testing washers and dryers in our labs for more than a decade, we know what to look for in the best washer and dryer sets. At the top of our rankings, the LG WM9000HVA / DLEX9500K (available at Appliances Connection) washer and dryer combo offers one of the best performances we’ve ever seen in our labs. If you’re looking for great value, we love the Samsung WF45R6100AW / DVE45R6100W (available at AJ Madison).

Due to supply chain challenges and soaring demand, there is widespread unavailability of home appliances and long wait times for delivery of backordered products. If you’re a consumer in need of a washer or dryer, here are the best places to buy in-stock appliances right now.

This LG pair is one of the best washer and dryer sets we’ve tested to date.

Dimensions: Washer: 40.75” x 29” x 33.75” Dryer: 40.88” x 29” x 33.38” (H x W x D) Finish: Graphite steel Orientation: Front-load Stackable: Yes Special features: Smart features, energy monitoring, remote start

Not only has the LG WM9000HVA washing machine and LG DLEX9000V dryer won our Editor’s Choice badge, it’s won our coveted Best of Year award. This pair is one of the best washer and dryer sets we’ve tested to date.

The large capacity LG washing machine offers a steam cycle, a sanitizing wash, and a sleek look. Not to mention it impressed us by how well it cleaned, removing about 81% of the stains in our tests, which makes it one of the highest performing washers to ever come through our labs.

Users will notice its angled basin, which makes it easier to unload your laundry after a wash. Do note that this washer’s 29-inch width is 2 inches wider than most other washers on the market.

Likewise, its matching 9-cubic-foot (who doesn’t love a large load) LG dryer works better than most dryers we’ve tested—it got the laundry in both the normal and bulky cycles 100% dry.

This dryer can easily deal with a variety of fabric types and item sizes—it has no trouble with big items like comforters, and gets shirts wrinkle-free. Even though it’s a big investment, we say its performance justifies the cost.

Large capacity   
  
 Excellent cleaning performance   
  
 Great value   
  
 None that we can find

This affordable Samsung set features a great performance for its price.

Dimensions: Washer: 38.7” x 27” x 31.3” Dryer: 38.7” x 27” x 31.5” (H x W x D) Finish: Champagne, platinum, white Orientation: Front-load Stackable: Yes Special features: Steam wash, self-clean, smart care

On our list of best washer and dryer sets, the Samsung WF45R6100AW washer washer and the Samsung DVE45R6100C dryer come out on top as our best value pick.

This affordable Samsung washer boasts an amazing number of wash cycle options, and its heavy cycle cleans near-perfectly with one of the best stain removing cycles we’ve ever seen. This washer is a little harder—wear-and-tear-wise—on clothes than we’d like, but the trade-off for its excellent stain removal is worth it.

Uniquely, this Samsung washer uses steam cleaning in half of its available cycles, including normal, heavy, and sanitize. If you need a washer to tackle your toughest, dirtiest laundry, this one won’t let you down.

For its part, the dryer has a killer normal cycle—getting wet laundry 100% dry in under an hour—one of the most effective normal cycles we’ve ever seen. Additional steam cycles and cycle customization options add to this Samsung dryer’s appeal.

Excellent value   
  
 Highly effective drying capabilities   
  
 Washer is a little tough on clothing

The LG WT7900HBA top-loading washer and the LG DLEX7900BE dryer can handle lots of laundry and lots of different laundry situations.

Dimensions: Washer: 44.5” x 27” x 28.38” Dryer: 44.5” x 27” x 29.5” (H x W x D) Finish: Black steel, white Orientation: Top-load Stackable: No Special features: Remote start, smart capabilities, steam cycles

Laundry traditionalists will always prefer top-loaders vs front-loaders. If this sounds like you, this workhorse of a washer-dryer pair from LG will be right up your alley.

The LG WT7900HBA top-loading washer and the LG DLEX7900BE dryer can handle lots of laundry and lots of different laundry situations.

This LG washer’s cycle times are short, including the heavy duty cycle, which performed the best in our stain removal tests and takes less than two hours to run. It also boasts the Allergiene cycle, which claims to remove pet dander and dust mites, and seven steam cycles.

When tested, the dryer got our laundry loads more than 80% dry, but the speed dry and delicate cycles are highly effective. It’s also full of neat cycle options and features, including an anti-bacterial cycle and wrinkle care.

A huge perk, the dryer door can open to the side or open downward, giving you flexibility when it comes to popping wet, heavy laundry loads into the dryer without wrenching your back.

Many cycles and cycle options   
  
 Allergen and pet dander control   
  
 Antibacterial option in dryer   
  
 Dryer door opens to the side and downward   
  
 Washer doesn't clean as well as a front-loader   
  
 Enter your email:

This fully integrated laundry center, meaning it’s all one unit rather than two stacked units, features a single, slim design to help it fit into smaller spaces.

Dimensions: 74.38” x 27” x 30.38” (H x W x D) Finish: White, black steel Orientation: Front-load Stackable: n/a (single unit) Special features: Built-in intelligence, TurboWash 360, Wi-Fi capabilities, smart capabilities

The LG WashTower WKEX200HBA makes shopping for washers and dryers a lot easier, as you only have to buy one machine, rather than two.

This fully integrated laundry center, meaning it’s all one unit rather than two stacked units, features a single, slim design to help it fit into smaller spaces.

The LG WashTower that we lab tested offered an above-average performance and got our laundry up to 4% cleaner than average. Plus, it did so in record time.

Drying, too, is a breeze. The dryer coordinates with the washer to automatically assign an appropriate drying cycle based on what you selected for the washer. But you can also make manual cycle selections.

We don’t see many washer-dryer pairs that feature such great performance at such a low price.

Looks great   
  
 App controlled   
  
 Drying monitor isn’t the best

For the very specific consumer who needs a compact washer and dryer set, the Miele WXR860WCS compact washer and the Miele TXR860WP Eco & Steam compact dryer is a solid bet.

Dimensions: Washer: 33.5” x 23.5” x 25.3” Dryer: 33.5” x 23.5” x 25.4” (H x W x D) Finish: White Orientation: Front-load Stackable: Yes Special features: Remote monitoring, auto detergent dispensing

For the very specific consumer who needs a compact washer and dryer set, the Miele WXR 860WCS compact washer and the Miele TXR860WP Eco & Steam compact dryer is a solid bet, although you’ll pay for it.

This Miele compact front-load washer has versatility and innovations that we’d normally see on a full-sized flagship model. For example, its TwinDos feature utilizes pre-filled detergent and oxygen bleach cartridges to automatically dispense the correct amount of detergent, giving you the optimum clean.

Its normal cycle is one of the best in its class when it comes to cleaning, combining high-tech features with good-old-fashioned scrubbing.

Miele’s matching dryer features temperatures that are gentle on clothes and 19 specialty cycles to take care of your clothing without adding wear and tear.

All of the cycles we ran lasted over an hour, offering longer drying times than vented dryers, but what it lacks in speed it makes up for in quality.

In the upper left corner of the machine, you’ll find a water jug into which the condensation from your laundry empties. You will have to manually empty it when it reaches maximum capacity.

Automatic detergent dosing in washer   
  
 19 specialty cycles in dryer   
  
 Excellent cleaning performance   
  
 More expensive than average standard size machines

Dimensions: Washer: 38.63” x 27” x 32.94” Dryer: 38.13” x 27” x 30.69” (H x W x D) Finish: Metallic slate, white Orientation: Front-load Stackable: Yes Special features: Smart capabilities, Wi-Fi, remote monitoring, PowerWash System, Fresh Hold option, reversible door on dryer

To date, the Maytag MHW8630HC washing machine is the best Maytag washer to have ever been tested in our labs. It has a massive 5-cubic-foot drum, a true Sanitize cycle, and a high performing Heavy Duty cycle. We have not tested its companion dryer, the Maytag MED8630HC, but we feel confident it’s a match for this washer.

During our testing on the washer, it showed top-tier cleaning performance, especially when using its heavy cycle. It also features an internal heater that allows it to heartily sanitize your clothing at around 130°F, which is hot enough to kill 99.9% of illness-causing bacteria, like pneumonia.

Like this Maytag washer, the dryer offers smart capabilities with both Amazon and Google Home, plus you can employ remote control and remote monitoring through its app as you wash and dry. This dryer also boasts a massive, 7.3-cubic-foot dryer, which is ideal for families and others creating oversized loads.

Dimensions: Washer: 38.62” x 27” x 32.94” Dryer: 38.62” x 27” x 30.75” (H x W x D) Finish: White, metallic slate Orientation: Front-load Stackable: Yes Special features: Extra power, sanitize cycle, wrinkle prevent option

Long-time fans of Maytag won’t be disappointed with the Maytag MHW6630HC washer and the Maytag MED6630HC dryer set.

During our lab testing, this Maytag washer’s normal and heavy cycles performed strongly, and it also has a speedy, highly effective 13-minute-long quick wash. This washer is less gentle on clothes than we’d hoped, but it makes up for it with some neat features.

Three such: A steam option, an extended tumble cycle to keep post-wash clothes from clumping and wrinkling, and the Extra Power button that helps get tough stains out of family-sized loads of laundry.

The Maytag dryer is the perfect combination of looks, usability, speed, and power. It has a large, central dial and a streamlined control panel that makes cycle selection a breeze.

It dries clothes quickly without raising the temperature to the point where you’d have to worry about heat damage, and the test loads in the normal and delicates cycles came out 100% dry.

Dimensions: Washer: 39.75” x 28” x 34” Dryer: 39.75” x 28” x 32” (H x W x D) Finish: White, Sapphire Blue, Diamond Gray Orientation: Front-load Stackable: Yes Special features: Microban antimicrobial gasket, auto dispense, smart connectivity, Wi-Fi, steam features, reversible door in washer

The sleek and stylish GE GFW850SPNRS washing machine and its matching GE GFD85ESPNRS dryer are feature packed and high performing.

Despite its bells and whistles, this GE washer still comes at an affordable price. Its stain removal abilities are strong across the four main cycles we tested, and it exhibited relatively low wear and tear on our test laundry loads.

Common with many front-load washers, a smelly interior is due to bacteria build-up in the gasket. GE solves this problem with Microban antibacterial materials and a through-door vent system that doubles as a dryer for small laundry loads.

The matching GE dryer features a wide range of cycles and options (including PowerSteam cycles, a sanitize cycle, and a static reduction option).

The cycle times on this dryer are relatively long (quick equals an hour), and its cycles all get the laundry more than 97% dry.

Many members of the Reviewed Lab staff past and present have tested washing machines and dryers, including our chief scientist David Ellerby, our former senior scientist Julia McDougall, and lab technicians Jonathan Chan, Kyle Hamilton, Beckett Dubay, and Michael Elderbee.

If blood, oil, and sweat sound like something out of a Saw film, you’re right on the money. They’re also some of the elements we use to test washing machines in the Reviewed labs. We’ll know a winner when it can truly tackle those nasty stains.

Our chief scientist, team of lab experts, and our appliance reviewers take testing washing machines and gas and electric dryers seriously. We bring in top-rated and best-selling models from brands like Maytag, LG, Samsung, Speed Queen, GE, Miele and more, and we run them through rigorous, science-based tests and gather concrete data that we use to compare, contrast, and rank machines.

For washing machines, we look at stain removal prowess (using strips of AHAM-approved stains (which includes cocoa, sweat, pig’s blood, red wine, and oil), wear and tear, water retention, cycle time. For dryers, we look at performance and maximum temperatures, and cycle times, to name a few things.

We also take into account user experience factors, so consumers can get the whole picture. We also assess how easy it is to use each washing machine and dryer. This involves cumulatively assessing the control panel, door, detergent dispenser, and any smart features that are included.

When it comes to laundry pairs, the washing machine and the dryer are designed to work together.

For instance, if a washing machine does a great job of removing stains from a laundry load, but has a tougher time spinning out all of the water, the dryer can be programmed to anticipate extra-wet laundry and run at temperatures hot enough to remove all of the moisture. This way, you end up with clean, dry clothes after one full laundry cycle.

On the other hand, if you pick a washer and a dryer that are unrelated to one another, you could end up with a washer that leaves clothes wet, and a dryer that doesn’t know to compensate appropriately.

While it’s cheaper to replace just a washer or a dryer when one of your existing ones breaks down and dies, there are definitely some advantages to buying a laundry pair, including a reduced price.

Buying a washer and dryer set will typically save you a few hundred dollars—think of it like a bundle. The depth of the savings depends on where you shop.

You may also save even more money on major sales times, like Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Memorial Day weekend, President’s Day, and Labor Day. If you have flexibility, you should also consider shopping during the spring when warehouses are cleaning out their inventories, in the fall when brands begin launching new models, and right after the holidays.

When it comes to where to buy washer and dryer sets, the answer is easy—wherever large appliances are sold. The best—and our favorite—online retailers include AJ Madison, Abt, and Appliances Connection. You can also shop locally or online at stores like Best Buy, The Home Depot, and Lowe’s.

We always recommend shopping around for large appliances. With supply chain issues and fluctuating demand, finding the appliances you want in-stock when you want them can be challenging.

We strongly recommend against buying a washer and dryer set, or any large appliances for that matter, on Amazon or at Walmart. From mostly third-party sellers to voided warranties to not including installation for all items, buying appliances here could come with more risk than we think is necessary.

You should consider buying a laundry pair if there’s a chance you’ll want or need to stack the washer and dryer.

The first rule of stacking a washer and dryer is to never stack them unless the manufacturer indicates they are meant to be stacked, and you’ve purchased a stacking kit. The washer also needs to be a front-load washing machine, and the washer and dryer should be a matching set.

You’ll typically need tools like a screwdriver, wrench, level, and tape measure. You’ll also want to locate your owner’s manual or look on the brand’s website for installation instructions. You won’t be able to do this job on your own, so bring in a friend or partner who can lift.

The washer goes on the bottom, and the dryer goes on the top—always. Dryers are much lighter, and they never fill with water.

Leigh Harrington  
   
  
  
 Managing Editor, Home

Leigh Harrington has more than 20 years experience as a writer and editor for myriad print and digital publications. At USA TODAY and Reviewed, she focuses on coverage about home trends, home improvement, large and small appliances, and gardening.

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# The Best Single-Serve Coffee Makers of 2022

## The Tester

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

Unlike most of the other pod brewers we tested, its compact design makes it easy to keep on your countertop or store if space is limited.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The K-Café can handle small espresso shots, 12-ounce coffees, or cappuccino, and you can control the amount of flavor with a simple press of a button.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 A perfectly capable pod brewer. However, there isn’t much that sets it apart from similar Keurig-branded machines.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The highest-rated Keurig on Amazon, this has an iced coffee button, brews five different cup sizes, and lets you adjust the brew strength of each cup.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Capable of creating both espresso and regular coffee, it's an excellent choice if you want the convenience of a pod brewer, but aren’t willing to compromise on flavor.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated October 19, 2022

The best single-serve coffee makers are a convenient way of quickly brewing a quality cup of coffee that rivals what you can find in your local coffee shop. Our favorite single-serve coffee maker, the Nespresso VertuoPlus by Breville (available at Amazon for $199.00), has a sleek design and is simply the best at what a pod coffee maker does—brew a strong, hot cup of coffee without any fuss. Its 40-ounce water reservoir is not the largest in our roundup, but its swivel bottom handle allows you to detach the tank for storage, depending on your counter space. If your caffeine demands also include espresso and other types of coffee drinks, we recommend the Keurig K-Cafe (available on Amazon), the most versatile single-serve maker we tested.

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Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser

Best Overall Nespresso VertuoPlus Pod type: Nespresso Vertuo Water reservoir capacity: 40 ounces Dimensions: 16.7 x 5.6 x 12.8 inches Weight: 10.1 pounds The Nespresso VertuoPlus by Breville delivers a dense, rich, and aromatic coffee. Our coffee had a foamy crema on top, and this single-serve coffee machine also brews espresso capsules, so you can make espresso, double espresso, and regular coffee. Coffee drinkers will love its compact design—it can live on your countertop or store if your space is limited. The motorized head opens with a light lift, and used coffee pods are ejected into a hidden container, saving you from burning your fingers. If you’re interested in lattes, cappuccinos or steamed milk in your coffee, a milk frother is available if you opt for a bundled package. Pros Compact Fast brewing Option for double espresso drinks Cons Water tank is relatively small $199.00 from Amazon $199.95 from Saks Fifth Avenue $268.67 from Walmart

Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser

Most Versatile Keurig K-Café Pod type: K-Cup Water reservoir capacity: 60 ounces Dimensions: 12.5 x 15.3 x 11.7 inches Weight: 10 pounds If you’re not ready to shell out hundreds of dollars on an Italian-made espresso machine but still crave the ability to make cappuccinos, lattes, and macchiatos, this machine might be right for you. The control pad of this K-Cup coffee maker gives you the option to brew espresso shots or six ounces to 12 ounces of regular coffee. If you like your coffee more intense, there’s also a “strong” button to intensify the brew strength. Another highlight is the dishwasher safe milk frother positioned directly on the side of the machine. To make a latte, you only need to fill the frother with skim, whole, nut, or lactose-free milk and press a button. We love this machine’s hands-free design and intuitive control panel. A stainless steel drip tray makes it easy to clean. Pros Brews coffee, latte, and cappuccino Large water reservoir Features milk frother Cons May require large countertop space Buy now at Keurig $162.99 from Amazon $162.99 from Target $157.07 from Walmart

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Other Single-Serve Coffee Makers We Tested Cuisinart SS-10 Pod type: K-Cup Water reservoir capacity: 72 ounces Dimensions: 11.03 x 9.33 x 12.13 inches Weight: 9.9 pounds The Cuisinart SS-10 is a perfectly capable pod brewer with an upscale look, but there isn’t much it does that sets it apart from similar Keurig machines. The SS-10 does, however, come with a K-Cup filter on the side of the machine that allows you to make coffee with your own fresh grounds. All K-Cup machines are compatible with the My K-Cup reusable filter, but the SS-10 stores its reusable filter right in the machine itself. This Cuisinart features a large water reservoir and a digital display. Options and customization are limited to cup size and brew temperature. The machine can dispense hot water for soups and tea. While we appreciate the SS-10’s ease-of-use and self-clean cycle, we found the brew basket opening mechanism to be unresponsive and slightly confusing. Pros Large 72 ounce brewing capability Reusable K-Cup and storage Dispenses hot water for tea and soup Cons Bulky design $112.49 from Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $149.99 from JCPenney $158.85 from Walmart

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Keurig K-Elite Pod type: K-Cup Water reservoir capacity: 75 ounces Dimensions: 9.9 x 12.7 x 13.1 inches Weight: 6.6 pounds The K-Elite boasts a large 75-ounce reservoir that allows you to brew more cups of coffee at once than any other model in this roundup. It brews five different cup sizes and comes with a button to adjust the brew strength of each cup. The K-Elite also features an iced coffee option, but it is not to be confused with brewing ice-cold coffee. It just makes the coffee more concentrated so ice won’t dilute the flavor. The drip tray can be removed to accommodate most travel mugs. Pros A huge 72-ounce water tank Option to brew strong coffee Iced coffee Cons May require large countertop space Buy now at Keurig Buy now at Amazon $189.99 from Target $139.99 from Best Buy   
  
 Nespresso VertuoLine Evoluo Pod type: Nespresso Vertuo Water reservoir capacity: 54 ounces Dimensions: 12.22 x 8.97 x 12.33 inches Weight: 10.96 pounds The Nespresso VertuoLine Evoluo by De’Longhi is an excellent choice for people who want the convenience that comes with a pod brewer, but aren’t willing to compromise on flavor. The Evoluo is capable of creating both espresso and regular coffee, but it can't make cocoa or iced coffee. In our tests, it brewed better tasting coffee than anything made by a K-Cup brewer, and it puts a nice crema in your cup. The Evoluo is constructed from high-quality materials and sports a one-touch brewing system. It also is considerably more expensive than many single-serve options, and its pods also are priced higher and can be more difficult to find. Pros Auto-ejects used pods Brews both espresso and coffee Pods are recyclable Cons Control panel is slightly confusing to use Considerably higher cost $206.54 from Amazon $205.95 from Wayfair $203.90 from Walmart

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Nespresso Vertuo Pod type: Nespresso Vertuo \* Water reservoir capacity: 40 ounces \* Dimensions: 11.91 x 8.3 x 11.9 inches \* Weight: 10.85 pounds The design of this Nespresso Vertuo is almost identical to its De’Longhi model. However, we noticed extremely loud noises during brewing tests and that knocked this model down the roundup a couple of spots. As with other VertuoLine machines, it automatically reads the barcode on the capsules to determine the brew time, size, and temperature. Also like other machines in this line, it has a one-touch brewing system. Its 40-ounce reservoir can make about five cups of coffee before it needs to be refilled. Pros Compact Fast brewing Options such for double espresso drinks Cons Water tank is relatively small $209.95 from Amazon $209.99 from Target $209.95 from Macy's $259.00 from Walmart   
  
 Keurig K-Select Pod type: K-Cup Water reservoir capacity: 52 ounces Dimensions: 11.6 x 9.2 x 12.5 inches Weight: 7.35 pounds The K-Select is bulky, but without the brewing functionality of its high-end sibling, the K-Elite. It works fine if you’re a big Keurig fan, and you’re expecting a standard cup of brew every time you hit the button. It also features a strong brew button designed to increase the strength of your coffee. The 52-ounce water tank can make up to seven cups of coffee, and the drip tray can be removed to accommodate most travel mugs. The machine also features an auto-off programmable button if you’re worried about your appliances zapping energy. The maintenance reminder will also alert you when it’s time for descaling. Pros Auto turn-off to save electricity cost Water reservoir is easy to fill Cons Bulky design Buy now at Keurig $109.00 from Amazon $139.99 from JCPenney $105.00 from Walmart

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Keurig K-Classic Pod type: K-Cup Water reservoir capacity: 48 ounces Dimensions: 13.2 x 10.1 x 13.3 inches Weight: 9 pounds The K-Classic, which has three brewing sizes, doesn’t have any special features, and its price point makes it much less appealing than other Keurigs that do more. Also, let’s talk about the noise. The loud machine brews average-at-best coffee—but is it really worth enduring a soul-killing sound? My answer is no. Like the K-Select, you can program the machine to automatically shut itself off to save energy. It doesn’t feature a carafe option for filling a large mug, but the drip tray is removable for larger travel cups. Pros Auto shutoff saves on electricity Cons Water reservoir relatively small Bulky design Buy now at Keurig $119.99 from Amazon $139.99 from Target $98.79 from Walmart

How We Tested Pod Coffee Makers Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser We tested nine single serve coffee makers to find the best one. The Tester I’m Valerie Li, Reviewed’s cooking and kitchen staff writer—and I’m an avid coffee and tea drinker. For me, a day officially starts when I take my shot of espresso, brewed by my beloved De’Longhi machine. From moseying to 7-Eleven for a quick caffeine fix to traveling to Blue Mountain plantation in Jamaica, I’ve sampled coffee of many different origins and varieties. The Tests We set up top-rated single-serve pod coffee makers and brewed at least 10 cups of coffee in each, assessing how long they took to brew, how easy their reservoirs were to fill, and how versatile they were for brewing tea, iced coffee, and hot chocolate. We repeated this process with all machines over a week, also analyzing how simple each unit was to descale, how comfortable they were to use, how portable and well-built they were, and how effortless they were to store. We also took note of safety concerns and special features. Other qualities we looked for included the taste of the coffee and other beverages, the speed (all options we tested averaged one cup per minute), the temperature of the brew, how easy it was to disassemble parts for cleaning, and how easy it was to recycle the pods. What to Know About Pod Coffee Makers Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser It’s easy to insert pods into the Keurig pod coffee makers. The launch of in-home Keurig machines in 2004 quickly shook up the entire coffee world and changed Americans’ daily caffeine habits. Scientifically speaking, the mechanism behind Keurigs is similar to drip coffee makers, but much faster: Pour hot water over coffee beans and pressurize it to extract juices in under one minute. After the K-Cup technology patent expired, many more pod coffee manufacturers jumped into the game to break Keurig’s short-lived monopoly. Nestle’s Nespresso soon unveiled its more advanced VertuoLine of single-serve coffee makers with centrifusion technology, which can improve the taste tenfold. Now, the two companies are the biggest players in the pod coffee industry. What to Consider When Purchasing Single-Serve Coffee Makers

A pod coffee maker is undeniably the most convenient alternative to fiddling with a French press or waiting for a drip coffee maker. Here are some things to consider when looking for a single-serve coffee maker. Pods vs. Reusable Filters The convenience of single-serve coffee makers comes at a price, especially once you factor in the cost of pods. Before purchasing any single-serve coffee maker, you should also consider the long-term cost of pods. K-Cup pods are widely available and don’t cost as much as pods for Nespresso machines. However, K-pods can be difficult to recycle. In contrast, Nespresso pods cost more and there are fewer flavors of coffee available. Nespresso pods are recyclable if mailed back to the company with pre-paid shipping labels, or delivered to a collection site. Another option is reusable filters. They are more eco-friendly and can be purchased in brick-and-mortar stores and online, including on Amazon. There are a variety of types available, including silicone. If you choose a reusable mesh filter, be aware that it may be more difficult to clean. Water Reservoir The water reservoir capacity for pod coffee makers can vary greatly. The capacity of brewers we reviewed for the roundup ranged from 40 ounces to 75 ounces. Smaller machines can brew just a few cups, but take up less space on your countertop. However, if you drink a number of cups of coffee each day, you likely want a machine that has a larger reservoir so you aren’t refilling it as frequently. Size Like the water reservoir, the size of pod coffee makers can vary greatly. Since the larger machines will most likely live on your countertop, you should make sure you have enough space. Smaller machines can be more easily stored and can still deliver a great cup of coffee. How to Clean a Single-Serve Coffee Maker No matter which coffee pod brand you decide to purchase, it is important to properly care for your single-serve coffee maker. Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser Descaling your coffee maker regularly will keep your coffee tasting fresh. Aside from routine cleaning, such as wiping and rinsing, you should descale your machine once every six months. Why is descaling important? Water we use to brew coffee contains minerals, commonly calcium and magnesium. Minerals can build up over time and gradually accumulate as limescale. This can affect the brewing temperature and taste of your coffee. Eventually, it could cause your machine to malfunction.

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The best single-serve coffee makers are a convenient way of quickly brewing a quality cup of coffee that rivals what you can find in your local coffee shop.

Our favorite single-serve coffee maker, the Nespresso VertuoPlus by Breville (available at Amazon for $199.00), has a sleek design and is simply the best at what a pod coffee maker does—brew a strong, hot cup of coffee without any fuss. Its 40-ounce water reservoir is not the largest in our roundup, but its swivel bottom handle allows you to detach the tank for storage, depending on your counter space.

If your caffeine demands also include espresso and other types of coffee drinks, we recommend the Keurig K-Cafe (available on Amazon), the most versatile single-serve maker we tested.

The Nespresso VertuoPlus by Breville delivers a dense, rich, and aromatic coffee.

Our coffee had a foamy crema on top, and this single-serve coffee machine also brews espresso capsules, so you can make espresso, double espresso, and regular coffee.

Coffee drinkers will love its compact design—it can live on your countertop or store if your space is limited. The motorized head opens with a light lift, and used coffee pods are ejected into a hidden container, saving you from burning your fingers.

If you’re interested in lattes, cappuccinos or steamed milk in your coffee, a milk frother is available if you opt for a bundled package.

Compact   
  
 Fast brewing   
  
 Option for double espresso drinks   
  
 Water tank is relatively small

If you’re not ready to shell out hundreds of dollars on an Italian-made espresso machine but still crave the ability to make cappuccinos, lattes, and macchiatos, this machine might be right for you.

The control pad of this K-Cup coffee maker gives you the option to brew espresso shots or six ounces to 12 ounces of regular coffee. If you like your coffee more intense, there’s also a “strong” button to intensify the brew strength.

Another highlight is the dishwasher safe milk frother positioned directly on the side of the machine. To make a latte, you only need to fill the frother with skim, whole, nut, or lactose-free milk and press a button.

We love this machine’s hands-free design and intuitive control panel. A stainless steel drip tray makes it easy to clean.

Brews coffee, latte, and cappuccino   
  
 Large water reservoir   
  
 Features milk frother   
  
 May require large countertop space

The Cuisinart SS-10 is a perfectly capable pod brewer with an upscale look, but there isn’t much it does that sets it apart from similar Keurig machines.

The SS-10 does, however, come with a K-Cup filter on the side of the machine that allows you to make coffee with your own fresh grounds. All K-Cup machines are compatible with the My K-Cup reusable filter, but the SS-10 stores its reusable filter right in the machine itself.

This Cuisinart features a large water reservoir and a digital display. Options and customization are limited to cup size and brew temperature. The machine can dispense hot water for soups and tea.

While we appreciate the SS-10’s ease-of-use and self-clean cycle, we found the brew basket opening mechanism to be unresponsive and slightly confusing.

Large 72 ounce brewing capability   
  
 Reusable K-Cup and storage   
  
 Dispenses hot water for tea and soup   
  
 Bulky design

The K-Elite boasts a large 75-ounce reservoir that allows you to brew more cups of coffee at once than any other model in this roundup.

It brews five different cup sizes and comes with a button to adjust the brew strength of each cup. The K-Elite also features an iced coffee option, but it is not to be confused with brewing ice-cold coffee. It just makes the coffee more concentrated so ice won’t dilute the flavor.

The drip tray can be removed to accommodate most travel mugs.

A huge 72-ounce water tank   
  
 Option to brew strong coffee   
  
 Iced coffee   
  
 May require large countertop space

The Nespresso VertuoLine Evoluo by De’Longhi is an excellent choice for people who want the convenience that comes with a pod brewer, but aren’t willing to compromise on flavor.

The Evoluo is capable of creating both espresso and regular coffee, but it can’t make cocoa or iced coffee. In our tests, it brewed better tasting coffee than anything made by a K-Cup brewer, and it puts a nice crema in your cup.

The Evoluo is constructed from high-quality materials and sports a one-touch brewing system. It also is considerably more expensive than many single-serve options, and its pods also are priced higher and can be more difficult to find.

Auto-ejects used pods   
  
 Brews both espresso and coffee   
  
 Pods are recyclable   
  
 Control panel is slightly confusing to use   
  
 Considerably higher cost

Pod type: Nespresso Vertuo \* Water reservoir capacity: 40 ounces \* Dimensions: 11.91 x 8.3 x 11.9 inches \* Weight: 10.85 pounds

The design of this Nespresso Vertuo is almost identical to its De’Longhi model. However, we noticed extremely loud noises during brewing tests and that knocked this model down the roundup a couple of spots.

As with other VertuoLine machines, it automatically reads the barcode on the capsules to determine the brew time, size, and temperature. Also like other machines in this line, it has a one-touch brewing system. Its 40-ounce reservoir can make about five cups of coffee before it needs to be refilled.

Compact   
  
 Fast brewing   
  
 Options such for double espresso drinks   
  
 Water tank is relatively small

The K-Select is bulky, but without the brewing functionality of its high-end sibling, the K-Elite. It works fine if you’re a big Keurig fan, and you’re expecting a standard cup of brew every time you hit the button. It also features a strong brew button designed to increase the strength of your coffee.

The 52-ounce water tank can make up to seven cups of coffee, and the drip tray can be removed to accommodate most travel mugs. The machine also features an auto-off programmable button if you’re worried about your appliances zapping energy. The maintenance reminder will also alert you when it’s time for descaling.

Auto turn-off to save electricity cost   
  
 Water reservoir is easy to fill   
  
 Bulky design

The K-Classic, which has three brewing sizes, doesn’t have any special features, and its price point makes it much less appealing than other Keurigs that do more.

Also, let’s talk about the noise. The loud machine brews average-at-best coffee—but is it really worth enduring a soul-killing sound? My answer is no.

Like the K-Select, you can program the machine to automatically shut itself off to save energy. It doesn’t feature a carafe option for filling a large mug, but the drip tray is removable for larger travel cups.

Auto shutoff saves on electricity   
  
 Water reservoir relatively small   
  
 Bulky design

We tested nine single serve coffee makers to find the best one.

I’m Valerie Li, Reviewed’s cooking and kitchen staff writer—and I’m an avid coffee and tea drinker. For me, a day officially starts when I take my shot of espresso, brewed by my beloved De’Longhi machine. From moseying to 7-Eleven for a quick caffeine fix to traveling to Blue Mountain plantation in Jamaica, I’ve sampled coffee of many different origins and varieties.

We set up top-rated single-serve pod coffee makers and brewed at least 10 cups of coffee in each, assessing how long they took to brew, how easy their reservoirs were to fill, and how versatile they were for brewing tea, iced coffee, and hot chocolate.

We repeated this process with all machines over a week, also analyzing how simple each unit was to descale, how comfortable they were to use, how portable and well-built they were, and how effortless they were to store. We also took note of safety concerns and special features.

Other qualities we looked for included the taste of the coffee and other beverages, the speed (all options we tested averaged one cup per minute), the temperature of the brew, how easy it was to disassemble parts for cleaning, and how easy it was to recycle the pods.

It’s easy to insert pods into the Keurig pod coffee makers.

The launch of in-home Keurig machines in 2004 quickly shook up the entire coffee world and changed Americans’ daily caffeine habits.

Scientifically speaking, the mechanism behind Keurigs is similar to drip coffee makers, but much faster: Pour hot water over coffee beans and pressurize it to extract juices in under one minute.

After the K-Cup technology patent expired, many more pod coffee manufacturers jumped into the game to break Keurig’s short-lived monopoly. Nestle’s Nespresso soon unveiled its more advanced VertuoLine of single-serve coffee makers with centrifusion technology, which can improve the taste tenfold.

Now, the two companies are the biggest players in the pod coffee industry.

A pod coffee maker is undeniably the most convenient alternative to fiddling with a French press or waiting for a drip coffee maker. Here are some things to consider when looking for a single-serve coffee maker.

The convenience of single-serve coffee makers comes at a price, especially once you factor in the cost of pods. Before purchasing any single-serve coffee maker, you should also consider the long-term cost of pods.

K-Cup pods are widely available and don’t cost as much as pods for Nespresso machines. However, K-pods can be difficult to recycle. In contrast, Nespresso pods cost more and there are fewer flavors of coffee available. Nespresso pods are recyclable if mailed back to the company with pre-paid shipping labels, or delivered to a collection site.

Another option is reusable filters. They are more eco-friendly and can be purchased in brick-and-mortar stores and online, including on Amazon. There are a variety of types available, including silicone. If you choose a reusable mesh filter, be aware that it may be more difficult to clean.

The water reservoir capacity for pod coffee makers can vary greatly. The capacity of brewers we reviewed for the roundup ranged from 40 ounces to 75 ounces. Smaller machines can brew just a few cups, but take up less space on your countertop.

However, if you drink a number of cups of coffee each day, you likely want a machine that has a larger reservoir so you aren’t refilling it as frequently.

Like the water reservoir, the size of pod coffee makers can vary greatly. Since the larger machines will most likely live on your countertop, you should make sure you have enough space. Smaller machines can be more easily stored and can still deliver a great cup of coffee.

No matter which coffee pod brand you decide to purchase, it is important to properly care for your single-serve coffee maker.

Descaling your coffee maker regularly will keep your coffee tasting fresh.

Aside from routine cleaning, such as wiping and rinsing, you should descale your machine once every six months. Why is descaling important?

Water we use to brew coffee contains minerals, commonly calcium and magnesium. Minerals can build up over time and gradually accumulate as limescale. This can affect the brewing temperature and taste of your coffee. Eventually, it could cause your machine to malfunction.

Valerie Li Stack  
   
  
  
 Senior Staff Writer

Valerie Li Stack is a senior staff writer for Kitchen & Cooking. She is an experienced home cook with a passion for experimenting with the cuisines of countries she’s visited. Driven by an interest in food science, Valerie approaches the culinary scene with a firm grasp of cooking processes and extensive knowledge of ingredients. She believes food speaks to all people regardless of language and cultural background.

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# The Best Digital Microscopes of 2022

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

When you want to get down to business right out of the box, the Annlov 4.3-inch handheld USB microscope is one of the best options on the market.  
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 This Palli Partners digital microscope has a 1080p, 10-megapixel camera that’ll illuminate just about anything you put in its path.  
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 The Annlov 7-Inch LCD Digital Microscope gives you a screen large enough for users of all ages.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This pint-sized but useful microscope comes with an easily adjustable stand, up to 1000x magnification, and photo and video capabilities.  
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 If electronics repair and soldering is your primary need, then the Tomlov DM201 just may be the perfect fit.  
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Updated October 21, 2022

Digital microscopes are a great way to gain a better view of extremely small objects. These microscopes are often used for working on circuit boards and other electronics, and they’re great for making soldering and repairs quick and easy. However, not all digital microscopes are created equally; there are plenty of options and features available depending on your needs. LCD screens, LED lights, and extra powerful magnification can make a big difference in your experience and add to the wide variety available with a digital microscope. While compound microscopes use two lenses to magnify an object for a better view, digital microscopes are built with a camera that allow you to view objects that are displayed through a digital screen. If this sounds like the type of microscope you are looking for, then read on for a list of our best recommendations. To help you find the right microscope and navigate the microscope world, we dug through thousands of reviews for a variety of options available online. Based on our research, these are some of the best digital microscopes offered. You’ll be sure to find what you’re looking for, whether you’re a coin collector or aspiring scientist.

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Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Annlov LCD Digital Microscope Annlov offers one of the best all-around options for digital microscope users. With its 50x to 1,000x magnification, 4.3 inch LCD screen, and adjustable LED lights, this microscope offers a wide range of benefits over much of the competition. The Annlov digital microscope is also USB compatible. One of the biggest advantages cited by buyers of this model is its ease of setup and user-friendly design. When you want to get down to business right out of the box, the Annlov 4.3-inch handheld USB microscope is one of the best options on the market. Pros Handheld capability Easy to use for kids as well as adults 8 adjustable LED lights Cons Some users were unsatisfied with resolution while at full magnification Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Palli Partners LCD Digital Microscope If you’re looking to buy a digital microscope, then image quality is obviously important to you. Luckily, that’s where the Palli Partners LCD Digital Microscope shines. It has a 1080p, 10-megapixel digital camera that’ll illuminate just about anything you put in its path. It also includes an HD LCD screen and video recording option that offers high resolution from the objective lens. With seven different picture quality options and an adjustable exposure menu, this microscope offers a couple different viewing options. You’ll be able to capture anything you want not only on the screen, but in recorded format for viewing on your computer any time. Pros 10-megapixel camera PC and Mac compatibility Multiple exposure and picture options Cons Instructions not as thorough as some hoped Focus knob felt weak to some Buy now at Amazon

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Annlov 7-Inch LCD Digital Microscope Sometimes, a small screen simply won’t do for your digital microscope viewing. The Annlov 7-inch LCD Digital Microscope gives you a screen large enough for users of all ages. With magnification up to 1,200x, this model is a great option for hooking up to a computer for even larger viewing. It has a steady aluminum alloy base and is great for circuit-board repair and biological investigations alike. Pros 1,200x magnification Large 7-inch screen Cons Somewhat pricier than similar models Some had difficulty with SD compatibility Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Skybasic Wireless Digital Microscope You may not always need the biggest, strongest digital microscope on the market. Sometimes portability trumps power, and that’s why the Skybasic Wireless Digital Microscope is on our list. This small but useful microscope comes with an easily adjustable stand, for ease of use. It also includes up to 1000x magnification, and photo and video capabilities to capture images without issue. Using this digital microscope is easy. All you need to do is plug the USB cord into any compatible device, and you’re ready to go. This is a great first model for use as a kids microscope, due to the size, portability, and relative ease of use. Pros Compact Easy to use Extra affordable Cons Not as powerful as some larger models Some found durability lacking Buy now at Amazon

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Tomlov DM201 7-Inch HDMI Digital Microscope If electronics repair and soldering is your primary need, then the Tomlov DM201 just may be the perfect fit. The optical system has two adjustable flex LED lights that make detailed work a breeze. This model includes a seven-inch monitor, dual HDMI and USB outputs, and a whopping 16 MP digital camera output to complement its impressive 1,200x magnification capabilities. This microscope is even compatible with most smartphones. When you need a serious digital microscope for serious work and great depth of field, Tomlov has the right one for you. Pros 16-megapixel camera 1,200x magnification Cons Relatively expensive Some users reported faulty batteries Buy now at Amazon

Digital microscopes are a great way to gain a better view of extremely small objects. These microscopes are often used for working on circuit boards and other electronics, and they’re great for making soldering and repairs quick and easy. However, not all digital microscopes are created equally; there are plenty of options and features available depending on your needs. LCD screens, LED lights, and extra powerful magnification can make a big difference in your experience and add to the wide variety available with a digital microscope.

While compound microscopes use two lenses to magnify an object for a better view, digital microscopes are built with a camera that allow you to view objects that are displayed through a digital screen. If this sounds like the type of microscope you are looking for, then read on for a list of our best recommendations.

To help you find the right microscope and navigate the microscope world, we dug through thousands of reviews for a variety of options available online. Based on our research, these are some of the best digital microscopes offered. You’ll be sure to find what you’re looking for, whether you’re a coin collector or aspiring scientist.

The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Annlov offers one of the best all-around options for digital microscope users. With its 50x to 1,000x magnification, 4.3 inch LCD screen, and adjustable LED lights, this microscope offers a wide range of benefits over much of the competition. The Annlov digital microscope is also USB compatible.

One of the biggest advantages cited by buyers of this model is its ease of setup and user-friendly design. When you want to get down to business right out of the box, the Annlov 4.3-inch handheld USB microscope is one of the best options on the market.

Handheld capability   
  
 Easy to use for kids as well as adults   
  
 8 adjustable LED lights   
  
 Some users were unsatisfied with resolution while at full magnification

If you’re looking to buy a digital microscope, then image quality is obviously important to you. Luckily, that’s where the Palli Partners LCD Digital Microscope shines. It has a 1080p, 10-megapixel digital camera that’ll illuminate just about anything you put in its path. It also includes an HD LCD screen and video recording option that offers high resolution from the objective lens.

With seven different picture quality options and an adjustable exposure menu, this microscope offers a couple different viewing options. You’ll be able to capture anything you want not only on the screen, but in recorded format for viewing on your computer any time.

10-megapixel camera   
  
 PC and Mac compatibility   
  
 Multiple exposure and picture options   
  
 Instructions not as thorough as some hoped   
  
 Focus knob felt weak to some

Sometimes, a small screen simply won’t do for your digital microscope viewing. The Annlov 7-inch LCD Digital Microscope gives you a screen large enough for users of all ages. With magnification up to 1,200x, this model is a great option for hooking up to a computer for even larger viewing. It has a steady aluminum alloy base and is great for circuit-board repair and biological investigations alike.

1,200x magnification   
  
 Large 7-inch screen   
  
 Somewhat pricier than similar models   
  
 Some had difficulty with SD compatibility

You may not always need the biggest, strongest digital microscope on the market. Sometimes portability trumps power, and that’s why the Skybasic Wireless Digital Microscope is on our list. This small but useful microscope comes with an easily adjustable stand, for ease of use. It also includes up to 1000x magnification, and photo and video capabilities to capture images without issue.

Using this digital microscope is easy. All you need to do is plug the USB cord into any compatible device, and you’re ready to go. This is a great first model for use as a kids microscope, due to the size, portability, and relative ease of use.

Compact   
  
 Easy to use   
  
 Extra affordable   
  
 Not as powerful as some larger models   
  
 Some found durability lacking

If electronics repair and soldering is your primary need, then the Tomlov DM201 just may be the perfect fit. The optical system has two adjustable flex LED lights that make detailed work a breeze. This model includes a seven-inch monitor, dual HDMI and USB outputs, and a whopping 16 MP digital camera output to complement its impressive 1,200x magnification capabilities. This microscope is even compatible with most smartphones.

When you need a serious digital microscope for serious work and great depth of field, Tomlov has the right one for you.

16-megapixel camera   
  
 1,200x magnification   
  
 Relatively expensive   
  
 Some users reported faulty batteries   
  
  
 Adam Reeder  
   
  
  
 Contributor

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# The Best Digital Cameras for Kids of 2022

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

A terrific kids' camera that is destined to inspire a new generation of shutterbugs.   
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 A durable kids' camera that sporty kids will love.   
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 A workhorse of a camera, the Olympus Tough is easy to use, is filled with intuitive features, and takes incredible photos in all kinds of conditions.   
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 This printcam allows kids to print out photos to their hearts' content, without breaking the bank.   
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 For younger kids, who aren’t great at holding still or understanding photo framing, this camera teaches them without them even realizing it.  
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Updated September 16, 2022

A good kids’ camera can open up a whole new world for a child. Whether they dream of being future social media influencers, or they just want to take a stab at exploring their artistic side, having a camera as a kid can supercharge their creativity while being a ton of fun. If your child has started asking for your cell phone to snap some selfies, it may be time to investigate a starter camera for your kid. We looked into nine kid-friendly digital cameras to find the best for budding photographers and filmmakers. Our favorite, which rose above the pack for its durability and usability, is the Kidamento Model K (available at Amazon). It’s a terrific little camera that takes better-than-expected photos, is small enough to fit in a kid’s hand, and is super durable. Also topping the list was the Olympus Tough TG-6 (available at Amazon) for older kids, and our Best Value pick was the Prograce Kids’ Digital Camera (available at Amazon). Here’s to seeing the world through your kids’ eyes—and to getting your phone back.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Credit: Reviewed / Lisa Lawrence We loved the durable exterior of the Kidamento, which made it almost indestructible.

Best Overall Kidamento Model K This cutie little kids’ digital camera made us swoon over its diminutive size, soft and grippy body, and its intuitive and easy-to-use features. In fact, this camera was so easy to use that we never once had to break out the instruction manual. Just take it out of the box, charge it up, and watch your kids snap away. Out of all the cameras tested, the design of this one elicited the greatest squeals of delight from our testers. The soft rubber exterior not only looks adorable, it has a comfortable and grippy feel and makes the camera nearly indestructible. If you’re looking for a digital camera for kids that will encourage young shutterbugs to hone and develop a love for photography, this is the camera you absolutely should buy. What we liked best about this kid-friendly digital camera is that it puts photo-taking above all else. That may seem like a no-brainer, but the most common complaint with kids’ cameras is they can be so stuffed with games that they do nothing to develop foundational photography skills. The Kidamento Model K, however, was obviously designed by photo buffs. This camera can take photos up to an astonishing 48-megapixels, making it a formidable camera as far as photo quality is concerned. We also liked that looks and feels like a shrunk-down DSLR, yet is automated to get the best possible photos for a young child who hasn’t yet honed their photography chops. A large viewing screen allows kids to easily frame their photos, and cute little frames, icons, and emojis allow kids to put their personal stamps on picture taking. We love that it has a built-in selfie cam (because kids love a good selfie) and it also comes with a brilliant little app that allows you to easily download pictures to your phone or tablet over Wi-Fi. An F2.8 lens ensured that all photos we took were crisp and the intuitive touch screen is laid out in a way that will most easily translate to a more complex camera, once your budding paparazzo is ready for a more challenging piece. Pros Excellent photo quality Intuitive features Large viewing screen Cons Photo download app can be glitchy Buy now at Amazon Buy now at Amazon $79.99 from Walmart

Credit: Reviewed / Lisa Lawrence The Prograce is a great on-the-go camera for kids.

Best Value Prograce Kids Waterproof Camera A kiddie-take on a GoPro, the 5-megapixel Prograce is a tiny, mountable camera housed in a waterproof and shockproof plexiglass casing, making it a solid choice for young adventure-seekers with a budding interest in photography. It comes with a full suite of mounts and has HD video functionality, making it a great, well-priced option for young adventurers. The burst shooting function makes it easy for kids to capture the dynamic movements of their friends, but we found the photo quality to be only so-so. The overall appeal of the Prograce had more to do with capturing video while playing hard. This is a fun little camera that can shoot from the back of a skateboard, a surfboard, or the handlebars of a bike and is compact enough to go anywhere your kids’ adventure takes them. Pros Durable Fun to use Cool-looking Cons Video games were distracting Photo quality is so-so Buy now at Amazon

Credit: Reviewed / Lisa Lawrence The Olympus Tough TG-6 is easy to use and has great picture quality.

Best for Older Kids Olympus Tough TG-6 The Olympus Tough TG-6 lived up to all its claims of durability, usability, and so much more. As good for entry-level photographers as it is for seasoned shutterbugs, we were pleasantly surprised that the Olympus Tough TG-6 turned out to be one of the easiest to use right out of the box. The zoom buttons on this 12-megapixel camera were easy to master and the video button was intuitive, even for a child as young as 6-years-old. We loved that this camera was so instantly gratifying that our testers were immediately hooked. While this was incredibly usable and kid-friendly, this is no kiddie camera. If this camera is bought for a kid that’s ready to get technical, they’ll love the bright wide-angle setting, which is at the top of its class for waterproof compact cameras, making for excellent underwater and low-light photography. We also love that this camera can really grow with kids, allowing for easy upgrades with lens adaptor packs, including a fisheye, a telephoto, and a ring flash adapter for macro photography. This feature was unique to this camera versus other compact waterproof cameras we’ve tried, increasing its longevity. Pros Intuitive Durable Excellent low-light capability Cons Costly $499.99 from Amazon $499.99 from Best Buy $414.99 from Walmart $499.99 from B&H Photo Video

VTech KidiZoom PrintCam This easy-to-use, 2-megapixel camera was a favorite of our kid testers, while parents appreciated that they can print out their kids' photos for about $.75 an image. The paper is basically receipt paper, so you're not getting the highest quality photos, but it does make for a fun experience for kids that won't break the bank. You also have the ability to download all the photos stored on the camera, so you can commit to printing the very best on real photo paper for better longevity. The PrintCam also comes with a 4x digital zoom, but it is more than a kids' digital camera: It's a handheld creativity device for aspiring graphic designers. Kids can create comic strips, coloring strips, name tags, cartoons, and more with pre-loaded graphics, so while this camera doesn't take the sharpest photos, it does make for an artsy experience that our testers loved. Other fun features are cute frames and a cool flip lens that allows you to easily take selfies. As with all VTech cameras, there are also loads of engaging video games on this model—a point that gave this camera high scores with kids. The Kidizoom PrintCam doesn't really inspire a lot of photo-taking, but it does encourage creativity. Overall, this is a fun and durable camera and truly engaging toy that our kiddie testers didn't want to put down. Pros Cool flip camera lens Affordable photo prints Fun creative graphics Cons Sub-par photo quality Prints start to fade quickly $60.88 from Amazon $53.99 from Walmart   
  
 Kodak Smile Instant Print This 10-megapixel camera is a fun little learning camera for kids. Photos are taken on the digital screen and captured on the SD card. It doesn't immediately print out the photos when they are taken, so kids are encouraged to choose to save, delete, or print. While there are lots of kid-friendly cameras with an LCD viewfinder screen on the market, this camera encourages kids to go through and pick the right photo for printing. Because of that extra step, they start to think a bit about framing and which photo looks the best. We found this to be a smart and fun option for a younger kid whom you want to teach photography to, but who you aren’t ready to spend a lot of money on. We also like that the front of the camera slides shut, protecting the lens. It gave us peace of mind that the camera would have a bit of extra protection from drops and dirt. The only issue we took with the Smile Instant Print was its less-than-impressive photo quality. It's slow to take pictures of moving targets and performed poorly in the puppy test. Pros Sliding front lens protector Allows you to view photos before printing Fun photobooth feature Cons Sub-par photo quality Buy now at Amazon $104.96 from QVC   
  
 VTech KidiZoom Camera Pix The base model Kidizoom is a durable kids' digital camera that stands up to just about any bumps, drops, or “oopses” a kid can throw at it. With a 2-megapixel camera and a bit of a lag-time when shooting, it doesn’t take the best photos, but it provided a bit of fun with the digital zoom lens and with photo collage templates. Like most of the VTech cameras, this one has over 30 photo effects that will get your kid feeling creative and clever. It also comes loaded with game apps. Like the Duo, the game apps seem to be the real draw for kids and are a distraction from the real use of the camera. You’ll probably find your kid using it more for the video game feature than for photo-taking. Kids love it but parents were disappointed that it quickly became nothing more than a gaming device and did nothing to encourage kids to take more photos. Pros Lightweight and sturdy Fun intro camera for kids Over 30 photo effects Cons Hard to set-up Low photo quality Games are the biggest draw $50.80 from Amazon

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The Best Kids’ Audio Players

The Best Nerf Guns The Best Tablets for Kids The Best Kids’ Water Guns

A good kids’ camera can open up a whole new world for a child. Whether they dream of being future social media influencers, or they just want to take a stab at exploring their artistic side, having a camera as a kid can supercharge their creativity while being a ton of fun. If your child has started asking for your cell phone to snap some selfies, it may be time to investigate a starter camera for your kid.

We looked into nine kid-friendly digital cameras to find the best for budding photographers and filmmakers. Our favorite, which rose above the pack for its durability and usability, is the Kidamento Model K (available at Amazon). It’s a terrific little camera that takes better-than-expected photos, is small enough to fit in a kid’s hand, and is super durable. Also topping the list was the Olympus Tough TG-6 (available at Amazon) for older kids, and our Best Value pick was the Prograce Kids’ Digital Camera (available at Amazon).

Here’s to seeing the world through your kids’ eyes—and to getting your phone back.

The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

We loved the durable exterior of the Kidamento, which made it almost indestructible.

This cutie little kids’ digital camera made us swoon over its diminutive size, soft and grippy body, and its intuitive and easy-to-use features. In fact, this camera was so easy to use that we never once had to break out the instruction manual. Just take it out of the box, charge it up, and watch your kids snap away.

Out of all the cameras tested, the design of this one elicited the greatest squeals of delight from our testers. The soft rubber exterior not only looks adorable, it has a comfortable and grippy feel and makes the camera nearly indestructible. If you’re looking for a digital camera for kids that will encourage young shutterbugs to hone and develop a love for photography, this is the camera you absolutely should buy.

What we liked best about this kid-friendly digital camera is that it puts photo-taking above all else. That may seem like a no-brainer, but the most common complaint with kids’ cameras is they can be so stuffed with games that they do nothing to develop foundational photography skills.

The Kidamento Model K, however, was obviously designed by photo buffs. This camera can take photos up to an astonishing 48-megapixels, making it a formidable camera as far as photo quality is concerned. We also liked that looks and feels like a shrunk-down DSLR, yet is automated to get the best possible photos for a young child who hasn’t yet honed their photography chops.

A large viewing screen allows kids to easily frame their photos, and cute little frames, icons, and emojis allow kids to put their personal stamps on picture taking. We love that it has a built-in selfie cam (because kids love a good selfie) and it also comes with a brilliant little app that allows you to easily download pictures to your phone or tablet over Wi-Fi.

An F2.8 lens ensured that all photos we took were crisp and the intuitive touch screen is laid out in a way that will most easily translate to a more complex camera, once your budding paparazzo is ready for a more challenging piece.

Excellent photo quality   
  
 Intuitive features   
  
 Large viewing screen   
  
 Photo download app can be glitchy

The Prograce is a great on-the-go camera for kids.

A kiddie-take on a GoPro, the 5-megapixel Prograce is a tiny, mountable camera housed in a waterproof and shockproof plexiglass casing, making it a solid choice for young adventure-seekers with a budding interest in photography. It comes with a full suite of mounts and has HD video functionality, making it a great, well-priced option for young adventurers.

The burst shooting function makes it easy for kids to capture the dynamic movements of their friends, but we found the photo quality to be only so-so. The overall appeal of the Prograce had more to do with capturing video while playing hard. This is a fun little camera that can shoot from the back of a skateboard, a surfboard, or the handlebars of a bike and is compact enough to go anywhere your kids’ adventure takes them.

Durable   
  
 Fun to use   
  
 Cool-looking   
  
 Video games were distracting   
  
 Photo quality is so-so

The Olympus Tough TG-6 is easy to use and has great picture quality.

The Olympus Tough TG-6 lived up to all its claims of durability, usability, and so much more.

As good for entry-level photographers as it is for seasoned shutterbugs, we were pleasantly surprised that the Olympus Tough TG-6 turned out to be one of the easiest to use right out of the box. The zoom buttons on this 12-megapixel camera were easy to master and the video button was intuitive, even for a child as young as 6-years-old. We loved that this camera was so instantly gratifying that our testers were immediately hooked.

While this was incredibly usable and kid-friendly, this is no kiddie camera. If this camera is bought for a kid that’s ready to get technical, they’ll love the bright wide-angle setting, which is at the top of its class for waterproof compact cameras, making for excellent underwater and low-light photography.

We also love that this camera can really grow with kids, allowing for easy upgrades with lens adaptor packs, including a fisheye, a telephoto, and a ring flash adapter for macro photography. This feature was unique to this camera versus other compact waterproof cameras we’ve tried, increasing its longevity.

Intuitive   
  
 Durable   
  
 Excellent low-light capability   
  
 Costly

This easy-to-use, 2-megapixel camera was a favorite of our kid testers, while parents appreciated that they can print out their kids’ photos for about $.75 an image. The paper is basically receipt paper, so you’re not getting the highest quality photos, but it does make for a fun experience for kids that won’t break the bank. You also have the ability to download all the photos stored on the camera, so you can commit to printing the very best on real photo paper for better longevity.

The PrintCam also comes with a 4x digital zoom, but it is more than a kids’ digital camera: It’s a handheld creativity device for aspiring graphic designers. Kids can create comic strips, coloring strips, name tags, cartoons, and more with pre-loaded graphics, so while this camera doesn’t take the sharpest photos, it does make for an artsy experience that our testers loved. Other fun features are cute frames and a cool flip lens that allows you to easily take selfies. As with all VTech cameras, there are also loads of engaging video games on this model—a point that gave this camera high scores with kids.

The Kidizoom PrintCam doesn’t really inspire a lot of photo-taking, but it does encourage creativity. Overall, this is a fun and durable camera and truly engaging toy that our kiddie testers didn’t want to put down.

Cool flip camera lens   
  
 Affordable photo prints   
  
 Fun creative graphics   
  
 Sub-par photo quality   
  
 Prints start to fade quickly

This 10-megapixel camera is a fun little learning camera for kids. Photos are taken on the digital screen and captured on the SD card. It doesn’t immediately print out the photos when they are taken, so kids are encouraged to choose to save, delete, or print. While there are lots of kid-friendly cameras with an LCD viewfinder screen on the market, this camera encourages kids to go through and pick the right photo for printing. Because of that extra step, they start to think a bit about framing and which photo looks the best.

We found this to be a smart and fun option for a younger kid whom you want to teach photography to, but who you aren’t ready to spend a lot of money on. We also like that the front of the camera slides shut, protecting the lens. It gave us peace of mind that the camera would have a bit of extra protection from drops and dirt.

The only issue we took with the Smile Instant Print was its less-than-impressive photo quality. It’s slow to take pictures of moving targets and performed poorly in the puppy test.

Sliding front lens protector   
  
 Allows you to view photos before printing   
  
 Fun photobooth feature   
  
 Sub-par photo quality

The base model Kidizoom is a durable kids’ digital camera that stands up to just about any bumps, drops, or “oopses” a kid can throw at it. With a 2-megapixel camera and a bit of a lag-time when shooting, it doesn’t take the best photos, but it provided a bit of fun with the digital zoom lens and with photo collage templates.

Like most of the VTech cameras, this one has over 30 photo effects that will get your kid feeling creative and clever. It also comes loaded with game apps.

Like the Duo, the game apps seem to be the real draw for kids and are a distraction from the real use of the camera. You’ll probably find your kid using it more for the video game feature than for photo-taking. Kids love it but parents were disappointed that it quickly became nothing more than a gaming device and did nothing to encourage kids to take more photos.

Lightweight and sturdy   
  
 Fun intro camera for kids   
  
 Over 30 photo effects   
  
 Hard to set-up   
  
 Low photo quality   
  
 Games are the biggest draw   
  
  
 Janelle Randazza  
   
  
  
 Staff Writer, Parenting

Janelle Randazza is a writer/mother hybrid and taco enthusiast based out of Los Angeles, California.

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# The Best Dry Shampoos of 2022

## The Testers

Recommendations are independently chosen by Reviewed’s editors. Purchases made through the links below may earn us and our publishing partners a commission.

Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

Dove's dry shampoo cleans almost as well as real shampoo, leaving almost no residue. It doesn't add much volume, but it also doesn't weigh hair down.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This product works wonders on oil and grease. While it can leave residue behind, it also adds volume to hair.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This product works well with dry hair, moisturizing it and adding volume. It doesn't remove much oil, though.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Oribe eliminates oil, leaves almost no residue, and even adds a slight, citrusy smell. The spray, however, can feel powerful and wasteful.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This dry shampoo gets the job done, leaving hair feeling light after use. However, it doesn't do much in the way of volume or oil reduction.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated October 26, 2022

Editor’s Note: October 26, 2022 Unilever United States issued a voluntary recall of a number of dry shampoos, including the Dove Volume & Fullness, due to “potentially elevated levels of benzene” found in certain lots produced before October 2021. You can find more information about the recall here and check your dry shampoo’s UPC code to see if it’s affected here. Dry shampoo is a godsend for anyone, whether you’re looking to freshen up a days-old style, absorb excess oil, or add volume to your hair without pulling out your favorite hair styling tools. It can save you time in the morning or preserve color-treated hair by minimizing actual washing. That said, there are countless dry shampoos available everywhere from drugstores to salons, all claiming to be the best, so narrowing it down is anything but easy. That’s where we come in. We rounded up all of the top-rated dry shampoos on the market and tested the sprays, powders, and foams on fine, straight, thick, and curly hair. After hours of testing, Dove Volume & Fullness Dry Shampoo (available at Walmart for $6.98) nabbed our top spot for its fresh scent, affordable price point, and truly clean feeling. What else we found might surprise you.

ADVERTISEMENT

Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar If you're looking for clean, fresh-feeling hair, Dove’s dry shampoo won't disappoint.

Best Overall Dove Volume & Fullness Dry Shampoo Dove’s dry shampoo leaves hair feeling almost suspiciously clean, closer to the freshness of a real shampoo than any other product we tested. The spray is fine and leaves behind little to no visible residue or chalky buildup in any hair type, from thin, light hair to thick, dark locks. The spray doesn’t weigh hair down or stiffen it up, but on the flip side, it doesn’t add too much volume, either. It has the recognizably fresh scent of Dove products that so many know and love. If you’re looking for clean, fresh-feeling hair, Dove’s dry shampoo won’t disappoint. Pros Leaves little residue Spray doesn’t weigh hair down Cons Doesn’t add much volume $6.98 from Walmart

Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar The Drybar Detox Dry Shampoo zaps grease and oil with just a little spritz.

Best Luxury Drybar Detox Dry Shampoo Detox DryBar dry shampoo is the quintessential dry shampoo: Though not a texturizing spray, it adds high-impact texture and volume and zaps grease and excess oil with just a little spritz. It’s amazing and effective. It has the brand’s classic, musky salon scent that can be perfumey, if not overpowering at times. It leaves behind some residue that can leave roots feeling a little chalky after use, but the trade-off is incredible volume. The spray comes in both light and dark tones to match your hair color. Keep in mind you can buy 6 bottles of Dove for the price of one Detox, so it may not be the best choice for the budget-conscious consumer, but it does work great on oily hair. Pros Eliminates excess oil Comes in light and dark tones Cons Expensive Buy now at Ulta Buy now at Amazon $26.00 from Target $22.10 from Macy’s

Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar The Moroccanoil Dry Shampoo is great for dry scalps.

Best for Curly Hair Moroccanoil Dry Shampoo Moroccanoil dry shampoo is great for dry, dehydrated, or curly hair. It’s infused with argan oil, so it moisturizes as it de-greases and it actually leaves hair feeling clean and silky instead of chalky and dull, while still adding some volume. It comes in both light and dark tones to match hair, and a little scalp massage totally eliminates any visible residue. Its light vanilla scent is not overwhelming and testers noted that it “smells absolutely delicious,” and “the best of the bunch.” While it doesn’t soak up as much oil as DryBar’s Detox, it’s a great option for those with dryer locks or scalp issues. Pros Great for dry hair Adds volume Cons Doesn’t soak up a lot of oil Buy now at Amazon $12.00 from Nordstrom

Other Dry Shampoos We Tested Oribe Gold Lust Dry Shampoo Oribe dry shampoo is lightweight, invisible, and doesn’t add any grip or weight to your hair. Made with watermelon and lychee, it has a very faint, slightly citrusy smell and it leaves almost no residue behind: most dry shampoo leaves behind white dust that must be massaged in, but Oribe is undetectable on contact in even dark hair, yet eliminates all signs of oil. In that way, its performance is similar to Dove’s. It does what it’s promised, but at an exorbitant price: plus, the spray comes out jet-engine fast, which can feel wasteful for such an expensive product. Pros Nice citrus scent Leaves almost no residue behind Cons Expensive Buy now at Amazon $31.68 from Walmart

Psssst! Instant Dry Shampoo Spray Psst! dry shampoo has been a drugstore staple for years. It leaves hair feeling light after use, leaving behind some product buildup though hair doesn't feel too chalky or heavy—however, it doesn't do a great job at reducing the appearance of oil or adding volume and texture. It gets the job done in a pinch, but there isn’t anything remarkable or life-changing about it. Pros Leaves hair feeling light after use Cons Doesn't add much volume Buy now at Amazon $7.59 from Walmart   
  
 Amika Perk Up Dry Shampoo Thanks to its packaging, Amika Perk Up dry shampoo would look gorgeous on any vanity, but it was unremarkable to use. Worse, it had a cloyingly sweet smell that overpowered our testers—one noted, "it smells like drugstore perfume." It performed just fine, absorbing excess oil, leaving hair feeling soft and fresh enough, with an inoffensive amount of white residue after use. While it helped control the oil in both straight and curly hair, the smell was a deterrent. Pros Cute packaging Leaves hair feeling soft and fresh Cons Has a cloyingly sweet smell $25.00 from Sephora Buy now at Amazon $20.99 from Walmart   
  
 Briogeo Scalp Revival Charcoal + Biotin Dry Shampoo Briogeo’s dry shampoo is a powder formula that claims to "detoxify" the scalp with charcoal, prevent oil production with witch hazel, and de-grease with clay and rice starches. However, the user experience is a little frustrating: The powder dispenser isn’t powerful, so you’re stuck shaking the bottle into your hands or scalp at awkward angles with little payoff. The powder smells fresh and soaks up oil without leaving the starchy feel of an aerosol spray, but it doesn’t add volume or work particularly effectively: it also causes more of a mess than traditional spray variations. It's not a bad product, it just isn't stellar. Pros Soaks up a good amount of oil Powder is fresh smelling Cons Doesn't add volume $24.00 from Dermstore Buy now at Amazon $25.00 from Target $25.00 from Dermstore   
  
  
 Klorane Dry Shampoo with Oat Milk Klorane dry shampoo removes oil well enough, but it leaves behind a dusty, white residue that’s hard to shake, literally: after several minutes of massaging the product in, testers still had ashy roots. The product adds volume to fine hair, but doesn’t do much volume-wise to thicker hair. Though the spray is intense, the particles are fine which limits feelings of buildup and chalkiness: flat hair still felt light and fluffy after use. It’s a fine pick, but not a standout. Pros Adds volume Removes oil Cons Leaves white residue behind Buy now at Amazon $20.00 from Anthropologie   
  
 Living Proof Perfect Hair Day Dry Shampoo Living Proof is backed by MIT research with claims that this dry shampoo doesn't just soak up oil, but "actually cleans hair." It sounds great in theory, but in practice, it felt like any other dry shampoo. It left hair feeling gritty and not very clean after use, yet it didn't add much volume or body. We had to use quite a bit of it to see a grease-reducing impact, and its scent is too reminiscent of chemicals. Neither tester was a fan, and the experience was unmemorable if not unpleasant. Pros Soaks up some oil Cons Leaves hair feeling gritty Smells like chemicals Buy now at Amazon $21.66 from Walmart   
  
 Batiste Dry Shampoo Batiste is the ubiquitous drugstore dry shampoo, and it is the most budget-friendly pick of the lot: However, its performance leaves a lot to be desired. Yes, it absorbs the oil in hair and gives it some body, but the plasticky smell is unpleasant and lingers throughout the day, hair feels stiff and chalky after use, and product buildup clings to roots no matter how much you try and shake it out. If you’re looking to pinch pennies on your dry shampoo, please choose Dove instead! Pros Affordable Absorbs oil Cons Unpleasant smell Leaves hair feeling stiff Buy now at Amazon $6.48 from Walmart   
  
 R+Co Skyline Dry Shampoo Powder R+Co’s dry shampoo is another powder formula that comes with a pump dispenser. The powder is silky, fine, and starchy—and most shockingly, it’s glittery. The shimmer likely comes from the diatomaceous earth mineral compounds, which are designed to soak up oil, but it shows up on roots. The product is chunky and settles on the scalp, which is not great for someone with a dry scalp or dandruff. It also left a visible white film on one tester's scalp and some found the smell "oddly musty." Pros Powder is silky and fine Cons Product settles on scalp Leaves a visible white film $32.00 from Amazon $25.65 from Walmart

How We Tested Dry Shampoo Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar  
The Testers We are Ashley Barry-Biancuzzo and Jessica Teich, professional product testers and editors at Reviewed—with very different hair types and hair goals. Ashley is a big fan of dry shampoo, as it saves her time in the morning. She says her fine hair gets greasy after a few hours, too, which makes her the perfect candidate for using it. She started using dry shampoo over the summer to extend the time between wash days in an attempt to preserve the vibrant purple tips of her hair. Her hair is straight, fine, and noodle-like, and her ideal shampoo is one that adds volume. Jessica was Reviewed’s former health and beauty editor, who has tested everything from liquid lipstick to flat irons. She has a mass of long, thick, curly hair and a dry scalp. Because of this, she often goes 5+ days between washes (oops). Her ideal dry shampoo soaks up a serious amount of grease without making her scalp feel chalky or dry. Like a lot of beauty products, what makes a good dry shampoo is unarguably subjective, depending on what your goals are and what your hair is like to begin with. That’s why we teamed up: not only do we both regularly use dry shampoo, but we have very different hair types and preferences. That being said, we surprisingly agreed on many of the products we tested. Here’s why: The Tests Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar We scored each product based on how well it absorbed oil, if it left any residue, if it added any volume, and so on. We tested the products by spritzing our limp or greasy hair at the roots with dry shampoo and letting it work its hair care magic. We also teamed up with Reviewed’s senior scientist to score and weight results on a scientifically calibrated rubric. To find which dry shampoo really is best, we scored each product based on how well it absorbed oil, if it left any residue, whether or not it added volume, the strength and quality of the scent, and so on. We also took into account how clean our hair felt and how often we needed to re-apply the product after use. Not every aspect of our testing was equally important: for example, oil reduction was weighted far more heavily than the amount of product used. It became obvious that while some of what makes a dry shampoo great is subjective, some are truly superior and others are simply not worth the money. What You Should Know About Dry Shampoos Credit: Amazon / Sephora / Dermstore What makes a good dry shampoo is unarguably subjective, depending on what your goals are and what your hair is like to begin with. Washing your hair every single day can damage your scalp. That’s where dry shampoo comes in. Dry shampoos not only soak up grease and sweat, but also add a fresh scent, making it a fantastic hack to prolong a blowout, freshen up after a workout, or prevent hair dye from running down the drain. However, not all dry shampoo is created equal: here’s what to consider before buying: Formula: Do you want a dry shampoo that comes in the form of an aerosol spray, a powder, or maybe even foam? Consider if you want the hands-off convenience of a spray or the precision of placing the product on your hair directly with your hands. Scent: Is your goal to smell freshly shampooed, do you prefer a product that’s more heavily scented, or could you care less about the scent? Keep in mind that some dry shampoos, like Dove’s, smell just like shampoo, while others, like DryBar’s and Living Proof’s, smell decidedly more perfumey. Volume: Are you aiming to add volume and texture to your style? Remember that the trade-off is typically a feeling of some grit in the hair and a slightly starchy feeling. Your hair will look fantastic, but you might not want to run your hands through it. Cleanliness: If your goal is hair that’s silky soft and touchable, make sure you look for a dry shampoo that doesn’t claim to add a ton of volume or texture. Oribe’s Gold Lust or Moroccanoil are great examples of products that soak up grease and actually leave hair feeling cleaner.

More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best Hair Wavers Shark Hyperair vs. Dyson Supersonic: Which hair dryer is better? The Best Hair Styling Tools The Best Hair Dryers The Best Hair Straighteners

Editor’s Note: October 26, 2022 Unilever United States issued a voluntary recall of a number of dry shampoos, including the Dove Volume & Fullness, due to “potentially elevated levels of benzene” found in certain lots produced before October 2021. You can find more information about the recall here and check your dry shampoo’s UPC code to see if it’s affected here.

Dry shampoo is a godsend for anyone, whether you’re looking to freshen up a days-old style, absorb excess oil, or add volume to your hair without pulling out your favorite hair styling tools. It can save you time in the morning or preserve color-treated hair by minimizing actual washing. That said, there are countless dry shampoos available everywhere from drugstores to salons, all claiming to be the best, so narrowing it down is anything but easy. That’s where we come in.

We rounded up all of the top-rated dry shampoos on the market and tested the sprays, powders, and foams on fine, straight, thick, and curly hair. After hours of testing, Dove Volume & Fullness Dry Shampoo (available at Walmart for $6.98) nabbed our top spot for its fresh scent, affordable price point, and truly clean feeling. What else we found might surprise you.

If you’re looking for clean, fresh-feeling hair, Dove’s dry shampoo won’t disappoint.

Dove’s dry shampoo leaves hair feeling almost suspiciously clean, closer to the freshness of a real shampoo than any other product we tested. The spray is fine and leaves behind little to no visible residue or chalky buildup in any hair type, from thin, light hair to thick, dark locks. The spray doesn’t weigh hair down or stiffen it up, but on the flip side, it doesn’t add too much volume, either. It has the recognizably fresh scent of Dove products that so many know and love. If you’re looking for clean, fresh-feeling hair, Dove’s dry shampoo won’t disappoint.

Leaves little residue   
  
 Spray doesn't weigh hair down   
  
 Doesn't add much volume

The Drybar Detox Dry Shampoo zaps grease and oil with just a little spritz.

Detox DryBar dry shampoo is the quintessential dry shampoo: Though not a texturizing spray, it adds high-impact texture and volume and zaps grease and excess oil with just a little spritz. It’s amazing and effective. It has the brand’s classic, musky salon scent that can be perfumey, if not overpowering at times. It leaves behind some residue that can leave roots feeling a little chalky after use, but the trade-off is incredible volume. The spray comes in both light and dark tones to match your hair color. Keep in mind you can buy 6 bottles of Dove for the price of one Detox, so it may not be the best choice for the budget-conscious consumer, but it does work great on oily hair.

Eliminates excess oil   
  
 Comes in light and dark tones   
  
 Expensive

The Moroccanoil Dry Shampoo is great for dry scalps.

Moroccanoil dry shampoo is great for dry, dehydrated, or curly hair. It’s infused with argan oil, so it moisturizes as it de-greases and it actually leaves hair feeling clean and silky instead of chalky and dull, while still adding some volume. It comes in both light and dark tones to match hair, and a little scalp massage totally eliminates any visible residue. Its light vanilla scent is not overwhelming and testers noted that it “smells absolutely delicious,” and “the best of the bunch.” While it doesn’t soak up as much oil as DryBar’s Detox, it’s a great option for those with dryer locks or scalp issues.

Great for dry hair   
  
 Adds volume   
  
 Doesn't soak up a lot of oil

Oribe dry shampoo is lightweight, invisible, and doesn’t add any grip or weight to your hair. Made with watermelon and lychee, it has a very faint, slightly citrusy smell and it leaves almost no residue behind: most dry shampoo leaves behind white dust that must be massaged in, but Oribe is undetectable on contact in even dark hair, yet eliminates all signs of oil. In that way, its performance is similar to Dove’s. It does what it’s promised, but at an exorbitant price: plus, the spray comes out jet-engine fast, which can feel wasteful for such an expensive product.

Nice citrus scent   
  
 Leaves almost no residue behind   
  
 Expensive

Psst! dry shampoo has been a drugstore staple for years. It leaves hair feeling light after use, leaving behind some product buildup though hair doesn’t feel too chalky or heavy—however, it doesn’t do a great job at reducing the appearance of oil or adding volume and texture. It gets the job done in a pinch, but there isn’t anything remarkable or life-changing about it.

Leaves hair feeling light after use   
  
 Doesn't add much volume

Thanks to its packaging, Amika Perk Up dry shampoo would look gorgeous on any vanity, but it was unremarkable to use. Worse, it had a cloyingly sweet smell that overpowered our testers—one noted, “it smells like drugstore perfume.” It performed just fine, absorbing excess oil, leaving hair feeling soft and fresh enough, with an inoffensive amount of white residue after use. While it helped control the oil in both straight and curly hair, the smell was a deterrent.

Cute packaging   
  
 Leaves hair feeling soft and fresh   
  
 Has a cloyingly sweet smell

Briogeo’s dry shampoo is a powder formula that claims to “detoxify” the scalp with charcoal, prevent oil production with witch hazel, and de-grease with clay and rice starches. However, the user experience is a little frustrating: The powder dispenser isn’t powerful, so you’re stuck shaking the bottle into your hands or scalp at awkward angles with little payoff. The powder smells fresh and soaks up oil without leaving the starchy feel of an aerosol spray, but it doesn’t add volume or work particularly effectively: it also causes more of a mess than traditional spray variations. It’s not a bad product, it just isn’t stellar.

Soaks up a good amount of oil   
  
 Powder is fresh smelling   
  
 Doesn't add volume

Klorane dry shampoo removes oil well enough, but it leaves behind a dusty, white residue that’s hard to shake, literally: after several minutes of massaging the product in, testers still had ashy roots. The product adds volume to fine hair, but doesn’t do much volume-wise to thicker hair. Though the spray is intense, the particles are fine which limits feelings of buildup and chalkiness: flat hair still felt light and fluffy after use. It’s a fine pick, but not a standout.

Adds volume   
  
 Removes oil   
  
 Leaves white residue behind

Living Proof is backed by MIT research with claims that this dry shampoo doesn’t just soak up oil, but “actually cleans hair.” It sounds great in theory, but in practice, it felt like any other dry shampoo. It left hair feeling gritty and not very clean after use, yet it didn’t add much volume or body. We had to use quite a bit of it to see a grease-reducing impact, and its scent is too reminiscent of chemicals. Neither tester was a fan, and the experience was unmemorable if not unpleasant.

Soaks up some oil   
  
 Leaves hair feeling gritty   
  
 Smells like chemicals

Batiste is the ubiquitous drugstore dry shampoo, and it is the most budget-friendly pick of the lot: However, its performance leaves a lot to be desired. Yes, it absorbs the oil in hair and gives it some body, but the plasticky smell is unpleasant and lingers throughout the day, hair feels stiff and chalky after use, and product buildup clings to roots no matter how much you try and shake it out. If you’re looking to pinch pennies on your dry shampoo, please choose Dove instead!

Affordable   
  
 Absorbs oil   
  
 Unpleasant smell   
  
 Leaves hair feeling stiff

R+Co’s dry shampoo is another powder formula that comes with a pump dispenser. The powder is silky, fine, and starchy—and most shockingly, it’s glittery. The shimmer likely comes from the diatomaceous earth mineral compounds, which are designed to soak up oil, but it shows up on roots. The product is chunky and settles on the scalp, which is not great for someone with a dry scalp or dandruff. It also left a visible white film on one tester’s scalp and some found the smell “oddly musty.”

Powder is silky and fine   
  
 Product settles on scalp   
  
 Leaves a visible white film

We are Ashley Barry-Biancuzzo and Jessica Teich, professional product testers and editors at Reviewed—with very different hair types and hair goals.

Ashley is a big fan of dry shampoo, as it saves her time in the morning. She says her fine hair gets greasy after a few hours, too, which makes her the perfect candidate for using it. She started using dry shampoo over the summer to extend the time between wash days in an attempt to preserve the vibrant purple tips of her hair. Her hair is straight, fine, and noodle-like, and her ideal shampoo is one that adds volume.

Jessica was Reviewed’s former health and beauty editor, who has tested everything from liquid lipstick to flat irons. She has a mass of long, thick, curly hair and a dry scalp. Because of this, she often goes 5+ days between washes (oops). Her ideal dry shampoo soaks up a serious amount of grease without making her scalp feel chalky or dry.

Like a lot of beauty products, what makes a good dry shampoo is unarguably subjective, depending on what your goals are and what your hair is like to begin with. That’s why we teamed up: not only do we both regularly use dry shampoo, but we have very different hair types and preferences. That being said, we surprisingly agreed on many of the products we tested. Here’s why:

We scored each product based on how well it absorbed oil, if it left any residue, if it added any volume, and so on.

We tested the products by spritzing our limp or greasy hair at the roots with dry shampoo and letting it work its hair care magic. We also teamed up with Reviewed’s senior scientist to score and weight results on a scientifically calibrated rubric.

To find which dry shampoo really is best, we scored each product based on how well it absorbed oil, if it left any residue, whether or not it added volume, the strength and quality of the scent, and so on. We also took into account how clean our hair felt and how often we needed to re-apply the product after use.

Not every aspect of our testing was equally important: for example, oil reduction was weighted far more heavily than the amount of product used. It became obvious that while some of what makes a dry shampoo great is subjective, some are truly superior and others are simply not worth the money.

What makes a good dry shampoo is unarguably subjective, depending on what your goals are and what your hair is like to begin with.

Washing your hair every single day can damage your scalp. That’s where dry shampoo comes in. Dry shampoos not only soak up grease and sweat, but also add a fresh scent, making it a fantastic hack to prolong a blowout, freshen up after a workout, or prevent hair dye from running down the drain. However, not all dry shampoo is created equal: here’s what to consider before buying:

Formula: Do you want a dry shampoo that comes in the form of an aerosol spray, a powder, or maybe even foam? Consider if you want the hands-off convenience of a spray or the precision of placing the product on your hair directly with your hands.

Scent: Is your goal to smell freshly shampooed, do you prefer a product that’s more heavily scented, or could you care less about the scent? Keep in mind that some dry shampoos, like Dove’s, smell just like shampoo, while others, like DryBar’s and Living Proof’s, smell decidedly more perfumey.

Volume: Are you aiming to add volume and texture to your style? Remember that the trade-off is typically a feeling of some grit in the hair and a slightly starchy feeling. Your hair will look fantastic, but you might not want to run your hands through it.

Cleanliness: If your goal is hair that’s silky soft and touchable, make sure you look for a dry shampoo that doesn’t claim to add a ton of volume or texture. Oribe’s Gold Lust or Moroccanoil are great examples of products that soak up grease and actually leave hair feeling cleaner.

Ashley Barry-Biancuzzo  
   
  
  
 Editor

Ashley Barry-Biancuzzo is a valued contributor to the Reviewed.com family of sites.

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Jessica Teich  
   
  
  
 Former Editor

Jessica covered lifestyle and beyond at Reviewed. Her work has appeared in publications including The New York Times and The Boston Globe.

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# The Best Outdoor Extension Cords of 2022

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

In testing in through a myriad of elements and situations, it repeatedly impressed. With a high-power rating, durable design, and lockable lighted outlet, it's simply the best on the market.  
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 Well-made, though a bit less durable and seems less weather-resistant than our top pick. A bit bulkier to manage throughout testing. Aside from these minor issues, performed just as well as the best.  
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 After all our tests, we found this cord to be a top-notch blend of power capacity and flexibility, making it ideal for high-powered indoor needs.  
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 During our testing, the Otimo cord quickly established its versatility. It's the most familiar gauge and most comfortable to access.  
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 The Southwire cord has a durable construction, is resistant to chemicals and oil, and has lighted connections.   
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Updated October 21, 2022

Whether you’re hanging outdoor lights or running power to an unreachable corner of your yard, a durable outdoor extension cord is a vital component of home life. Be careful not to move your indoor cords outside, for using power tools or enjoying your deck. If not just to prevent electrical shocks, or worse. A quality outdoor extension cord should effectively transmit power and safely withstand daily wear and tear—rain, snow, tall grass, creeping critters, and just about any other annoyance. After hours of exploring different options, we’ve determined that the Voltec Pro 12-gauge outdoor extension cord (available at Amazon) is the best extension cord money can buy. It combines an impressive power capacity, a useful length of 50 feet, a fortified wall-socket locking component, and overall value that makes it the clear front-runner in our testing. However, there are many other great extension cords of varying lengths and power capacities that are certainly worth looking into.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Credit: Reviewed / Jessa Rose Photography

Best Overall Voltec Pro Outdoor Extension Cord (50 Feet, 12 Gauge, 15 A) With the perfect balance of durable design, value, and power capacity, the Voltec Pro outdoor extension cord takes the top spot in our list. This powerhouse of an extension cord combined the practicality of a long extension cord with the power capacity (15 A) to safely keep any piece of machinery drawing current from a standard household outlet. Specifically, the Voltec was designed to be a strong, dependable, no-nonsense extension cord that gets the job done. This extension cord is heavy, with a thick cord wrapped in a yellow and blue jacket that feels both durable and dependable. The downside to its heaviness is that it was a little difficult to manage right out of the packaging. However, once the cord was stretched out and used once or twice, it became much easier to manage. Both before and after running this cord over with a Jeep, there was no voltage drop measured. It performed as well as any cord could in our objective tests and stood up to the scrutiny of multiple uses over a long period of time. The Voltec includes a small locking mechanism that helps the cord stay firmly attached to the power cable of whatever piece of equipment it is that you’re using. If you unknowingly start to move outside the cord’s 50-foot radius, this locking clip could prove to be quite the headache saver. In testing this cord out in a myriad of elements and situations, this cord repeatedly impressed. With its high-power rating, durable design, and lockable lighted outlet, the Voltec Pro 50-foot outdoor extension cord is simply the best extension cord on the market. Pros Durable design Good value High power capacity Cons None that we could find Buy now at Amazon $70.90 from Walmart

Credit: Reviewed / Jessa Rose Photography

Best Value US Wire & Cable 12/3 SJTW Outdoor Lighted Extension Cord, 50 Foot In our research, we found that with most affordable outdoor extension cords, the customer was forced to choose between length or top-notch power capacity. The U.S. Wire & Cable outdoor lighted extension cord provided a compromise that offered the best of both at a great value. This extension cord features most of the best aspects of our top pick, minus the locking clip attached to the connector, and performed similarly in all the testing. Like the Voltec, this 50-foot extension cord is rated for 15 A and can handle a serious amount of power. That power never observably dropped in our testing phase. This cord is well-constructed, although slightly less durable and seemingly less weather-resistant than the Voltec. It also was a bit bulkier to manage throughout the testing phase, both coiled and uncoiled. Aside from those minor issues however, this cord performed every bit as well as our top pick. If you’re interested in the Voltec but want something more affordable, there’s no better value than the U.S. Wire & Cable 50-foot outdoor lighted extension cord. Pros Affordable Handles a lot of power Well-constructed Cons None that we could find Buy now at Amazon $57.99 from Target $57.99 from Walmart

Iron Forge Outdoor Lighted Extension Cord (25 Feet, 12 Gauge, 15 A) The Iron Forge outdoor lighted extension cord was one of the best cords we tested, offering a strong and durable design, lighted outlet, and great flexibility. Its length and limitations on outdoor use kept it from being a contender for our best overall spot but makes it easy enough to manage as an indoor extension cord. Although it’s rated for heavy duty use, the Iron Forge is light enough for both indoor and outdoor use without causing any fuss. The cord was portable, both coiled and uncoiled, and could easily be placed anywhere you need it. Like our top pick, the Iron Forge performed well in both our objective and subjective testing, holding its own against everything we threw against it—within consideration of its length, of course. The lighted outlet option made the cord easier and safer to use in the evening, which is an important detail that’s easy to overlook. After all our tests, we found this cord to be a top-notch blend of power capacity and flexibility, making it ideal for high-powered indoor needs. Pros Durable design Great flexibility Good power capacity Cons None that we could find Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Otimo 50 Ft 16/3 Outdoor Extension Cord During our testing, the Otimo cord quickly established its versatility. It's the most familiar gauge and most comfortable to access. This lightweight cord is rated for medium duty to carry current safely to small appliances and household tools. Its flexibility, ease of use and ease of storage make it a must have for any homeowner. The current remained unaffected by driving over it with a Chevrolet Impala, and its bright orange casing makes it easy to see in many medium duty applications. Pros Affordable Versatile Practical Cons None that we could find Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Southwire Polar Solar 1638SW0061 The Southwire Heavy Duty Outdoor Extension Cord is built for larger power transfers than the more common 16-gauge power cords. It has a durable construction, is resistant to chemicals and oil, and has lighted connections. The Southwire had a more flexible feel and would handle the extreme cold conditions better than most cords. The cord was easy to move and manipulate through the tasks and is durable enough to deliver great results. Pros Heavy duty Flexible Lighted plugs Cons None that we could find $84.03 from Amazon $104.61 from Lowe's $116.24 from Walmart   
  
 US Wire & Cable 14/3 SJTW Outdoor Lighted Extension Cord, 100-Feet U.S. Wire & Cable, whose 12-gauge cable was our top value pick, also makes a 100-foot extension cord that performed very well during our tests. Although it’s rated for a lower power capacity, the value of an extension cord of 100 feet at an affordable price cannot be overstated. This cord boasts all of the features of our top value pick, minus the 12-gauge rating, and is surprisingly compact for a 100-foot cable. While it won’t hold up to the heaviest electrical jobs, this is the best 100-foot extension cord we reviewed and a very useful cord to have on hand in the garage. Pros Affordable Lengthy Useful to have on hand Cons Lower power capacity $74.99 from Target $74.75 from Walmart   
  
 UltraPro 50 Ft Outdoor 3-Outlet Power Strip The UltraPro extension cord is an entry level extension cord for powering small appliances and other household electrical applications. While its three-outlet power strip is convenient, it can be easily overloaded by overzealous homeowners. Its small gauge and 13 amp capacity means that its best place is powering multiple household items such as lights, TVs, and home entertainment systems. It can be used as an indoor extension cord, and it's quite handy during blackouts when used with a portable generator. When electrical outlets are limited, its multiple outlet strip makes powering numerous lights that much easier. Pros Durable Convenient Practical Cons Can be overloaded Buy now at Amazon   
  
 TerraBloom Heavy Duty Extension Cord (25 Feet, 14 Gauge, 15 A) The 25-foot TerraBloom Heavy Duty Cord is one of the strongest short extension cords that we tested, offering a strong feel, all-weather rating, portability, and a lighted triple socket. This cord performed well in our voltage tests and subjective usage, making it easily one of the best short cords we tested. The TerraBloom is rated for 15 A, making it ideal for heavy machinery, but its length holds it back from holding a higher spot in our rankings. If you’re in need of a 25-foot extension cord that performs well and offers three power outlets at once, the TerraBloom Heavy Duty gets our recommendation. Pros Strong build Portable Lighted triple socket Cons Too short Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Clear Power 50 ft 12/3 Heavy Duty Extension Cord The Clear Power Heavy Duty Outdoor Extension Cord is a very capable product that can power larger home tools such as table saws and electric chain saws. While not as easy to tote around as the smaller gauge cords, this outdoor extension cord means business. This water-resistant cord boasts a heavy duty casing resistant to weather, oil, and flame, lighted connections and a plug locking system. With the advent of more corded snow blowers, lawn mowers, and chainsaws, this cord is up to the task. The lighted plugs allow quick identification when the power goes out and it is plugged into the generator. The lighted plugs are also helpful at night when operating an electric snowblower. Pros Lighted plugs Locking plugs Cons Heavy Buy now at Amazon $59.99 from Walmart   
  
 Woods Lawn and Garden Extension Cord (25 Feet, 16 Gauge, 13 A) This 13 A medium-duty extension cord is nothing particularly special, but it is a solid option for lower-power needs at an excellent price. In our testing, this cord experienced no voltage drop and performed well in our subjective testing. This is a dependable drop cord for low power needs, such as basic lawn equipment and holiday lighting. Pros Affordable No voltage drop Dependable Cons Low power capacity $11.85 from Amazon $11.85 from Walmart   
  
 AmazonBasics Vinyl Outdoor Extension Cord (50 Feet, 16 Gauge, 13 A) While the AmazonBasics Vinyl Outdoor extension cord is one of the most affordable cords on our list, its 16-gauge rating means it can safely carry less power than the other 50-foot options. It also felt cheaper and thinner than the rest, bringing its long-term durability into question after our month of subjective testing. If you’re planning to use the AmazonBasics cord for a lower-power use like seasonal decor, this cord is a great value. For all other uses, we recommend avoiding this cord and opting for either a 12-gauge or 14-gauge cord that won’t be as much of a potential fire hazard. Pros Affordable Safe to use Cons Not very durable Low power capacity Buy now at Amazon

What Is Power Transmission for Outdoor Extension Cords? In the simplest terms, the amount of power a cord can hold is related to the size of the wiring inside of the cord and the length of the cord. The longer the distance that power needs to travel, the thicker the internal conductive copper wiring needs to be. Cable thickness is measured in AWG, or American Wire Gauge, in which lower numbers signify thicker cables. For example, a 12-gauge cable has thicker conductive wiring than a 16-gauge cable. Because of the increased thickness of the conductive wires, lower gauge cords are rated to carry a higher amperage. Typically, short extension cords offer lower gauges and higher power ratings, while longer extension cords have thinner high gauge wiring that makes the cord easier to manage. Most of the top cords on our list are rated for 15 amps (15 A) and can hold and safely transmit power for just about any application. Some cords are rated for lower amperage but are still useful in lower-power applications. Credit: Reviewed / Jessa Rose Photography  
It’s important to note that each cord is rated for a certain number of amps. Constantly over-powering a low-rated extension cord is not only less effective but can also be dangerous. Running too much power through a low-power rated extension cord, such as a 100-foot 16-gauge cord, can actually cause damage from voltage drop and even fire from the overload. While we still considered some 16-gauge extension cords because of their useful length and affordability, these cords aren’t safe for heavy machinery or other high-power applications. More Articles You Might Enjoy

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Whether you’re hanging outdoor lights or running power to an unreachable corner of your yard, a durable outdoor extension cord is a vital component of home life.

Be careful not to move your indoor cords outside, for using power tools or enjoying your deck. If not just to prevent electrical shocks, or worse. A quality outdoor extension cord should effectively transmit power and safely withstand daily wear and tear—rain, snow, tall grass, creeping critters, and just about any other annoyance.

After hours of exploring different options, we’ve determined that the Voltec Pro 12-gauge outdoor extension cord (available at Amazon) is the best extension cord money can buy. It combines an impressive power capacity, a useful length of 50 feet, a fortified wall-socket locking component, and overall value that makes it the clear front-runner in our testing. However, there are many other great extension cords of varying lengths and power capacities that are certainly worth looking into.

The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

With the perfect balance of durable design, value, and power capacity, the Voltec Pro outdoor extension cord takes the top spot in our list.

This powerhouse of an extension cord combined the practicality of a long extension cord with the power capacity (15 A) to safely keep any piece of machinery drawing current from a standard household outlet.

Specifically, the Voltec was designed to be a strong, dependable, no-nonsense extension cord that gets the job done. This extension cord is heavy, with a thick cord wrapped in a yellow and blue jacket that feels both durable and dependable. The downside to its heaviness is that it was a little difficult to manage right out of the packaging. However, once the cord was stretched out and used once or twice, it became much easier to manage.

Both before and after running this cord over with a Jeep, there was no voltage drop measured. It performed as well as any cord could in our objective tests and stood up to the scrutiny of multiple uses over a long period of time.

The Voltec includes a small locking mechanism that helps the cord stay firmly attached to the power cable of whatever piece of equipment it is that you’re using. If you unknowingly start to move outside the cord’s 50-foot radius, this locking clip could prove to be quite the headache saver.

In testing this cord out in a myriad of elements and situations, this cord repeatedly impressed. With its high-power rating, durable design, and lockable lighted outlet, the Voltec Pro 50-foot outdoor extension cord is simply the best extension cord on the market.

Durable design   
  
 Good value   
  
 High power capacity   
  
 None that we could find

In our research, we found that with most affordable outdoor extension cords, the customer was forced to choose between length or top-notch power capacity. The U.S. Wire & Cable outdoor lighted extension cord provided a compromise that offered the best of both at a great value.

This extension cord features most of the best aspects of our top pick, minus the locking clip attached to the connector, and performed similarly in all the testing. Like the Voltec, this 50-foot extension cord is rated for 15 A and can handle a serious amount of power. That power never observably dropped in our testing phase.

This cord is well-constructed, although slightly less durable and seemingly less weather-resistant than the Voltec. It also was a bit bulkier to manage throughout the testing phase, both coiled and uncoiled. Aside from those minor issues however, this cord performed every bit as well as our top pick. If you’re interested in the Voltec but want something more affordable, there’s no better value than the U.S. Wire & Cable 50-foot outdoor lighted extension cord.

Affordable   
  
 Handles a lot of power   
  
 Well-constructed   
  
 None that we could find

The Iron Forge outdoor lighted extension cord was one of the best cords we tested, offering a strong and durable design, lighted outlet, and great flexibility. Its length and limitations on outdoor use kept it from being a contender for our best overall spot but makes it easy enough to manage as an indoor extension cord.

Although it’s rated for heavy duty use, the Iron Forge is light enough for both indoor and outdoor use without causing any fuss. The cord was portable, both coiled and uncoiled, and could easily be placed anywhere you need it.

Like our top pick, the Iron Forge performed well in both our objective and subjective testing, holding its own against everything we threw against it—within consideration of its length, of course. The lighted outlet option made the cord easier and safer to use in the evening, which is an important detail that’s easy to overlook.

After all our tests, we found this cord to be a top-notch blend of power capacity and flexibility, making it ideal for high-powered indoor needs.

Durable design   
  
 Great flexibility   
  
 Good power capacity   
  
 None that we could find

During our testing, the Otimo cord quickly established its versatility. It’s the most familiar gauge and most comfortable to access. This lightweight cord is rated for medium duty to carry current safely to small appliances and household tools.

Its flexibility, ease of use and ease of storage make it a must have for any homeowner. The current remained unaffected by driving over it with a Chevrolet Impala, and its bright orange casing makes it easy to see in many medium duty applications.

Affordable   
  
 Versatile   
  
 Practical   
  
 None that we could find

The Southwire Heavy Duty Outdoor Extension Cord is built for larger power transfers than the more common 16-gauge power cords. It has a durable construction, is resistant to chemicals and oil, and has lighted connections.

The Southwire had a more flexible feel and would handle the extreme cold conditions better than most cords. The cord was easy to move and manipulate through the tasks and is durable enough to deliver great results.

Heavy duty   
  
 Flexible   
  
 Lighted plugs   
  
 None that we could find

U.S. Wire & Cable, whose 12-gauge cable was our top value pick, also makes a 100-foot extension cord that performed very well during our tests. Although it’s rated for a lower power capacity, the value of an extension cord of 100 feet at an affordable price cannot be overstated.

This cord boasts all of the features of our top value pick, minus the 12-gauge rating, and is surprisingly compact for a 100-foot cable. While it won’t hold up to the heaviest electrical jobs, this is the best 100-foot extension cord we reviewed and a very useful cord to have on hand in the garage.

Affordable   
  
 Lengthy   
  
 Useful to have on hand   
  
 Lower power capacity

The UltraPro extension cord is an entry level extension cord for powering small appliances and other household electrical applications. While its three-outlet power strip is convenient, it can be easily overloaded by overzealous homeowners.

Its small gauge and 13 amp capacity means that its best place is powering multiple household items such as lights, TVs, and home entertainment systems. It can be used as an indoor extension cord, and it’s quite handy during blackouts when used with a portable generator. When electrical outlets are limited, its multiple outlet strip makes powering numerous lights that much easier.

Durable   
  
 Convenient   
  
 Practical   
  
 Can be overloaded

The 25-foot TerraBloom Heavy Duty Cord is one of the strongest short extension cords that we tested, offering a strong feel, all-weather rating, portability, and a lighted triple socket. This cord performed well in our voltage tests and subjective usage, making it easily one of the best short cords we tested. The TerraBloom is rated for 15 A, making it ideal for heavy machinery, but its length holds it back from holding a higher spot in our rankings.

If you’re in need of a 25-foot extension cord that performs well and offers three power outlets at once, the TerraBloom Heavy Duty gets our recommendation.

Strong build   
  
 Portable   
  
 Lighted triple socket   
  
 Too short

The Clear Power Heavy Duty Outdoor Extension Cord is a very capable product that can power larger home tools such as table saws and electric chain saws. While not as easy to tote around as the smaller gauge cords, this outdoor extension cord means business.

This water-resistant cord boasts a heavy duty casing resistant to weather, oil, and flame, lighted connections and a plug locking system. With the advent of more corded snow blowers, lawn mowers, and chainsaws, this cord is up to the task. The lighted plugs allow quick identification when the power goes out and it is plugged into the generator. The lighted plugs are also helpful at night when operating an electric snowblower.

Lighted plugs   
  
 Locking plugs   
  
 Heavy

This 13 A medium-duty extension cord is nothing particularly special, but it is a solid option for lower-power needs at an excellent price. In our testing, this cord experienced no voltage drop and performed well in our subjective testing. This is a dependable drop cord for low power needs, such as basic lawn equipment and holiday lighting.

Affordable   
  
 No voltage drop   
  
 Dependable   
  
 Low power capacity

While the AmazonBasics Vinyl Outdoor extension cord is one of the most affordable cords on our list, its 16-gauge rating means it can safely carry less power than the other 50-foot options. It also felt cheaper and thinner than the rest, bringing its long-term durability into question after our month of subjective testing.

If you’re planning to use the AmazonBasics cord for a lower-power use like seasonal decor, this cord is a great value. For all other uses, we recommend avoiding this cord and opting for either a 12-gauge or 14-gauge cord that won’t be as much of a potential fire hazard.

Affordable   
  
 Safe to use   
  
 Not very durable   
  
 Low power capacity

In the simplest terms, the amount of power a cord can hold is related to the size of the wiring inside of the cord and the length of the cord. The longer the distance that power needs to travel, the thicker the internal conductive copper wiring needs to be. Cable thickness is measured in AWG, or American Wire Gauge, in which lower numbers signify thicker cables. For example, a 12-gauge cable has thicker conductive wiring than a 16-gauge cable.

Because of the increased thickness of the conductive wires, lower gauge cords are rated to carry a higher amperage. Typically, short extension cords offer lower gauges and higher power ratings, while longer extension cords have thinner high gauge wiring that makes the cord easier to manage.

Most of the top cords on our list are rated for 15 amps (15 A) and can hold and safely transmit power for just about any application. Some cords are rated for lower amperage but are still useful in lower-power applications.

It’s important to note that each cord is rated for a certain number of amps. Constantly over-powering a low-rated extension cord is not only less effective but can also be dangerous. Running too much power through a low-power rated extension cord, such as a 100-foot 16-gauge cord, can actually cause damage from voltage drop and even fire from the overload.

While we still considered some 16-gauge extension cords because of their useful length and affordability, these cords aren’t safe for heavy machinery or other high-power applications.

Kevin Oliver  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Kevin Oliver is a valued contributor to the Reviewed.com family of sites.

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Kevin Kavanaugh  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Kevin Kavanaugh is a retired public school teacher and a product tester for Reviewed. Kevin has been cutting lawns for just about 50 years. He has always been intrigued by all things mechanical, be it watches, power equipment, vintage bicycles, or classic cars.

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# The Best No Annual Fee Credit Cards of 2022

## Learn more about the Chase Freedom Flex

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

Chase's Freedom Flex card gives you the power to decide when and where you want cash back, as well as general cash back on all purchases.  
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 This cash-back card with ample returns on supermarket and gas station spending has what everyday shoppers are looking for.  
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 Uniquely, this card earns 1% cash back on a purchase and an additional 1% when you pay it off. The 2% cash back on all purchases has great value.  
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 While most secured cards stake their value only on accepting those with poor credit, this card does that and offers great rewards with no annual fee.  
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 This travel card avoids costly fees and earns miles with every purchase, but at a lesser rate than other credit cards meant for globe-trotting.  
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Updated October 21, 2022

Don’t sleep on rewards credit cards with no annual fee, folks. Many come with the same perks you might find with premium credit cards, such as a sign-up bonus, intro APR on purchases, no foreign transaction fee, and ongoing rewards opportunities. The right no-annual-fee card to add to your wallet depends on your credit and where you spend money. If you have bad credit or limited credit, a secured card that offers free credit scores could help you get on the right track. For those with decent credit looking for a no-fuss rewards program, the Citi® Double Cash card is one of our favorite no-annual-fee credit cards because it gives unlimited cash back with no categories to keep track of. Whether you’re looking for a card that offers first-year perks or rewards for late-night Amazon shopping hauls, there’s a no-annual-fee card on this list to consider.

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The Best No Annual Fee Credit Cards

Best Overall: Chase Freedom Flex

Best for Everyday Shopping: Blue Cash Everyday® Card from American Express

Best for Unlimited Cash Back: Citi® Double Cash Card

Best for Imperfect Credit: Discover it® Secured

Best for Miles: Capital One VentureOne Rewards Credit Card Best for Amazon: Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Signature Card

Best for First-Year Perks: Discover it® Cash Back Things to Know About Credit Cards

None of these cards have an annual fee. While this can be great news for your wallet, the downside is that these options generally offer fewer perks than similar cards with annual fees from the same issuers. For example, the Chase Sapphire Preferred®, which has a $95 annual fee, offers more travel perks, such as no foreign transaction fees, than the Chase Freedom Flex, which has no annual fee. If you’re set on a card with no annual fee, the cards on this list are the best out there. Watch out for administrative fees. Even though you won’t pay an annual fee, there are other costs associated with credit cards, such as late fees and interest charges if you don’t pay off your balance each month. Credit card issuers have the right to change terms and conditions, and that includes adjusting rates and fees. That said, it would be rare for an issuer to impose an annual fee on a product that is known for not having one. And per the Credit CARD Act of 2009, the issuer is obligated to alert cardholders 45 days before any changes take effect. APR rates and credit limits vary based on your individual credit. Credit limits and interest rates for each card are determined based on each cardholder’s personal situation, so we did not take that information into account when evaluating these cards. One thing to remember is that if you pay your card off in full every month, you will not be charged interest. Banks have final say on who they accept for a credit card. These recommendations were put together with the assumption that applicants would have average credit or above. That said, banks decide who they will issue credit cards to using criteria including, but not always limited to, an individual’s credit score when evaluating each applicant.

How We Evaluated Here at Reviewed, we’re well-versed in digging into the finer details to find the best products for our readers. Our Cambridge, Massachusetts, lab tests everything from kitchen appliances to televisions, and we have personal finance experts on hand, too. Caroline and Taylor have been writing about credit cards for several years. To examine ones that don’t require paying an annual fee, they looked at major credit cards that offer flexible points or cash-back rewards that can be easily redeemed. We chose the best no-annual-fee credit cards based on the value of rewards (both points and perks), fees, and general accessibility.

Credit: Reviewed / Sarah Hagman

Best Overall Chase Freedom Flex The Chase Freedom Flex tops our list of the best no-annual-fee credit cards. It has a unique rewards program that offers revolving categories and flat rewards rates for travel, dining, and drugstore shopping. Points: Cardholders earn 5% cash back on up to $1,500 spent in revolving categories—so long as you activate the offer, each quarter. In 2022, the 5% category in Q1 includes eBay and grocery stores (excluding Walmart and Target). Previous bonus categories have included spending on streaming platforms, gym memberships, and cable and phone services, plus retailers such as Amazon, Whole Foods, and wholesale clubs like Costco and BJ’s. You also get an unlimited 5% back on travel booked through Chase Ultimate Rewards, 3% back at restaurants (including takeout), and 3% back at drugstores. All other purchases earn an unlimited 1% cash back. Perks: The Chase Freedom Flex is our favorite overall pick because there’s even more perks at no additional cost. For instance, you’ll get a $200 bonus after you spend $500 on purchases within the first three months, or you can take advantage of cell phone insurance by using the card to pay your monthly bill. Additionally, Chase offers an introductory 0% APR for 15 months on new purchases before the variable rate based on your creditworthiness (17.24% - 25.99%) kicks in. Learn more about the Chase Freedom Flex Pros No annual fee High reward rate Robust rewards program Cons Requires excellent credit

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Credit: Reviewed / Naidin Concul-Ticas American Express Blue Cash Everyday

Best for Everyday Shopping Blue Cash Everyday Card from American Express The Blue Cash Everyday includes a great welcome offer as well as the opportunity to earn points on everyday purchases (hence, the name). If you want a solid, no-annual-fee card with an easy-to-manage rewards program, then this may be the card for you. See rates and fees. Points: On the first $6,000 you spend at U.S. supermarkets every year, you’ll earn 3% cash back (and then you’ll earn 1% afterward). For someone who spends around $115 per week stocking their pantry, this is one of the best credit cards for groceries you’ll find. Cardholders also earn 3% at U.S. gas stations on up to $6,000 per year, then 1%. All other purchases earn 1%. Cash back is received in the form of Reward Dollars, which can be redeemed for statement credits once the balance reaches $25. Perks: With the Blue Cash Everyday, you can earn a $100 welcome offer after spending $2,000 in purchases within six months from account opening. Additionally, cardholders can earn 20% back as a statement credit (up to $150) on purchases when using their new card to check out with PayPal in the first 6 months. There’s also a 0% introductory APR on purchases for 15 months, though the variable rate will increase to 16.99% - 27.99% after the promotional period. See rates and fees as terms apply. Learn more about the Blue Cash Everyday Pros No annual fee High reward rate Cons Spending limit on some rewards

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Credit: Reviewed / Naidin Concul-Ticas

Best for Unlimited Cash Back Citi Double Cash Who can argue about cold hard cash that can be used for anything you want? This is one of the simplest cash rewards credit cards out there—and it offers a great rate. Similar to the other cards on this list, it doesn’t have an annual fee. Points: The Citi Double Cash is simple and straightforward yet very rewarding. It offers 1% cash back on every purchase when you swipe your card and another 1% when you pay off your balance. Assuming you do both, the Citi Double Cash ends up being a 2% cash-back card. That rate is higher than other unlimited cash-back cards that don’t have an annual fee. The Capital One Quicksilver Cash Rewards Credit Card, for example, maxes out at 1.5%. Your rewards can be redeemed as a statement credit and used for whatever your heart desires. Perks: As you’d expect, cards that don’t have annual fees lack much in the way of additional perks, and the Citi Double Cash doesn’t really stand out here. It does, however, offer one of the best 0% APR periods for balance transfers available. You’ll get an introductory 0% APR period for 18 months on balance transfers completed within four months of opening the account. During those four months, you’ll only have to pay a 3% balance transfer fee (after the introductory period, that raises to 5% of each transfer), so do the math. And keep in mind that after the introductory period, the variable APR will increase to 16.99% - 26.99%, based on your creditworthiness. In addition to the balance transfer offer, the Citi Double Cash card has a welcome offer as well. For a limited time only, you’ll earn $200 cash back after spending $1,500 on purchases in the first six months of your account opening. Learn more about the Citi Double Cash Pros No annual fee High reward rate Cons Not many perks

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Credit: Reviewed / Naidin Concul-Ticas

Best for Imperfect Credit Discover it Secured If you’ve made some mistakes with credit in the past, you might be dealing with a bad credit score. That often means having a hard time getting approved for an unsecured card and missing out on rewards programs and other perks. We’ve rounded up some of the best secured credit cards out there, and this one, which comes with rare benefits, happens to top our list. The Discover it Secured is a great option if you need to build your credit history with the major credit bureaus but still want to earn rewards. Upon approval, you’ll have to put down a security deposit of at least $200. That amount will equal your credit line, and it is fully refundable when you close the account in good standing or convert it to an unsecured card. Points: As far as earning points goes, you’ll get 2% cash back at gas stations and restaurants on up to $1,000 in combined purchases each quarter. You’ll also earn 1% on all other purchases. Perks: Not unlike the Discover it, the issuer will match the cash back earned during the first year. Rack up $100 in rewards, and that’s $200 total in your pocket. This secured card also has two other great perks to help you rebuild credit. First, you’ll get free access to your credit score on monthly statements, through Discover’s mobile app, and online so that you can monitor any changes to your FICO score. You’ll also have the ability to activate free alerts should Discover come across your Social Security number on any of thousands of Dark Web sites. Learn more about the Discover it Secured Pros No annual fee Good for bad or no credit High reward rate Cons Security deposit required Some spending limits on rewards

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Credit: Reviewed / Naidin Concul-Ticas

Best for Miles Capital One VentureOne Credit Card Looking to add a miles card to your wallet? The VentureOne has an uncomplicated program that rewards you with miles for every purchase, and there’s even an introductory bonus that can offer a windfall for your next trip. Points: Cardholders earn 1.25 miles per dollar on every purchase. You can book excursions through the issuer’s online portal (where hotel stays and rental cars earn 5 miles per dollar) and then redeem rewards for a statement credit to pay yourself back. You can also use miles to make purchases through PayPal or Amazon. Perks: There’s 0% introductory APR for 15 months on new purchases and balance transfers—after which a variable rate (17.99% - 27.99%) applies there’s also a 3% fee on the amounts transferred within the first 15 months—and you can also rack up 20,000 miles if you spend $500 on purchases within the first three months. Learn more about the Capital One VentureOne Pros No annual fee No foreign transaction fees Cons Not many travel perks Low reward rate

Credit: Reviewed / Naidin Concul-Ticas

Best for Amazon Amazon Prime Rewards card If you’re a Prime member and you’ve noticed an uptick in your Amazon spending, you may benefit from using the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Signature for your online shopping hauls. With this card in your arsenal, you’ll get cash back when you shop at Amazon and Whole Foods Market, the supermarket chain purchased by the retail giant in 2017. Points: Cardholders earn 5% cash back—yes, 5%—at Amazon and Whole Foods Market, and that includes grocery orders through Amazon Fresh as well as Whole Foods’ website. Beyond that, you’ll score 2% at gas stations, restaurants, and drugstores, and 1% on everything else. Perks: You get an instant Amazon gift card upon approval—we’ve seen this range from $50 to $100. Plus, the card has travel benefits that may come in handy, such as no foreign transaction fees, lost luggage reimbursement, and travel accident insurance. Learn more about the Amazon Prime Rewards card Pros No annual fee No foreign transaction fees Robust rewards program Cons Membership exclusivity

Credit: Reviewed / Naidin Concul-Ticas

Best for First-Year Perks Discover it The Discover it is a 5% revolving quarterly rewards card that packs a punch. That’s because Discover matches the rewards you earn the first year, and there’s an intro 0% APR offer for balance transfers and new purchases. Points: You earn 5% cash back on the first $1,500 spent in revolving categories—just be sure to activate the offer each quarter. Beyond that, you get 1% on everything else. The 5% rewards categories for 2022 include the following: Q1: Grocery stores and gym memberships Q2: Gas stations and Target Q3: Restaurants and PayPal Q4: Amazon.com and digital wallets such as Apple Pay Perks: Cardholders get a dollar-for-dollar cash-back match for the first year. Say you earn $200 in cash back. Discover will give you another $200. Plus, there’s 0% APR for 14 months on purchases and balance transfers. But watch out for the fee—there’s an introductory balance transfer fee of 3%, and then a standard fee of 5% after the intro deal expires. Before you transfer your balance, ask yourself these questions to see if the move makes sense for your financial situation. Learn more about the Discover it Pros No annual fee High reward rate Robust rewards program Cons Some spending limits on rewards

Other No-Annual-Fee Credit Cards We Tested We went through dozens of cards’ terms and conditions with a fine-tooth comb to select our top picks. The following are popular options with a lot to offer—just not quite as much as the ones we ultimately selected.

Capital One Quicksilver Cash Rewards Credit Card The Quicksilver is a user-friendly, flat-rate card that earns an unlimited 1.5% cash back on all purchases, but you can get more cash back from the Citi Double Cash if you pay off your bill each month. Learn more Pros No annual fee High reward rate Cons Not many perks   
  
 Capital One SavorOne Cash Rewards Credit Card Cardholders earn an unlimited 3% cash back on dining and entertainment and at grocery stores, excluding superstores like Walmart and Target, and 1% on everything else. Our best overall choice provides the same dining points, but on top of that, the Chase Freedom Flex includes the 5% quarterly category, which sweetens the deal. Learn more   
  
 Bank of America Cash Rewards With the Bank of America Cash Rewards, you’ll earn 3% in a category of your choice—think dining, online shopping, gas, drugstores, home improvement, or travel. You’ll also earn 2% on groceries and wholesale clubs, and 1% on everything else. The highest value, however, is for Bank of America Preferred members who get 25% to 75% more cash back. Learn more Pros No annual fee Robust rewards program High reward rate Cons Spending limits on rewards Membership required for best rewards   
  
 Capital One Platinum Secured Credit Card This is a very close contender to the Discover it Secured, but it unfortunately has no rewards offer. One upside: Account holders can potentially get the full $200 credit line even if they put down a $49 or $99 deposit. The Capital One Platinum Secured also offers automatic credit reviews and an upgrade to an unsecured card when your credit improves. While it didn’t make the cut here, we named it our value pick for the best secured credit cards. Learn more Pros No annual fee Good for bad or no credit No foreign transaction fee Cons No rewards Security deposit required

Please note: The offers mentioned above are subject to change at any time and some may no longer be available. Reviewed has partnered with CardRatings for our coverage of credit card products. Reviewed and CardRatings may receive a commission from card issuers. See rates and fees for the Blue Cash Everyday Card from American Express. What Is a Good APR for a Credit Card?

Credit card annual percentage rates range from 13% to 25%, with the national average in January 2022 around 16%. Credit cards marketed for applicants with bad credit tend to be on the higher side, as do credit cards with rewards programs. Before you apply for a credit card, you can see this range in the cardmember agreement. You won’t know the rate until you’re approved, as it’s determined by the issuer based on your creditworthiness. The higher your credit score, the lower the rate you can expect. Remember that with a variable rate, an issuer can change the interest it charges at any time—and, per your cardmember agreement, it may not have to notify you. An issuer may charge a different APR for purchases, balance transfers, and cash advances. It may even offer an introductory rate that includes zero interest for a period of 12 to 18 (or 21) months. Lastly, a penalty APR may kick in if you’re late for a payment, exceed your credit limit, or break other terms and conditions laid out by the issuer. We’ll say it till we’re blue in the face: Pay off your balance each month, and you won’t have to think about interest.

What Is a Secured Credit Card?

Secured credit cards are geared toward those of us who have made mistakes with credit in the past, or those of us with limited credit histories. Students and people new to the U.S. often fall under these categories. Unlike an unsecured credit card, cardholders are required to put down a security deposit—often around $200—that is typically equivalent to their credit line. There are, however, a few that require a smaller amount, including the Secured Mastercard® from Capital One, which is among our best secured credit cards, as you may put down as little as $49. Many credit card issuers will review your account after several months. If you’ve responsibly used your credit card, the issuer may consider upgrading your card or refunding your deposit.

How Many Credit Cards Should You Have in Your Wallet?

We hate to break it to you, but there’s no one-size-fits-all answer here. The right number for you depends on what you can responsibly manage. Does having a piece of shiny plastic an arm’s length away often encourage you to spend money you don’t have? Be honest. Credit cards offer great benefits, but they also present an opportunity for overspending. You may want to think twice before applying for more credit. Carrying a balance you can’t afford contributes to interest charges, and in the long run costs you more money—money that you could’ve used for that air fryer you’ve been eyeing. If you’re financially responsible and stick to making purchases that you can pay off, there may be some upsides to adding another card to your arsenal. If you’re a jet-setter without a card that rewards you for hitting the road, or one that skips foreign transaction fees, a travel credit card may make sense for you. There are a few other things to consider before opening a new account, like adding a different payment processing network, or taking note of any annual fees.

Should You Consider Closing a Credit Card Account?

We’re not big fans of clutter sitting around and taking up space, either, but there’s a few things to know before you pick up the phone to call your bank and chop up that credit card into bits and pieces. First, your credit score is based partly on the length of your credit history. Closing an older account will knock your score. Saying goodbye to a card also means you’ll have less credit available. And that means your credit utilization ratio will likely go up. (If you need a refresher: That’s the balance you carry divided by your credit line—and finance pros recommend keeping this at 30% or less.) Your utilization ratio is also a major factor in calculating your score. You can, however, ask another issuer to increase your credit limit to help out a little. Keep in mind, if you’re a responsible credit user, your scores will eventually rebound. But there are a few other factors to consider when deciding to close an account, such as whether you’re close to hitting a rewards milestone.

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Don’t sleep on rewards credit cards with no annual fee, folks. Many come with the same perks you might find with premium credit cards, such as a sign-up bonus, intro APR on purchases, no foreign transaction fee, and ongoing rewards opportunities.

The right no-annual-fee card to add to your wallet depends on your credit and where you spend money. If you have bad credit or limited credit, a secured card that offers free credit scores could help you get on the right track. For those with decent credit looking for a no-fuss rewards program, the Citi® Double Cash card is one of our favorite no-annual-fee credit cards because it gives unlimited cash back with no categories to keep track of.

Whether you’re looking for a card that offers first-year perks or rewards for late-night Amazon shopping hauls, there’s a no-annual-fee card on this list to consider.

Best for First-Year Perks: Discover it® Cash Back

None of these cards have an annual fee. While this can be great news for your wallet, the downside is that these options generally offer fewer perks than similar cards with annual fees from the same issuers. For example, the Chase Sapphire Preferred®, which has a $95 annual fee, offers more travel perks, such as no foreign transaction fees, than the Chase Freedom Flex, which has no annual fee. If you’re set on a card with no annual fee, the cards on this list are the best out there.

Watch out for administrative fees. Even though you won’t pay an annual fee, there are other costs associated with credit cards, such as late fees and interest charges if you don’t pay off your balance each month.

Credit card issuers have the right to change terms and conditions, and that includes adjusting rates and fees. That said, it would be rare for an issuer to impose an annual fee on a product that is known for not having one. And per the Credit CARD Act of 2009, the issuer is obligated to alert cardholders 45 days before any changes take effect.

APR rates and credit limits vary based on your individual credit. Credit limits and interest rates for each card are determined based on each cardholder’s personal situation, so we did not take that information into account when evaluating these cards. One thing to remember is that if you pay your card off in full every month, you will not be charged interest.

Banks have final say on who they accept for a credit card. These recommendations were put together with the assumption that applicants would have average credit or above. That said, banks decide who they will issue credit cards to using criteria including, but not always limited to, an individual’s credit score when evaluating each applicant.

Here at Reviewed, we’re well-versed in digging into the finer details to find the best products for our readers. Our Cambridge, Massachusetts, lab tests everything from kitchen appliances to televisions, and we have personal finance experts on hand, too.

Caroline and Taylor have been writing about credit cards for several years. To examine ones that don’t require paying an annual fee, they looked at major credit cards that offer flexible points or cash-back rewards that can be easily redeemed. We chose the best no-annual-fee credit cards based on the value of rewards (both points and perks), fees, and general accessibility.

The Chase Freedom Flex tops our list of the best no-annual-fee credit cards. It has a unique rewards program that offers revolving categories and flat rewards rates for travel, dining, and drugstore shopping.

Points: Cardholders earn 5% cash back on up to $1,500 spent in revolving categories—so long as you activate the offer, each quarter. In 2022, the 5% category in Q1 includes eBay and grocery stores (excluding Walmart and Target). Previous bonus categories have included spending on streaming platforms, gym memberships, and cable and phone services, plus retailers such as Amazon, Whole Foods, and wholesale clubs like Costco and BJ’s.

You also get an unlimited 5% back on travel booked through Chase Ultimate Rewards, 3% back at restaurants (including takeout), and 3% back at drugstores. All other purchases earn an unlimited 1% cash back.

Perks: The Chase Freedom Flex is our favorite overall pick because there’s even more perks at no additional cost. For instance, you’ll get a $200 bonus after you spend $500 on purchases within the first three months, or you can take advantage of cell phone insurance by using the card to pay your monthly bill. Additionally, Chase offers an introductory 0% APR for 15 months on new purchases before the variable rate based on your creditworthiness (17.24% - 25.99%) kicks in.

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Requires excellent credit

American Express Blue Cash Everyday

The Blue Cash Everyday includes a great welcome offer as well as the opportunity to earn points on everyday purchases (hence, the name). If you want a solid, no-annual-fee card with an easy-to-manage rewards program, then this may be the card for you. See rates and fees.

Points: On the first $6,000 you spend at U.S. supermarkets every year, you’ll earn 3% cash back (and then you’ll earn 1% afterward). For someone who spends around $115 per week stocking their pantry, this is one of the best credit cards for groceries you’ll find.

Cardholders also earn 3% at U.S. gas stations on up to $6,000 per year, then 1%. All other purchases earn 1%.

Cash back is received in the form of Reward Dollars, which can be redeemed for statement credits once the balance reaches $25.

Perks: With the Blue Cash Everyday, you can earn a $100 welcome offer after spending $2,000 in purchases within six months from account opening. Additionally, cardholders can earn 20% back as a statement credit (up to $150) on purchases when using their new card to check out with PayPal in the first 6 months. There’s also a 0% introductory APR on purchases for 15 months, though the variable rate will increase to 16.99% - 27.99% after the promotional period. See rates and fees as terms apply.

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Spending limit on some rewards

Who can argue about cold hard cash that can be used for anything you want? This is one of the simplest cash rewards credit cards out there—and it offers a great rate. Similar to the other cards on this list, it doesn’t have an annual fee.

Points: The Citi Double Cash is simple and straightforward yet very rewarding. It offers 1% cash back on every purchase when you swipe your card and another 1% when you pay off your balance.

Assuming you do both, the Citi Double Cash ends up being a 2% cash-back card. That rate is higher than other unlimited cash-back cards that don’t have an annual fee. The Capital One Quicksilver Cash Rewards Credit Card, for example, maxes out at 1.5%. Your rewards can be redeemed as a statement credit and used for whatever your heart desires.

Perks: As you’d expect, cards that don’t have annual fees lack much in the way of additional perks, and the Citi Double Cash doesn’t really stand out here. It does, however, offer one of the best 0% APR periods for balance transfers available.

You’ll get an introductory 0% APR period for 18 months on balance transfers completed within four months of opening the account. During those four months, you’ll only have to pay a 3% balance transfer fee (after the introductory period, that raises to 5% of each transfer), so do the math. And keep in mind that after the introductory period, the variable APR will increase to 16.99% - 26.99%, based on your creditworthiness.

In addition to the balance transfer offer, the Citi Double Cash card has a welcome offer as well. For a limited time only, you’ll earn $200 cash back after spending $1,500 on purchases in the first six months of your account opening.

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Not many perks

If you’ve made some mistakes with credit in the past, you might be dealing with a bad credit score. That often means having a hard time getting approved for an unsecured card and missing out on rewards programs and other perks. We’ve rounded up some of the best secured credit cards out there, and this one, which comes with rare benefits, happens to top our list.

The Discover it Secured is a great option if you need to build your credit history with the major credit bureaus but still want to earn rewards. Upon approval, you’ll have to put down a security deposit of at least $200. That amount will equal your credit line, and it is fully refundable when you close the account in good standing or convert it to an unsecured card.

Points: As far as earning points goes, you’ll get 2% cash back at gas stations and restaurants on up to $1,000 in combined purchases each quarter. You’ll also earn 1% on all other purchases.

Perks: Not unlike the Discover it, the issuer will match the cash back earned during the first year. Rack up $100 in rewards, and that’s $200 total in your pocket.

This secured card also has two other great perks to help you rebuild credit. First, you’ll get free access to your credit score on monthly statements, through Discover’s mobile app, and online so that you can monitor any changes to your FICO score. You’ll also have the ability to activate free alerts should Discover come across your Social Security number on any of thousands of Dark Web sites.

No annual fee   
  
 Good for bad or no credit   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Security deposit required   
  
 Some spending limits on rewards

Looking to add a miles card to your wallet? The VentureOne has an uncomplicated program that rewards you with miles for every purchase, and there’s even an introductory bonus that can offer a windfall for your next trip.

Points: Cardholders earn 1.25 miles per dollar on every purchase. You can book excursions through the issuer’s online portal (where hotel stays and rental cars earn 5 miles per dollar) and then redeem rewards for a statement credit to pay yourself back. You can also use miles to make purchases through PayPal or Amazon.

Perks: There’s 0% introductory APR for 15 months on new purchases and balance transfers—after which a variable rate (17.99% - 27.99%) applies there’s also a 3% fee on the amounts transferred within the first 15 months—and you can also rack up 20,000 miles if you spend $500 on purchases within the first three months.

No annual fee   
  
 No foreign transaction fees   
  
 Not many travel perks   
  
 Low reward rate

If you’re a Prime member and you’ve noticed an uptick in your Amazon spending, you may benefit from using the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Signature for your online shopping hauls. With this card in your arsenal, you’ll get cash back when you shop at Amazon and Whole Foods Market, the supermarket chain purchased by the retail giant in 2017.

Points: Cardholders earn 5% cash back—yes, 5%—at Amazon and Whole Foods Market, and that includes grocery orders through Amazon Fresh as well as Whole Foods’ website. Beyond that, you’ll score 2% at gas stations, restaurants, and drugstores, and 1% on everything else.

Perks: You get an instant Amazon gift card upon approval—we’ve seen this range from $50 to $100. Plus, the card has travel benefits that may come in handy, such as no foreign transaction fees, lost luggage reimbursement, and travel accident insurance.

No annual fee   
  
 No foreign transaction fees   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Membership exclusivity

The Discover it is a 5% revolving quarterly rewards card that packs a punch. That’s because Discover matches the rewards you earn the first year, and there’s an intro 0% APR offer for balance transfers and new purchases.

Points: You earn 5% cash back on the first $1,500 spent in revolving categories—just be sure to activate the offer each quarter. Beyond that, you get 1% on everything else. The 5% rewards categories for 2022 include the following:

Perks: Cardholders get a dollar-for-dollar cash-back match for the first year. Say you earn $200 in cash back. Discover will give you another $200.

Plus, there’s 0% APR for 14 months on purchases and balance transfers. But watch out for the fee—there’s an introductory balance transfer fee of 3%, and then a standard fee of 5% after the intro deal expires. Before you transfer your balance, ask yourself these questions to see if the move makes sense for your financial situation.

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 Some spending limits on rewards

We went through dozens of cards’ terms and conditions with a fine-tooth comb to select our top picks. The following are popular options with a lot to offer—just not quite as much as the ones we ultimately selected.

The Quicksilver is a user-friendly, flat-rate card that earns an unlimited 1.5% cash back on all purchases, but you can get more cash back from the Citi Double Cash if you pay off your bill each month. Learn more

No annual fee   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Not many perks

Cardholders earn an unlimited 3% cash back on dining and entertainment and at grocery stores, excluding superstores like Walmart and Target, and 1% on everything else. Our best overall choice provides the same dining points, but on top of that, the Chase Freedom Flex includes the 5% quarterly category, which sweetens the deal. Learn more

With the Bank of America Cash Rewards, you’ll earn 3% in a category of your choice—think dining, online shopping, gas, drugstores, home improvement, or travel. You’ll also earn 2% on groceries and wholesale clubs, and 1% on everything else. The highest value, however, is for Bank of America Preferred members who get 25% to 75% more cash back. Learn more

No annual fee   
  
 Robust rewards program   
  
 High reward rate   
  
 Spending limits on rewards   
  
 Membership required for best rewards

This is a very close contender to the Discover it Secured, but it unfortunately has no rewards offer. One upside: Account holders can potentially get the full $200 credit line even if they put down a $49 or $99 deposit. The Capital One Platinum Secured also offers automatic credit reviews and an upgrade to an unsecured card when your credit improves. While it didn’t make the cut here, we named it our value pick for the best secured credit cards. Learn more

No annual fee   
  
 Good for bad or no credit   
  
 No foreign transaction fee   
  
 No rewards   
  
 Security deposit required

Please note: The offers mentioned above are subject to change at any time and some may no longer be available.

Reviewed has partnered with CardRatings for our coverage of credit card products. Reviewed and CardRatings may receive a commission from card issuers.

See rates and fees for the Blue Cash Everyday Card from American Express.

Credit card annual percentage rates range from 13% to 25%, with the national average in January 2022 around 16%. Credit cards marketed for applicants with bad credit tend to be on the higher side, as do credit cards with rewards programs.

Before you apply for a credit card, you can see this range in the cardmember agreement. You won’t know the rate until you’re approved, as it’s determined by the issuer based on your creditworthiness. The higher your credit score, the lower the rate you can expect. Remember that with a variable rate, an issuer can change the interest it charges at any time—and, per your cardmember agreement, it may not have to notify you.

An issuer may charge a different APR for purchases, balance transfers, and cash advances. It may even offer an introductory rate that includes zero interest for a period of 12 to 18 (or 21) months. Lastly, a penalty APR may kick in if you’re late for a payment, exceed your credit limit, or break other terms and conditions laid out by the issuer.

We’ll say it till we’re blue in the face: Pay off your balance each month, and you won’t have to think about interest.

Secured credit cards are geared toward those of us who have made mistakes with credit in the past, or those of us with limited credit histories. Students and people new to the U.S. often fall under these categories.

Unlike an unsecured credit card, cardholders are required to put down a security deposit—often around $200—that is typically equivalent to their credit line. There are, however, a few that require a smaller amount, including the Secured Mastercard® from Capital One, which is among our best secured credit cards, as you may put down as little as $49.

Many credit card issuers will review your account after several months. If you’ve responsibly used your credit card, the issuer may consider upgrading your card or refunding your deposit.

We hate to break it to you, but there’s no one-size-fits-all answer here. The right number for you depends on what you can responsibly manage.

Does having a piece of shiny plastic an arm’s length away often encourage you to spend money you don’t have? Be honest. Credit cards offer great benefits, but they also present an opportunity for overspending. You may want to think twice before applying for more credit. Carrying a balance you can’t afford contributes to interest charges, and in the long run costs you more money—money that you could’ve used for that air fryer you’ve been eyeing.

If you’re financially responsible and stick to making purchases that you can pay off, there may be some upsides to adding another card to your arsenal. If you’re a jet-setter without a card that rewards you for hitting the road, or one that skips foreign transaction fees, a travel credit card may make sense for you.

There are a few other things to consider before opening a new account, like adding a different payment processing network, or taking note of any annual fees.

We’re not big fans of clutter sitting around and taking up space, either, but there’s a few things to know before you pick up the phone to call your bank and chop up that credit card into bits and pieces. First, your credit score is based partly on the length of your credit history. Closing an older account will knock your score.

Saying goodbye to a card also means you’ll have less credit available. And that means your credit utilization ratio will likely go up. (If you need a refresher: That’s the balance you carry divided by your credit line—and finance pros recommend keeping this at 30% or less.) Your utilization ratio is also a major factor in calculating your score. You can, however, ask another issuer to increase your credit limit to help out a little.

Keep in mind, if you’re a responsible credit user, your scores will eventually rebound. But there are a few other factors to consider when deciding to close an account, such as whether you’re close to hitting a rewards milestone.

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# The Best Hairstyling Tools of 2022

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

Our Best Overall hair dryer gives a sleek blowout and is comfortable to use with its variety of heat and speed settings and lightweight build.  
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 A great dryer at an absurdly low price for the impressive dry time and features it offers.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This hair dryer brush earned a perfect score because it’s well-made, easy to use, and delivers a super-sleek style in less than 15 minutes.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 A high-quality tool that’s great for sleek styles with intuitive buttons, a wide range of temperature settings, and an audible chime when it’s ready for use.  
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 A bargain flat iron with extra-long plates that results in a salon-quality smooth style.  
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Updated October 19, 2022

There’s a reason we spend so much time and money at the hair salon and pricey hair care: It can seem near-impossible to create salon-beautiful hair at home. Styling your own hair can quickly turn into an expensive mess of tangled cords, fatigued arms, and sweat-induced frizz. Here at Reviewed, we’ve tested tons of top-rated styling tools at all different price points to find the best of the best so that you can recreate salon hairstyles by yourself at home. From excellent curling irons and wands to super-effective straighteners with great safety features, to hair dryers that take the stress out of styling, we’ve rounded up the best tools on the market—including one of our new favorites, the Revlon One-Step Hair Dryer and Volumizer (available at Amazon). Got hair that’s super fine, kinky-curly, damaged, or full of cowlicks? Don’t worry: no matter what hair issue you’re dealing with, we’ve got you covered.

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The Best Hair Dryers Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The BaBylissPro Nano Titanium Dryer is our Best Overall hair dryer for the salon-like blowout it gives. Best Hair Dryer BaBylissPro Nano Titanium Dryer My hair is medium in texture, naturally wavy-curly, and falls about 10 inches below my shoulders. So, when I say the BaBylissPro took my hair from wet and untidy to dry and styled in 20 minutes, know that it outdid itself. Before testing the dryer, I sopped up excess water from my shower with my microfiber towel for about 10 minutes until my strands were damp. I began drying on the medium heat and high power settings, circling my head and paying attention to my roots. After about three minutes, my roots felt dry to the touch and the length of my hair was semi-damp—optimal for styling. I used a round brush to pull my hair taut and slipped the concentrator nozzle (something all dryers included) onto the barrel to dry and straighten my hair from roots to ends. Twenty minutes later, I had voluminous, straight strands that exceeded my expectations. (Read: Most dryers on this list couldn’t deliver the same results.) In addition, I appreciated the tool’s lighter weight (0.9 pounds) and button placement, both of which contributed to this feeling comfortable to hold. The weight felt evenly distributed in the barrel and handle, making the dryer easy to maneuver with no undue stress on the wrist. The controls consisted of a cool shot button and two switches, each with three settings to toggle between—off, medium, and high for airflow as well as low, medium, and high for heat. Without looking, I could flip between settings while styling but also never accidentally pushed the switches without meaning to. If you want a tool that dries your hair fast, this one has the power to do it. And if you’re like me and also use a hair dryer to straighten your locks, you’ll be impressed with BaBylissPro. Pros Sleek blowout Comfortable to hold Variety of speed and heat settings Cons None that we could find $80.74 from Amazon $80.74 from Target $85.49 from JCPenney $80.74 from Walmart

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Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar The Revlon 1875W Infrared Hair Dryer offers great results at an affordable price.

Best Value Hair Dryer Revlon 1875W Infrared Hair Dryer At a fraction of the price of many professional and high-end hair dryers, the Revlon dryer has a cheapish appearance that looks like you’re getting what you pay for, but don’t judge a book by its cover, er, light-up nozzle. While it’s not as powerful as the high-end models we tested, the Revlon gives a great blowout in about the same amount of time. In fact, the comparatively weaker airflow made it easier to control the hairstyling. The control panel rests on the back of the handle and has a toggle switch for warm and hot temperatures and another for low and high speeds (with “off” located in the middle of the toggle). Though we prefer the controls to be at the front of the handle for easier transitions while using, these switches are easy to maneuver. When it comes down to it, the Revlon 1875W Infrared gets the job done just fine, at a fraction of the price of the high-end tools on this list. See our complete roundup of the best hair dryers Pros Great blowout Intuitive speed and heat settings Feels lightweight Cons Looks cheap $24.99 from Amazon $35.28 from Walmart

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Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The Revlon One-Step Hair Dryer and Volumizer eliminates the need for a round brush.

Best Hair Dryer Brush Revlon One-Step Hair Dryer and Volumizer For a hair dryer that gives you results more akin to a salon blowout, look no further than the Revlon One-Step Hair Dryer and Volumizer. With this hair dryer brush, you don’t need a straightener or curling iron to leave the house with a sleek, finished-looking style. With minimal effort, you can dry your hair from root to tip and customize your ’do to have more or less volume and curls inward or outward at the ends. The tool feels a bit bulky to hold, as it is longer than a typical hair dryer and requires two hands to balance well, but it eliminates the juggling act of holding a dryer with a brush, which makes it overall easier to manage. The drying time on this hot air brush is half of what a routine used to be—going from 40 to 60 minutes to about 20 to 30 minutes. See our review of the Revlon One-Step Hair Dryer and Volumizer and our full roundup of The Best Hair Dryer Brushes Pros Dries hair fast Gives salon-like blowout Sturdy and balanced build Cons Temperature gets very hot Buy now at Amazon $45.99 from Walmart

The Best Straightening Irons Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser Our Best Overall pick from Hot Tools has intuitive buttons, a wide range of temperature settings, and an audible chime when it’s ready for use. Best Hair Straightener Hot Tools HT7122BG Professional Black Gold Micro-Shine Flat Iron This Hot Tools iron moves through hair with ease to create and sleek and shiny ’do. Its temperature settings range from 205°F to 455°F and increase by 10-degree increments. The instructions suggested turning the iron between 355°F and 405°F for wavy medium-thick hair, so I opted for the low end of that scale and got to work. It only took about 14 seconds for the iron to heat up and when I decided to bump up the temperature to 365°F halfway through, it signaled that it was ready within a few seconds. Instead of using buttons to control the temperature, you rotate a swiveling wheel at the base of the straightener and watch the temperature adjust on the digital screen. I’ve never seen this mechanism before, but it adds to the iron’s sleek look and it’s super easy to use—and as the dial has a slight resistance, you won’t accidentally turn it up or down. Aside from looking and feeling like a high quality styling tool, one of our favorite parts of this flat iron is how it alerts you with a loud beep when it arrives at your chosen temperature. It’s a simple feature, but plenty of styling tools make you guess when they’re ready for use. Our other favorite part? The plates are 4.25 inches long to tackle larger swaths of hair at once—our Best Value pick is the only straightener to upstage this at 4.5 inches long. Another great feature is the nine-foot-long cord this iron has, which is one of the longest ones of all the irons we tested and helps guarantee that you’ll have an outlet close enough to use this at your vanity, or wherever you typically sit for styling. This flat iron also comes with a glove, which is a great addition to prevent burns on your nondominant hand as you guide the hair into the straightener. As an added bonus, the Hot Tools flat iron has rounded edges that, when the iron is clamped, can be used like a curling iron barrel to create curved ends or even loose curls for those who have mastered using a straightener for that, too. Pros Chimes when ready Durable Wide range of temperature settings Cons None that we could find $129.99 from Amazon $82.99 from Walmart

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Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser Our Best Value pick from Remington is a bargain flat iron with extra-long plates that results in a salon-quality smooth style.

Best Value Straightener Remington Anti-Static Ceramic Hair Straightener This Remington straightener took our Best Value spot in our previous round of testing and continues to reign. It has a bargain price but it rivals expensive models in its performance. The iron has glossy, extra-long (4.5-inch) plates that smooth out the hair in no time with ease. Like the Hot Tools, this iron has a digital screen for visual confirmation that it’s on the setting you want, displaying bars that flash as it’s heating up then remain steady once it’s reached the selected temperature. One con is that there’s no notification sound when the iron is ready—you have to watch the screen—but I found it heats up in 45 seconds, which is about average for a flat iron. The temperature settings increase in increments of 20°F, rather than the 10°F increments you get with the Hot Tools. Though, 10 to 20 degrees at those temperatures may not matter much to your hair. Additionally, the iron feels cheaper due to its plastic exterior and lightweight build. The cord is also only six feet long, which isn’t bad, but doesn’t grant you the same maneuverability as appliances with longer tethers, like the Hot Tools. Nonetheless, it’s still a great pick that’ll give smooth results. Pros Extra-long plates Affordable Wide range of heat settings Cons Feels cheaply made Short cord $19.84 from Walmart

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The Best Curling Irons, Wavers, and Wands Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The GHD Curve Creative Curl Wand impressed us the most out of all of the wands and irons. Best Curling Wand GHD Curve Creative Curl Wand When we think of my ideal curling wand, it’s one that grants me room for creativity. The perfect wand is also intuitive, heats up quickly, and makes the sometimes painstaking process of styling my hair all-around easier. In every way, the GHD Curve Creative Curl Wand is exactly that. Whether I want to create soft, undone waves or make tight curls for a classic-yet-voluminous look, with the GHD, I can. The GHD has a unique design, with the base starting as a round barrel that graduates to a flat oval at the top, tapering from 1-inch to 0.9-inch. Both of these traits keep the curls from molding into a strategically tapered curl, which can sometimes look too perfect and unnatural. The gradual taper and the gritty finish of the barrel keeps the hair from sliding down like it can do with a barrel that has a super-glossy finish. The most impressive feature, though, is that it heats up in about six seconds—faster than any other iron I tested—and alerts you with a loud chime when it reaches 365ºF. The only downside is that the iron doesn’t have heat adjustability—it can only hold a steady 365ºF. That temperature is appropriate to give a great curl to pin-straight hair, but the option of adjustability for other hair types—you may want to turn the heat down if you have super fine hair or even turn it up for thick hair—is ideal. Another (smaller) bummer: It only comes in the one barrel size. In terms of mechanics, the GHD has a single power button, which you have to hold down for a good two seconds, so you don’t have to worry about accidentally turning it off mid-style. The wand is lightweight and has a cool-tip end to keep you from burning your neck and forehead (we’ve all been there). It has a well-placed kickstand that prevents the hot iron from teetering or tipping onto your vanity. For safety purposes, the iron automatically shuts off after 30 minutes. Heat adjustability or additional sizes could improve this iron, but it’s a clear winner. Pros Heats up quickly Well-placed kickstand Cons None that we found $199.00 from Sephora $199.00 from Amazon $174.43 from Walmart

Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The InfinitiPro by Conair can be used as a traditional iron with a clamp or as a wand.

Best Value Curling Iron InfinitiPro by Conair Nano Tourmaline Ceramic Curling Iron 1-Inch My first-ever curling iron was one from Conair. That’s no surprise: The brand makes quality products at reasonable prices, and they’re typically very beginner-friendly. All of this is the case with our Best Value pick, the InfinitiPro by Conair Nano Tourmaline Ceramic Curling Iron 1-Inch. This iron features a long barrel with a clamp that spans the length of the iron. You can clamp the ends of your hair and spin the iron upward toward your head, wrapping the hair around the barrel to create a perfectly round ringlet, which can then be finger-brushed to look more tousled. Because the clamp is very thin, you can easily wrap your hair around the clamp and barrel, as if it’s a wand, if you prefer that technique. I find that I can work more quickly with a wand because it requires zero coordination (if this sounds silly to you, I’m guessing you’ve never accidentally curled the wrong way and ended up with a crimped ridge in your hair). I achieved the best curls when I used smaller sections of hair with this iron, which makes sense because it’s able to evenly distribute the heat to the hair when you use small amounts and place the hair flush to the ceramic iron. The iron heats up quickly—Conair claims in 30 seconds, but there wasn’t an indicator of when the iron was done, so I couldn’t time it accurately—at the touch of a button and it has four temperature settings ranging from 310°F to 400°F, which is average for a hot tool. Conair claims that the iron shuts off automatically for safety, but it doesn’t specify after how much time—my curling sessions lasted about 30 minutes, and it was still going strong. This iron became an obvious choice for the Best Value pick, as you can use it to your specific needs, like me mostly using the clamp during testing to see the iron’s capabilities but also using it as a wand when I struggled to achieve my desired look. And, of course, it’s priced reasonably for a hot tool, costing in the double digits. Pros Heats up quickly Versatile design Cons None that we found $25.97 from Amazon $25.97 from Walmart

Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The Dyson Airwrap Styler Complete is a unique kit that's perfect for hair stylists or enthusiasts.

Best Luxury Curling Tool Dyson Airwrap Styler Complete The Dyson Airwrap Styler Complete is the unicorn of our curling iron and wand testing. The pricey kit includes the following attachments: two 1.2-inch Airwrap barrels (for spiraling curls), two 1.6-inch Airwrap barrels (for looser curls and creating volume), a firm smoothing brush (for a straight style), a soft smoothing brush (a blow-dry-like finish), a round volumizing brush (for volumizing blow-dry), and a pre-styling hair dryer to remove excess moisture when you intend to style just-washed hair that’s reminiscent of the Dyson Supersonic Hair Dryer—unlike other products, you may use the Dyson on damp hair. For this guide, I tested the 1.2-inch barrels, as they are the closest comparison to the other wands and irons on this list in size and promise to create voluminous curls or waves. The kit includes two of the same size barrel because each creates curls that spiral in opposite directions—you switch attachments when you approach different sides of your head, depending on whether you want the curls to twist toward or away from your face. Unlike a heated curling wand, the Dyson uses a continuous flow of air (sort of like a targeted tiny hairdryer) to blow the hair around the barrel to form “voluminous curls and waves without extreme heat.” To an onlooker, it appears like the Dyson is sucking up your hair, like one of the brand’s beloved vacuums, but it’s actually pushing air out to create a current that your hair follows. While in use, the air is heated (to below 302°F degrees, which is less than the typical curling iron barrel) but there is a cool shot button, like on the hairdryer, that sets your curl into place. Using air instead of a ceramic barrel limits the amount of heat on your hair and greatly reduces the risk of burning yourself. Despite creating beautiful curls, the Dyson is not our overall winner because it has a steeper learning curve than other products to achieve the same results and you have less control over the style and placement of the curls it creates. It also takes longer than I—and I’m sure others—would like to spend on their hair. But if you are a hair tool enthusiast, a hairstylist, or someone who wants a lot of versatility in their hairstyling, this kit (with its variety of attachments) may be your dream. See our complete roundup of the best curling irons and curling wands. Pros Includes a lot of attachments Can use on damp hair Great quality Cons Dryer brush doesn’t straighten hair well $599.00 from Abt $599.00 from Sephora $609.99 from Walmart

Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The Hot Tools Pro Artist 24K Gold 3 Barrel Hair Waver earned our Best Overall spot for its durability, usability, and performance.

Best Hair Waver Hot Tools Pro Artist 24K Gold 3 Barrel Waver The Hot Tools Pro Artist 24K Gold 3 Barrel Hair Waver earned perfect scores in every category—build and durability, usability, and performance. From start to finish (and beyond), our experience with this hair waver was overwhelmingly positive. For starters, the hair waver has a digital screen that allows you to see the exact temperature setting, so you can choose the right setting for your hair type between 200°F and 450°F and see when the iron reaches the temperature and is ready to use. The instructions provide clear guidance on the most suitable temperature ranges for different hair types. Like the vast majority of hair wavers, the tool is bulky and tricky to maneuver on my non-dominant side, but the button placement—the side on this particular model—makes things as intuitive as possible. It even has a lock—a dial you simply press down—so that you don’t accidentally adjust the settings while you’re using it. When it comes to results—arguably the most important aspect of a quality hair waver—this one outperforms the rest. A single clamp of a 3- to 4-inch section of hair held for less than 5 seconds delivered instant S-shaped waves that held steady all day long, even after a lengthy and brisk walk around the neighborhood—no hairspray needed! Repeating that action two to three times down each section of hair took about 15 minutes. If there’s any downside, it’s that this hair waver doesn’t have a traditional kickstand, which means it sits relatively low to the counter when not in use—a potential concern if you have a vanity made of wood or another heat-sensitive material. See our complete roundup of the best hair wavers. Pros Attractive design Digital display Lock to hold settings during use Cons Lacking safety stand Buy now at Ulta

The Best Hair Brushes Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The Urtheone Boar Bristle Hair Brush won our Best Overall spot for its detangling abilities and quality build. Best Hair Brush Urtheone Boar Bristle Hair Brush This Urtheone brush immediately stood out because it’s the only wooden-handled brush in the pack. While that may not be great if you’re someone who likes to brush your hair while in the shower, our tester loved this attribute because it made the brush feel especially well made. It wasn’t too heavy or awkward in hand—instead, it felt durable and the extra weight seemed to help it through tangles in both dry and wet hair. We’re also fond of the rectangular shape of this brush. Because our tester has a lot of thick, wavy hair, she gravitates towards paddle brushes with a wider surface area—exactly what this brush has—although you can choose from a few other sizes. This brush has a mix of nylon and boar bristles. This combination of bristles proved useful, as the nylon did most of the detangling, while the boar raked dry skin flakes and other small particles out of my hair better than the brushes that only contained nylon bristles. Boar bristles also supposedly distribute oil better than plastic ones (though I’m not sure how I would notice this). If there’s any downside to the combination of bristles, it’s that the tiny boar bristles in between the nylon ones held onto hair and debris, making this brush more were difficult to clean. Though this didn’t affect the scoring process, it’s worth noting that this brush comes with some fun extras, including a wide-tooth rat tail comb and some small, colorful hair elastics. Pros Durable Plenty of surface area Effectively detangles Effectively removes debris Cons Wooden construction requires more care Slightly more difficult to clean Buy now at Amazon $20.88 from Walmart

Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The Briogeo Vegan Boar Bristle Hair Brush is our Best Upgrade pick for its high-quality build.

Best Upgrade Hair Brush Briogeo Vegan Boar Bristle Hair Brush This oval brush scored close to our overall pick, but has one important difference: It’s prettier. While that may not matter to some, we loved this. The soft purple hue looks nicer on your vanity, plus it’s a bit smaller, which makes it easier to both store and tote. Though the bristles are made of vegan and “cruelty-free” nylon, they look and feel just like traditional boar bristles. They also perform just as well—this brush scored less than a quarter-point behind the top pick. The soft ballpoint tips were gentle on my scalp and didn’t snag on wet or dry hair, curly or straight. If there’s any downside, it’s that the surface area of this brush is smaller than others, so our tester had to make more passes through her hair to tackle it all. Certainly not a deal-breaker, but this adds extra time to the task. Because the bristles are very close together, it’s also difficult to rid the brush of hair. See our complete roundup of the best hair brushes Pros Lightweight Portable Effectively detangles Cons Slightly more difficult to clean Smaller surface area Buy now at Amazon $28.00 from Sephora $44.40 from Walmart

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10 things that make cutting and styling your hair at home easier How to use a hair diffuser on every type of hair This drugstore hair dryer works way better than the high-end Dyson The Best Curling Irons and Curling Wands The Best Hair Dryers

There’s a reason we spend so much time and money at the hair salon and pricey hair care: It can seem near-impossible to create salon-beautiful hair at home. Styling your own hair can quickly turn into an expensive mess of tangled cords, fatigued arms, and sweat-induced frizz. Here at Reviewed, we’ve tested tons of top-rated styling tools at all different price points to find the best of the best so that you can recreate salon hairstyles by yourself at home.

From excellent curling irons and wands to super-effective straighteners with great safety features, to hair dryers that take the stress out of styling, we’ve rounded up the best tools on the market—including one of our new favorites, the Revlon One-Step Hair Dryer and Volumizer (available at Amazon).

Got hair that’s super fine, kinky-curly, damaged, or full of cowlicks? Don’t worry: no matter what hair issue you’re dealing with, we’ve got you covered.

The BaBylissPro Nano Titanium Dryer is our Best Overall hair dryer for the salon-like blowout it gives.

My hair is medium in texture, naturally wavy-curly, and falls about 10 inches below my shoulders. So, when I say the BaBylissPro took my hair from wet and untidy to dry and styled in 20 minutes, know that it outdid itself. Before testing the dryer, I sopped up excess water from my shower with my microfiber towel for about 10 minutes until my strands were damp. I began drying on the medium heat and high power settings, circling my head and paying attention to my roots.

After about three minutes, my roots felt dry to the touch and the length of my hair was semi-damp—optimal for styling. I used a round brush to pull my hair taut and slipped the concentrator nozzle (something all dryers included) onto the barrel to dry and straighten my hair from roots to ends. Twenty minutes later, I had voluminous, straight strands that exceeded my expectations. (Read: Most dryers on this list couldn’t deliver the same results.)

In addition, I appreciated the tool’s lighter weight (0.9 pounds) and button placement, both of which contributed to this feeling comfortable to hold. The weight felt evenly distributed in the barrel and handle, making the dryer easy to maneuver with no undue stress on the wrist. The controls consisted of a cool shot button and two switches, each with three settings to toggle between—off, medium, and high for airflow as well as low, medium, and high for heat. Without looking, I could flip between settings while styling but also never accidentally pushed the switches without meaning to.

If you want a tool that dries your hair fast, this one has the power to do it. And if you’re like me and also use a hair dryer to straighten your locks, you’ll be impressed with BaBylissPro.

Sleek blowout   
  
 Comfortable to hold   
  
 Variety of speed and heat settings   
  
 None that we could find

The Revlon 1875W Infrared Hair Dryer offers great results at an affordable price.

At a fraction of the price of many professional and high-end hair dryers, the Revlon dryer has a cheapish appearance that looks like you’re getting what you pay for, but don’t judge a book by its cover, er, light-up nozzle.

While it’s not as powerful as the high-end models we tested, the Revlon gives a great blowout in about the same amount of time. In fact, the comparatively weaker airflow made it easier to control the hairstyling.

The control panel rests on the back of the handle and has a toggle switch for warm and hot temperatures and another for low and high speeds (with “off” located in the middle of the toggle). Though we prefer the controls to be at the front of the handle for easier transitions while using, these switches are easy to maneuver.

When it comes down to it, the Revlon 1875W Infrared gets the job done just fine, at a fraction of the price of the high-end tools on this list.

See our complete roundup of the best hair dryers

Great blowout   
  
 Intuitive speed and heat settings   
  
 Feels lightweight   
  
 Looks cheap

The Revlon One-Step Hair Dryer and Volumizer eliminates the need for a round brush.

For a hair dryer that gives you results more akin to a salon blowout, look no further than the Revlon One-Step Hair Dryer and Volumizer. With this hair dryer brush, you don’t need a straightener or curling iron to leave the house with a sleek, finished-looking style. With minimal effort, you can dry your hair from root to tip and customize your ’do to have more or less volume and curls inward or outward at the ends. The tool feels a bit bulky to hold, as it is longer than a typical hair dryer and requires two hands to balance well, but it eliminates the juggling act of holding a dryer with a brush, which makes it overall easier to manage. The drying time on this hot air brush is half of what a routine used to be—going from 40 to 60 minutes to about 20 to 30 minutes.

See our review of the Revlon One-Step Hair Dryer and Volumizer and our full roundup of The Best Hair Dryer Brushes

Dries hair fast   
  
 Gives salon-like blowout   
  
 Sturdy and balanced build   
  
 Temperature gets very hot

Our Best Overall pick from Hot Tools has intuitive buttons, a wide range of temperature settings, and an audible chime when it’s ready for use.

This Hot Tools iron moves through hair with ease to create and sleek and shiny ’do.

Its temperature settings range from 205°F to 455°F and increase by 10-degree increments. The instructions suggested turning the iron between 355°F and 405°F for wavy medium-thick hair, so I opted for the low end of that scale and got to work. It only took about 14 seconds for the iron to heat up and when I decided to bump up the temperature to 365°F halfway through, it signaled that it was ready within a few seconds.

Instead of using buttons to control the temperature, you rotate a swiveling wheel at the base of the straightener and watch the temperature adjust on the digital screen. I’ve never seen this mechanism before, but it adds to the iron’s sleek look and it’s super easy to use—and as the dial has a slight resistance, you won’t accidentally turn it up or down.

Aside from looking and feeling like a high quality styling tool, one of our favorite parts of this flat iron is how it alerts you with a loud beep when it arrives at your chosen temperature. It’s a simple feature, but plenty of styling tools make you guess when they’re ready for use. Our other favorite part? The plates are 4.25 inches long to tackle larger swaths of hair at once—our Best Value pick is the only straightener to upstage this at 4.5 inches long.

Another great feature is the nine-foot-long cord this iron has, which is one of the longest ones of all the irons we tested and helps guarantee that you’ll have an outlet close enough to use this at your vanity, or wherever you typically sit for styling. This flat iron also comes with a glove, which is a great addition to prevent burns on your nondominant hand as you guide the hair into the straightener.

As an added bonus, the Hot Tools flat iron has rounded edges that, when the iron is clamped, can be used like a curling iron barrel to create curved ends or even loose curls for those who have mastered using a straightener for that, too.

Chimes when ready   
  
 Durable   
  
 Wide range of temperature settings   
  
 None that we could find

Our Best Value pick from Remington is a bargain flat iron with extra-long plates that results in a salon-quality smooth style.

This Remington straightener took our Best Value spot in our previous round of testing and continues to reign. It has a bargain price but it rivals expensive models in its performance. The iron has glossy, extra-long (4.5-inch) plates that smooth out the hair in no time with ease.

Like the Hot Tools, this iron has a digital screen for visual confirmation that it’s on the setting you want, displaying bars that flash as it’s heating up then remain steady once it’s reached the selected temperature.

One con is that there’s no notification sound when the iron is ready—you have to watch the screen—but I found it heats up in 45 seconds, which is about average for a flat iron. The temperature settings increase in increments of 20°F, rather than the 10°F increments you get with the Hot Tools. Though, 10 to 20 degrees at those temperatures may not matter much to your hair.

Additionally, the iron feels cheaper due to its plastic exterior and lightweight build. The cord is also only six feet long, which isn’t bad, but doesn’t grant you the same maneuverability as appliances with longer tethers, like the Hot Tools. Nonetheless, it’s still a great pick that’ll give smooth results.

Extra-long plates   
  
 Affordable   
  
 Wide range of heat settings   
  
 Feels cheaply made   
  
 Short cord

The GHD Curve Creative Curl Wand impressed us the most out of all of the wands and irons.

When we think of my ideal curling wand, it’s one that grants me room for creativity. The perfect wand is also intuitive, heats up quickly, and makes the sometimes painstaking process of styling my hair all-around easier. In every way, the GHD Curve Creative Curl Wand is exactly that. Whether I want to create soft, undone waves or make tight curls for a classic-yet-voluminous look, with the GHD, I can.

The GHD has a unique design, with the base starting as a round barrel that graduates to a flat oval at the top, tapering from 1-inch to 0.9-inch. Both of these traits keep the curls from molding into a strategically tapered curl, which can sometimes look too perfect and unnatural. The gradual taper and the gritty finish of the barrel keeps the hair from sliding down like it can do with a barrel that has a super-glossy finish.

The most impressive feature, though, is that it heats up in about six seconds—faster than any other iron I tested—and alerts you with a loud chime when it reaches 365ºF. The only downside is that the iron doesn’t have heat adjustability—it can only hold a steady 365ºF. That temperature is appropriate to give a great curl to pin-straight hair, but the option of adjustability for other hair types—you may want to turn the heat down if you have super fine hair or even turn it up for thick hair—is ideal. Another (smaller) bummer: It only comes in the one barrel size.

In terms of mechanics, the GHD has a single power button, which you have to hold down for a good two seconds, so you don’t have to worry about accidentally turning it off mid-style. The wand is lightweight and has a cool-tip end to keep you from burning your neck and forehead (we’ve all been there). It has a well-placed kickstand that prevents the hot iron from teetering or tipping onto your vanity. For safety purposes, the iron automatically shuts off after 30 minutes. Heat adjustability or additional sizes could improve this iron, but it’s a clear winner.

Heats up quickly   
  
 Well-placed kickstand   
  
 None that we found

The InfinitiPro by Conair can be used as a traditional iron with a clamp or as a wand.

My first-ever curling iron was one from Conair. That’s no surprise: The brand makes quality products at reasonable prices, and they’re typically very beginner-friendly. All of this is the case with our Best Value pick, the InfinitiPro by Conair Nano Tourmaline Ceramic Curling Iron 1-Inch.

This iron features a long barrel with a clamp that spans the length of the iron. You can clamp the ends of your hair and spin the iron upward toward your head, wrapping the hair around the barrel to create a perfectly round ringlet, which can then be finger-brushed to look more tousled. Because the clamp is very thin, you can easily wrap your hair around the clamp and barrel, as if it’s a wand, if you prefer that technique. I find that I can work more quickly with a wand because it requires zero coordination (if this sounds silly to you, I’m guessing you’ve never accidentally curled the wrong way and ended up with a crimped ridge in your hair). I achieved the best curls when I used smaller sections of hair with this iron, which makes sense because it’s able to evenly distribute the heat to the hair when you use small amounts and place the hair flush to the ceramic iron.

The iron heats up quickly—Conair claims in 30 seconds, but there wasn’t an indicator of when the iron was done, so I couldn’t time it accurately—at the touch of a button and it has four temperature settings ranging from 310°F to 400°F, which is average for a hot tool. Conair claims that the iron shuts off automatically for safety, but it doesn’t specify after how much time—my curling sessions lasted about 30 minutes, and it was still going strong.

This iron became an obvious choice for the Best Value pick, as you can use it to your specific needs, like me mostly using the clamp during testing to see the iron’s capabilities but also using it as a wand when I struggled to achieve my desired look. And, of course, it’s priced reasonably for a hot tool, costing in the double digits.

Heats up quickly   
  
 Versatile design   
  
 None that we found

The Dyson Airwrap Styler Complete is a unique kit that’s perfect for hair stylists or enthusiasts.

The Dyson Airwrap Styler Complete is the unicorn of our curling iron and wand testing. The pricey kit includes the following attachments: two 1.2-inch Airwrap barrels (for spiraling curls), two 1.6-inch Airwrap barrels (for looser curls and creating volume), a firm smoothing brush (for a straight style), a soft smoothing brush (a blow-dry-like finish), a round volumizing brush (for volumizing blow-dry), and a pre-styling hair dryer to remove excess moisture when you intend to style just-washed hair that’s reminiscent of the Dyson Supersonic Hair Dryer—unlike other products, you may use the Dyson on damp hair. For this guide, I tested the 1.2-inch barrels, as they are the closest comparison to the other wands and irons on this list in size and promise to create voluminous curls or waves.

The kit includes two of the same size barrel because each creates curls that spiral in opposite directions—you switch attachments when you approach different sides of your head, depending on whether you want the curls to twist toward or away from your face. Unlike a heated curling wand, the Dyson uses a continuous flow of air (sort of like a targeted tiny hairdryer) to blow the hair around the barrel to form “voluminous curls and waves without extreme heat.” To an onlooker, it appears like the Dyson is sucking up your hair, like one of the brand’s beloved vacuums, but it’s actually pushing air out to create a current that your hair follows. While in use, the air is heated (to below 302°F degrees, which is less than the typical curling iron barrel) but there is a cool shot button, like on the hairdryer, that sets your curl into place. Using air instead of a ceramic barrel limits the amount of heat on your hair and greatly reduces the risk of burning yourself.

Despite creating beautiful curls, the Dyson is not our overall winner because it has a steeper learning curve than other products to achieve the same results and you have less control over the style and placement of the curls it creates. It also takes longer than I—and I’m sure others—would like to spend on their hair.

But if you are a hair tool enthusiast, a hairstylist, or someone who wants a lot of versatility in their hairstyling, this kit (with its variety of attachments) may be your dream.

See our complete roundup of the best curling irons and curling wands.

Includes a lot of attachments   
  
 Can use on damp hair   
  
 Great quality   
  
 Dryer brush doesn't straighten hair well

The Hot Tools Pro Artist 24K Gold 3 Barrel Hair Waver earned our Best Overall spot for its durability, usability, and performance.

The Hot Tools Pro Artist 24K Gold 3 Barrel Hair Waver earned perfect scores in every category—build and durability, usability, and performance. From start to finish (and beyond), our experience with this hair waver was overwhelmingly positive.

For starters, the hair waver has a digital screen that allows you to see the exact temperature setting, so you can choose the right setting for your hair type between 200°F and 450°F and see when the iron reaches the temperature and is ready to use. The instructions provide clear guidance on the most suitable temperature ranges for different hair types.

Like the vast majority of hair wavers, the tool is bulky and tricky to maneuver on my non-dominant side, but the button placement—the side on this particular model—makes things as intuitive as possible. It even has a lock—a dial you simply press down—so that you don’t accidentally adjust the settings while you’re using it.

When it comes to results—arguably the most important aspect of a quality hair waver—this one outperforms the rest. A single clamp of a 3- to 4-inch section of hair held for less than 5 seconds delivered instant S-shaped waves that held steady all day long, even after a lengthy and brisk walk around the neighborhood—no hairspray needed! Repeating that action two to three times down each section of hair took about 15 minutes.

If there’s any downside, it’s that this hair waver doesn’t have a traditional kickstand, which means it sits relatively low to the counter when not in use—a potential concern if you have a vanity made of wood or another heat-sensitive material.

See our complete roundup of the best hair wavers.

Attractive design   
  
 Digital display   
  
 Lock to hold settings during use   
  
 Lacking safety stand

The Urtheone Boar Bristle Hair Brush won our Best Overall spot for its detangling abilities and quality build.

This Urtheone brush immediately stood out because it’s the only wooden-handled brush in the pack. While that may not be great if you’re someone who likes to brush your hair while in the shower, our tester loved this attribute because it made the brush feel especially well made. It wasn’t too heavy or awkward in hand—instead, it felt durable and the extra weight seemed to help it through tangles in both dry and wet hair.

We’re also fond of the rectangular shape of this brush. Because our tester has a lot of thick, wavy hair, she gravitates towards paddle brushes with a wider surface area—exactly what this brush has—although you can choose from a few other sizes.

This brush has a mix of nylon and boar bristles. This combination of bristles proved useful, as the nylon did most of the detangling, while the boar raked dry skin flakes and other small particles out of my hair better than the brushes that only contained nylon bristles. Boar bristles also supposedly distribute oil better than plastic ones (though I’m not sure how I would notice this).

If there’s any downside to the combination of bristles, it’s that the tiny boar bristles in between the nylon ones held onto hair and debris, making this brush more were difficult to clean.

Though this didn’t affect the scoring process, it’s worth noting that this brush comes with some fun extras, including a wide-tooth rat tail comb and some small, colorful hair elastics.

Durable   
  
 Plenty of surface area   
  
 Effectively detangles   
  
 Effectively removes debris   
  
 Wooden construction requires more care   
  
 Slightly more difficult to clean

The Briogeo Vegan Boar Bristle Hair Brush is our Best Upgrade pick for its high-quality build.

This oval brush scored close to our overall pick, but has one important difference: It’s prettier. While that may not matter to some, we loved this. The soft purple hue looks nicer on your vanity, plus it’s a bit smaller, which makes it easier to both store and tote.

Though the bristles are made of vegan and “cruelty-free” nylon, they look and feel just like traditional boar bristles. They also perform just as well—this brush scored less than a quarter-point behind the top pick. The soft ballpoint tips were gentle on my scalp and didn’t snag on wet or dry hair, curly or straight.

If there’s any downside, it’s that the surface area of this brush is smaller than others, so our tester had to make more passes through her hair to tackle it all. Certainly not a deal-breaker, but this adds extra time to the task.

Because the bristles are very close together, it’s also difficult to rid the brush of hair.

See our complete roundup of the best hair brushes

Lightweight   
  
 Portable   
  
 Effectively detangles   
  
 Slightly more difficult to clean   
  
 Smaller surface area   
  
  
 Brigitt Earley  
   
  
  
 Writer

Brigitt Earley is a freelance writer and editor based in NJ. Her work has appeared in a number of lifestyle publications, including Real Simple and Apartment Therapy. She’s a new mom, runs an Instagram account full of the most delicious food she can find, and loves to hate a good barre class.

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 Beauty Editor

Jessica writes and edits beauty content for Reviewed’s lifestyle section. Jessica holds a Bachelor’s degree in journalism from Emerson College, and she’s written for 7News, Boston.com, Citizine, and Boston Common Magazine.

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# The Best Kids’ Face Masks of 2022

## It Needs to Fit

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

If you’re looking for a comfortable, protective mask that kids won’t complain about wearing, our young testers found Happy Masks to be so wearable that they forgot to take them off.   
  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Made in the USA with an eye towards sustainability: Each order includes a prepaid return label so you can send your used masks to be recycled.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 These kid-sized masks are made of three layers that claim to block 95% of bacterial and viral particles.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Reviewers say these masks are soft yet strong and they praise the sturdy nose clip, adjustable ear loops and excellent breathability.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 These masks are the closest thing we found to a true N95 for kids.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated October 5, 2022

If you’re the parent of children over the age of 3, chances are that you’ve spent the better part of the last year listening to a lot of whining about having to wear a face mask. Hey, I get it: There’s very little that’s fun about covering your nose and mouth with a piece of fabric—especially when it’s hot outside. But the reality is that masks are likely here to stay for a while, so it’s important for kids to have a comfortable mask that they won’t complain about too much.

Editor’s Note The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

Credit: Reviewed / Lisa Lawrence Our testers preferred Happy Masks for their comfort and breathability.

Best Overall Happy Masks Pro Series If you’re looking for a comfortable, protective mask that kids won’t complain about wearing, the Happy Masks Pro Series are the way to go. These are some of the most breathable masks on the market and they claim to be some of the most protective. Designed by a retired chief scientist with a doctoral degree in filtration, these masks incorporate a nanofiber membrane filter that has been pharmaceutically tested. Happy Masks guarantees that these masks will block over 99.9% of airborne bacteria, pollution, and virus nanoparticles, making them the safest reusable mask we’ve found. Lightweight and breathable, they come with adjustable ear straps and a nose wire, and their innovative 3-D design allows for air circulation when breathing. According to Happy Masks, they will last for 50 washes, if cared for according to instructions, which makes them one of the most long-lasting reusable masks as well. You get a lot of bang for your buck with these masks. There are some downsides to Happy Masks, however. First is that they have to be washed by hand—putting them through a laundry cycle renders the built-in filter ineffective—which means that you’ll need to order quite a few of these if you wash them after every use. They also begin to show stains after a while so you’ll want to retire them. All that taken into account, they’re still the favorite. If you want a long-lasting reusable mask with excellent protection, or if your child complains about a mask feeling constricting or being hard to breathe in, Happy Masks are the answer to all of your prayers. Pros Comfortable Adjustable Lightweight Cons Hand wash only Buy now at Happy Masks

Vida Kids' KN95 Masks These kid-sized masks are made of three layers that claim to block 95% of bacterial and viral particles. Tested by an independent laboratory and approved by physicians, they are also touted by reviewers as being comfortable and breathable and kids will love that they come with nontoxic decals for personalization. These come with an adjustable nose wire, are responsibly made and recyclable. They do not come with adjustable ear loops, but that can easily be remedied by tying knots in the loops or by purchasing separate toggles to customize the fit. Pros Eco-friendly 5-layer filtration Cons Ear loops aren't adjustable Buy now at Vida   
  
 Evolvetogether Kids' Face Masks According to Vida's website, these masks are “kid-tested and doctor-approved.” They are also made in the USA with an eye towards sustainability: Each order includes a prepaid return label so you can send your used masks to be recycled. The five-layer filtration system offers 98.3% efficiency, according to Collins’ testing, and their metal nose wire ensures a snug fit. These masks don’t offer adjustable ear loops. Pros Adjustable nose wire Recyclable Cons Ear loops aren't adjustable Buy now at evolvetogether   
  
 Well + Before Kids KN95 Masks These are listed as “petite,” but there are still three distinct sizes, so be sure to measure and pick the right one. Made with five layers of protection including two melt-blown layers, Collins tested these as having 99.1% filtration. The company claims that the masks are certified KN95 (and certification is available via email). Reviewers say these masks are soft yet strong and they praise the sturdy nose clip, adjustable ear loops and excellent breathability. What’s more, these are some of the best-priced masks around, and you can even subscribe to get a continuous flow of fresh masks delivered monthly. Pros Adjustable ear loops Great price Cons None that we could find Buy now at well+before   
  
 Powecom Kids KN95-SM Masks These masks are the closest thing we found to a true N95 for kids. They can be found widely on the internet, however it’s highly recommended that you purchase them from a reputable supplier, like Bona Fide Masks, where they should arrive with an “anti-fake” label to verify authenticity. Powecom used to have emergency authorization for its KN95 masks, so they do produce masks of the highest quality and with exceptional filtration of over 97%. Pros Over 97% filtration rate Adjustable nose piece Cons Ear loops aren't adjustable Easy to find dupes Buy now at Bona Fide Masks

What You Should Know About Buying Face Masks dor Kids It Needs to Fit If the mask doesn’t fit well, your kid is going to spend all day fussing with it, and that means they’re not likely to want to wear it again in the future. Not to mention the fact that an ill-fitting mask that doesn’t cover the nose and the mouth is one that won’t do much to protect anyone from a virus. The key is to look for a mask that’s specifically sized for kids and that features adjustable ear loops. Your Kid Should Like It It’s a lot harder to convince a kid to wear something that they don’t like, and that’s especially true with face masks. Find a brand that offers plenty of appealing kid-friendly prints, and let them select the ones they’re most excited to wear every day. Never underestimate the power of a child’s buy-in. Comfort School days are long, and school days with a mask can feel even longer. Your child is going to be way more enthusiastic about going to school in a mask if they have one that doesn’t hurt their ears or make them feel like they’re gasping for breath. Plus, kids who live in perennially warm climates will want a face mask that doesn’t feel thick or make them sweat too much. More Articles You Might Enjoy

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How to get kids with sensory needs to wear a mask 11 quick and easy school lunch ideas that aren’t sandwiches

If you’re the parent of children over the age of 3, chances are that you’ve spent the better part of the last year listening to a lot of whining about having to wear a face mask. Hey, I get it: There’s very little that’s fun about covering your nose and mouth with a piece of fabric—especially when it’s hot outside. But the reality is that masks are likely here to stay for a while, so it’s important for kids to have a comfortable mask that they won’t complain about too much.

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These are some of the most breathable masks on the market and they claim to be some of the most protective. Designed by a retired chief scientist with a doctoral degree in filtration, these masks incorporate a nanofiber membrane filter that has been pharmaceutically tested. Happy Masks guarantees that these masks will block over 99.9% of airborne bacteria, pollution, and virus nanoparticles, making them the safest reusable mask we’ve found.

Lightweight and breathable, they come with adjustable ear straps and a nose wire, and their innovative 3-D design allows for air circulation when breathing. According to Happy Masks, they will last for 50 washes, if cared for according to instructions, which makes them one of the most long-lasting reusable masks as well. You get a lot of bang for your buck with these masks.

There are some downsides to Happy Masks, however. First is that they have to be washed by hand—putting them through a laundry cycle renders the built-in filter ineffective—which means that you’ll need to order quite a few of these if you wash them after every use. They also begin to show stains after a while so you’ll want to retire them.

All that taken into account, they’re still the favorite. If you want a long-lasting reusable mask with excellent protection, or if your child complains about a mask feeling constricting or being hard to breathe in, Happy Masks are the answer to all of your prayers.

Comfortable   
  
 Adjustable   
  
 Lightweight   
  
 Hand wash only

These kid-sized masks are made of three layers that claim to block 95% of bacterial and viral particles. Tested by an independent laboratory and approved by physicians, they are also touted by reviewers as being comfortable and breathable and kids will love that they come with nontoxic decals for personalization. These come with an adjustable nose wire, are responsibly made and recyclable. They do not come with adjustable ear loops, but that can easily be remedied by tying knots in the loops or by purchasing separate toggles to customize the fit.

Eco-friendly   
  
 5-layer filtration   
  
 Ear loops aren't adjustable

According to Vida’s website, these masks are “kid-tested and doctor-approved.” They are also made in the USA with an eye towards sustainability: Each order includes a prepaid return label so you can send your used masks to be recycled.

The five-layer filtration system offers 98.3% efficiency, according to Collins’ testing, and their metal nose wire ensures a snug fit. These masks don’t offer adjustable ear loops.

Adjustable nose wire   
  
 Recyclable   
  
 Ear loops aren't adjustable

These are listed as “petite,” but there are still three distinct sizes, so be sure to measure and pick the right one. Made with five layers of protection including two melt-blown layers, Collins tested these as having 99.1% filtration. The company claims that the masks are certified KN95 (and certification is available via email).

Reviewers say these masks are soft yet strong and they praise the sturdy nose clip, adjustable ear loops and excellent breathability. What’s more, these are some of the best-priced masks around, and you can even subscribe to get a continuous flow of fresh masks delivered monthly.

Adjustable ear loops   
  
 Great price   
  
 None that we could find

These masks are the closest thing we found to a true N95 for kids. They can be found widely on the internet, however it’s highly recommended that you purchase them from a reputable supplier, like Bona Fide Masks, where they should arrive with an “anti-fake” label to verify authenticity. Powecom used to have emergency authorization for its KN95 masks, so they do produce masks of the highest quality and with exceptional filtration of over 97%.

Over 97% filtration rate   
  
 Adjustable nose piece   
  
 Ear loops aren't adjustable   
  
 Easy to find dupes

If the mask doesn’t fit well, your kid is going to spend all day fussing with it, and that means they’re not likely to want to wear it again in the future. Not to mention the fact that an ill-fitting mask that doesn’t cover the nose and the mouth is one that won’t do much to protect anyone from a virus. The key is to look for a mask that’s specifically sized for kids and that features adjustable ear loops.

It’s a lot harder to convince a kid to wear something that they don’t like, and that’s especially true with face masks. Find a brand that offers plenty of appealing kid-friendly prints, and let them select the ones they’re most excited to wear every day. Never underestimate the power of a child’s buy-in.

School days are long, and school days with a mask can feel even longer. Your child is going to be way more enthusiastic about going to school in a mask if they have one that doesn’t hurt their ears or make them feel like they’re gasping for breath. Plus, kids who live in perennially warm climates will want a face mask that doesn’t feel thick or make them sweat too much.

Anna Lane  
   
  
  
 Editor, Parenting

Prior to joining Reviewed as the Parenting Editor, Anna worked as a stand-up comedian and freelance writer. A graduate of New York University, Anna currently resides in Los Angeles with her husband and two children.

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 Staff Writer, Parenting

Janelle Randazza is a writer/mother hybrid and taco enthusiast based out of Los Angeles, California.

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# The Best Nonstick Pans of 2022

## The Tester

Recommendations are independently chosen by Reviewed’s editors. Purchases made through the links below may earn us and our publishing partners a commission.

Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

The OXO Good Grips Non-Stick Frying Pan is our top-rated nonstick pan, with its comfortable handle, medium-weight design, and superb nonstick properties.  
  
  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Of the pans we tested, the All-Clad was quickest to warm up and the most even-heating, however, its straight handle makes some tasks tricky.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Mauviel M’Steel is our favorite carbon steel pan. It’s lightweight, heats quickly, and has a fantastic nonstick surface.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This gorgeous ceramic nonstick pan is a little heavy, but we were able to cook eggs and pancakes on its nonstick surface without any cooking oil.  
  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This beautiful nonstick pan is heavy and expensive, but it excels at cooking eggs.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated October 18, 2022

When friends and family ask for my advice on buying nonstick pans, I generally advise them not to spend a lot of money. Sure, this kitchen essential will fry eggs and flip pancakes with ease, and they’re easy to clean, but they’re generally not built to last. Without proper care, it’s easy to scratch the bottom of the pan beyond repair. So I’ve been surprised that so many expensive nonstick pans have popped up in the last few years, and set out to test them. Our top pick is the OXO Good Grips 10-inch Non-Stick Pro Open Fry Pan (available at Amazon for $49.95), an affordable, high-quality nonstick pan that’s just right for the day-to-day kitchen tasks. This pan also happens to be our best value. But if budget isn’t an issue, upgrade to our number-two choice, the induction-capable All Clad 10-inch Non-Stick Fry Pan (available at Amazon), which features more even heating with its multi-clad stainless steel construction. Rest assured, we’ve done the testing to find the right choice for you. These are the best nonstick pans we tested, ranked in order:

OXO Good Grips 10-inch All-Clad 4110 NS R2 10-inch Mauviel M’Steel Round Frying Pan, 12.5-Inch Great Jones 10-1/4-inch Large Fry Pan Caraway 10.5-inch Fry Pan GreenPan SmartShape Ceramic Hestan ProBond Forged Stainless Steel Nonstick Skillet - Medium Gotham Steel Ti-Cerama 9.5-Inch Scanpan Classic 9.5-Inch Fry Pan Cuisinart 6422-24 10- Inch Contour Hard-Anodized Skillet Abbio Large Nonstick Skillet Calphalon Premier 10-Inch Hard-Anodized Nonstick Frying Pan Anolon Advanced Home 10.25-inch Frying Pan Our Place Always Pan Misen 10-inch HexClad 10-inch Hexclad Hybrid pan Tramontina Professional Restaurant 10-inch T-Fal E93805 Professional Non-stick 10.25 Inch Fry Pan

Credit: Reviewed.com/Lindsay D. Mattison The OXO Good Grips nonstick pan is an affordable, high-quality non-stick pan that’s just right for the day-to-day tasks of your kitchen.

Best Overall OXO Non-Stick Pro 10 Inch Open Frypan We were pleasantly surprised when one of the least expensive pans we tested also received the highest scores. OXO’s attention to detail rarely disappoints, and this 10-inch Non-Stick Pro Open Fry Pan was a winner from the beginning. The long metal handle was smooth with an ergonomic design that was comfortable to hold and balance, and it stays cool during use. The OXO aced all our tests. Fried eggs moved freely around in the pan without any cooking oil, and the angle of its edges made it effortless to flip over-easy eggs with the flick of a wrist. The omelet we made didn’t stick or leave any residue in the pan, and we ended up with a dish we’d be proud to serve at a restaurant. The product heated quickly, and when we added room-temperature water to the heated pan, it recovered its original temperature within one minute. That heat recovery was further evidenced by our pancake test, creating a light and fluffy pancake that had even browning on both sides. We had no problems naming this 3-layer PTFE, heavy-gauge anodized aluminum pan our choice for Best Overall. In fact, I ordered a set of 8- and 10-inch pans for my home kitchen right after testing it! The only flaw we could find is that it’s not induction-capable. Pros Heats quickly Retains heat Comfortable handle Inexpensive Cons Not induction-capabale $49.95 from Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $50.39 from JCPenney $49.95 from Walmart

Credit: All-Clad The All-Clad 10-inch nonstick pan was the quickest to warm up and provided the most even heating of all the nonstick pans we tested.

Best Upgrade All-Clad 4110 NS R2 10-inch All-Clad’s USA-made, bonded stainless-steel pans regularly top performance lists. They make our favorite stainless-steel skillet, so we weren’t surprised their nonstick aced our tests. This pan features their renowned all-clad stainless-steel bottom with three layers of PFOA-free nonstick coating. Although we recommend hand-washing nonstick pans, it is dishwasher-safe and oven-safe to up to 500 degrees Fahrenheit. The induction-compatible All-Clad earned top marks on all our tests. Omelets slid easily on the surface, and pancakes turned out light and fluffy. Of all the pans in our test group, the All-Clad was the quickest to warm up and provided the most even heating, browning both sides of the pancake nicely. It was one of the heaviest pans we tested, but the straight handle design balanced the weight well. While it was slightly too hefty to flip eggs, the nonstick coating still performed. The eggs released easily, and we could flip them with the flick of a spatula, even without cooking oil. Our only significant complaint is the lofty price tag. All-Clad backs their cookware with a limited lifetime guarantee, but they don’t cover normal wear and tear. Several Amazon reviewers note that the warranty doesn’t cover scratches to the nonstick surface, so you’ll want to take very good care of this expensive pan to avoid longevity issues. Pros Quick and even heating Induction compatible Sturdy and well-built Cons Too heavy to easily flip Expensive $189.95 from Amazon $189.99 from Wayfair

Credit: Reviewed/Lindsay D. Mattison A seared steak is cooked perfectly inside a Mauviel M'Steel 12.5-inch pan, the best carbon steel pan we tested.

Best Carbon Steel Mauviel M’Steel Round Frying Pan, 12.5-Inch Unlike the other pans on this list, the Mauviel M’Steel 12.5-inch Black Carbon Steel Fry Pan doesn’t contain a nonstick coating. Instead, carbon steel cookware is seasoned with a coating of oil (similar to the seasoning you’ll find on cast-iron skillets). That makes the pan naturally nonstick so it will last longer than coated pans, although it can’t be washed with soap and water. When we tested the best carbon steel pans, the M’Steel exceeded our expectations in almost every way. This French-made pan was easy to season, immediately developing a nonstick coating. Our fried eggs and French omelet slid easily around the pan without sticking, making clean-up a breeze. This pan also heated up quickly and maintained that heat to create an even sear on both sides of a steak. It’s also oven-safe, and excelled at sauteing vegetables. At just over three pounds, we loved its lightness, and the handle balanced that weight perfectly to make it feel like an extension of our arm. Unfortunately, holding the handle is a little uncomfortable, and the inside cooking area was a touch smaller than the other products we tested. Those sacrifices are small considering the perfectly cooked food. Pros Lightweight Works well as a nonstick pan Heats quickly Maintains heat Cons Uncomfortable handle Small interior surface area Buy now at Mauviel Buy now at Amazon

Other Nonstick Pans We Tested Great Jones Large Fry - 10-1/4” The Great Jones 10-1/4-inch Large Fry Pan has an unusual, but great handle. The copper U-shaped handle is surprisingly ergonomic, making it easy to flip eggs with one hand. It’s also attached without any rivets on the inside—making clean-up that much easier. The ceramic coating was fully nonstick, excelling at both eggs and pancakes, and we loved that the aluminum core fully clad stainless steel construction heated quickly. Unfortunately, the product didn’t maintain heat as well as some other models, creating less color on the second side of the pancake. That said, we’d be happy to make pancakes in this pan any day; they cooked up fluffier than ones made in the other pans and still tasted great. Pros Releases eggs easily Easy to clean Cons Heavy Doesn’t retain heat well Buy now at Great Jones

Caraway Fry Pan Overall, we were very impressed with the Caraway 10.5-inch Fry Pan. We will say that the pan was very heavy—one of the heaviest in the test group—but the handle features a tiny bump on the bottom. It fits perfectly against your index finger, helping you position your hand in the ideal place to balance the weight. The weight can be attributed to the construction, which uses an aluminum and stainless steel base, but that also helps it heat up quickly and retain heat well. When it came to nonstick properties, we loved that the omelet was released without sticking to the ceramic coating, and it ended up being one of our favorite pans to use for flipping eggs—despite the weight. It’s also easily one of the most beautiful pans in the group, but the price tag is a little higher than we’d prefer. Pros Gorgeous appearance Releases eggs easily Heats quickly Cons Heavy Expensive Buy now at Caraway $95.00 from Target $95.00 from Bed Bath & Beyond   
  
 GreenPan SmartShape Ceramic Nonstick Frying Pan, 9.5-Inch GreenPan made the first ceramic nonstick pans to hit the market, and today they offer the most variety. Their modern catalog includes stainless steel, hard-anodized aluminum, or aluminum coated with their Thermolon ceramic coating. We tested the SmartShape Ceramic because of its high ratings and magnetic base for induction. The pan performed admirably, allowing the fried eggs to move freely and flip with ease. The omelet left a tiny bit of pan residue, but it was released with a presentation-ready finish. We also love that the pan doesn’t have any rivets on the inside, making clean-up a breeze. Our only major complaint was that it didn’t maintain heat well, so the pancake took longer than we’d like to brown on the second side. Pros Lightweight Releases eggs easily Induction capable Easy to clean Cons Didn't maintain heat well $49.99 from Amazon   
  
 Hestan ProBond Forged Stainless Steel Nonstick Skillet - Medium The Hestan ProBond Forged Stainless Steel Nonstick Skillet’s price is high enough to take your breath away: $200 is a lot of money to spend on any pan, especially knowing that PTFE coating has a limited lifetime. That said, we can’t deny this pan is extremely well made. It features an exclusive TITUM nonstick coating. Three layers of PFOA-free nonstick are reinforced with diamond particles that are anchored to the pan with durable titanium plasma technology. The pan is a little on the heavy side, but during testing, the eggs moved around freely, and it created one of the best omelets in the group. It also heated quickly and maintained its heat exceptionally well. If budget isn’t an issue, we have no hesitation in recommending this pan. Pros Great nonstick surface Heats quickly Maintains heat well Cons Heavy Expensive Buy now at Hestan $220.00 from Amazon $220.00 from Abt $119.96 from Sur La Table   
  
 Gotham Steel Ti-Cerama 9.5-Inch Nonstick Fry Pan Considering its extremely low price tag, we were impressed with the Gotham Steel 9.5-Inch Nonstick Fry Pan. It was one of the lightest pans we tested, and its all-aluminum base helped it heat up very quickly. The Ti-Cerama titanium-reinforced ceramic coating created a great cooking surface, and our omelet turned out the perfect color with no stick at all. It certainly rivaled more expensive pans performance-wise, but the handle was very uncomfortable and became hot after extended use. The pan also had a few scratches after normal use, so we don’t expect it to last a lifetime. Pros Heats quickly Releases eggs easily Inexpensive Cons Uncomfortable handle Handle gets hot $19.95 from Amazon   
  
 Scanpan Classic 9.5 Inch Fry Pan This Danish-made product features a proprietary PFOA-free ceramic titanium, making it unique among the PTFE pans we tested. This type of nonstick coating is supposedly safe for use with metal utensils, which is typically a big no-no. Sure enough, the Scanpan Classic Fry Pan was one of the only pans to pass our scratch tests with flying colors. We saw visible marks after scouring it with steel wool and scraping it with metal utensils, but none of the scratches penetrated the surface. However, it was the only pan we tested that warped when heated and placed in cold water. During testing, the pan felt light in my hands, and its short handle made it easy to maneuver—although the handle’s plastic material did get hot after extended use. It was one of the few pans we tested that didn’t have rivets connecting the handle to the inside of the pan, which made for easier cleaning. Unfortunately, the pan’s heavy base made it the slowest to preheat. The Scanpan Classic Fry Pan is definitely an appealing purchase, thanks to its ease of cleaning and scratch resistance. This product could last a long time, so long as you’re careful not to expose it to extreme changes in temperature, like placing it in the sink while it’s still hot. Pros Scratch-resistant coating Easy to maneuver Easy to clean Cons Handle gets hot Slow to heat Buy now at Amazon $69.95 from Target $69.95 from Walmart   
  
 Cuisinart 6422-24 Contour Hard-Anodized 10 Inch Skillet The Cuisinart Contour Hard Anodized Skillet is a favorite on Amazon, and it’s easy to see why. The pan’s heavy weight is well balanced by a contoured handle that angles up, making it comfortable to hold and use. While the pan’s tall, sloped sides make it slightly harder to flip eggs, it performed well overall. It browned our pancakes a bit unevenly, indicating poor heat retention. However, when we added room-temperature ingredients to the pan, it returned to its original temperature very quickly. Overall, this pan is solidly constructed and gets the job done. It comes with a limited lifetime warranty, which won’t cover any damage you do to the nonstick surface but will cover manufacturer defects. Pros Well-built Balanced weight Comfortable to hold Cons Difficult to flip food Uneven cooking results $44.95 from Amazon $61.20 from JCPenney $44.95 from Walmart   
  
 Abbio Large Nonstick Skillet The Abbio Large Nonstick Skillet was much larger than most of the products we tested (11.5-inches). Unsurprisingly, it was heavier than most pans we tested, making it difficult to flip eggs with ease. Despite four layers of PFOA-free coating, the eggs needed a little coaxing to release from the pan. Once they were free, though, they moved easily around the pan without sticking, and our omelet looked beautiful. We were happy with the tri-ply steel and aluminum base, which heated quickly and maintained heat well enough to brown the pancake beautifully on both sides. Overall, this pan fell in the middle of the pack in performance, but it’s a little on the high end when it comes to price. Pros Comfortable handle Quick to heat Maintains heat well Cons Heavy Eggs got stuck Buy now at Abbio   
  
 Calphalon Premier Hard-Anodized Nonstick 10-Inch Frying Pan We’ve tested Calphalon pans in the past, and generally been happy with their results. The Calphalon Premier 10-Inch Hard-Anodized Nonstick Frying Pan, however, missed the mark. The three-layer PTFE coating was nonstick in the center, creating a gorgeous omelet, but the pan has rounded edges instead of fluted ones. That bowl-like shape made the fried eggs difficult to flip, and they stuck to the edges when they came in contact. The forked handle design also made the handle hot after extended use. It wasn’t the worst pan we tested, but it certainly wasn’t our favorite. Pros Releases eggs easily Quick to heat Cons Edges aren't as nonstick as center Handle gets hot Buy now at Amazon $64.99 from Walmart   
  
 Anolon Advanced Home Frying Pan - 10.25" Anolon has been a long-standing name in nonstick cookware, so we weren’t surprised that the Anolon Advanced Home 10.25-inch Frying Pan performed well. The PTFE coating had no issues releasing eggs freely, and it created a beautiful pancake. We had an issue with some of the design decisions, though. The hard-anodized aluminum was heavy, even when compared to other pans made from the same material. The edges are fluted strongly upward, too, so the cooking surface area is much smaller than pans of a similar size. We also found small scratches around the edge of the pan after normal use, leading us to question the longevity of this product. Pros Releases eggs easily Comfortable handle Cons Heavy Smaller cooking surface area Buy now at Amazon $49.99 from Macy's   
  
 Our Place Always Pan In general, we like the highly sought-after Our Place Always Pan. It’s designed to replace several pots and pans to streamline storage: It has a nonstick ceramic coating, deep walls for pan-frying, a large surface area for stir-frying, and a steamer basket insert, all wrapped up in a gorgeous package. Unfortunately, it doesn’t work as a replacement for a nonstick frying pan. The fried eggs stuck on both sides, and the pancake had a patchy color. The water tests confirmed what we saw on the pancake: This pan might heat up quickly, but it doesn’t retain heat well. If you only have storage space for one pan, the Always Pan would work in a pinch, but it isn’t our first choice for cooking eggs. Pros Versatile pan Gorgeous appearance Heats quickly Cons Doesn’t retain heat well Not fully nonstick with eggs Exterior paint chips easily Buy now at Our Place   
  
 Misen 10" Nonstick Pan We weren’t super impressed with the Misen 10-inch Nonstick pan. For starters, it was one of the heavier pans we tested, with a five-ply stainless base. It went a long way to promote even heating and good heat recovery, but it was too heavy for comfort when flipping eggs. The handle is also longer than most of the pans in the test group, throwing off the balance of the already-heavy pan. While the pancake cooked beautifully, both the fried eggs and omelet stuck to the pan despite the PTFE coating. Since the pan was also pretty slow to heat, it fell to the bottom of our list. Pros Even heating Good heat recovery Cons Heavy Slow to heat Buy now at Misen $113.66 from Walmart   
  
 HexClad 10" Hybrid Pan The HexClad 10-inch Hybrid pan had the worst nonstick surface in the group. To be fair, the instructions that come with the cookware instruct you to use oil when cooking eggs. Without oil, the fried eggs stuck so badly that they didn’t release even when we coaxed them free with a rubber spatula, and the omelet was embarrassingly rugged. The pan performed better with the pancakes, easily releasing the pancake and browning both sides perfectly, demonstrating this pan’s ability to retain heat. Overall, we were impressed with this pan’s quick and even heating, but unimpressed that it has to be seasoned, which nonstick pans don’t usually require. The pan might build up a more nonstick surface over time, but it’s not nonstick out of the box. Still, its unique laser-etched hexagon top makes it less likely to scratch than other nonstick pans, even with metal utensils. Pros Comfortable Heats quickly Heats evenly Cons Pan needs to be seasoned Eggs stuck to pan Buy now at HexClad   
  
 Tramontina Professional Restaurant 10-in. Nonstick Frypan The Tramontina Professional Restaurant Frypan has a long, rubber handle that is hard for me to love. While it did keep my hands away from the heat during testing, the balance and grip felt weird and uncomfortable to use. On the flip (heh) side, the pan has an exceptional nonstick surface, producing a perfect omelet and fried eggs that flipped without clinging to the pan at all. Less sticking should mean quicker cleanup, but the handle has three rivets instead of the classic two, forcing you to really dig your sponge into the side to clean it. Pros Exceptional nonstick surface Cons Uncomfortable rubber handle Difficult to clean $35.99 from Amazon $30.12 from Wayfair $39.99 from Walmart   
  
 T-Fal E93805 Professional Nonstick 10.25 Inch Fry Pan From one of the most well-known names in inexpensive cookware, the T-Fal Professional Nonstick Fry Pan seemed poised to perform. The pan’s claim to fame is the Thermo-spot indicator, an area that displays a solid red spot when the pan is preheated. Unfortunately, this feature didn’t work well on my gas cooktop. While it did heat up quickly, T-Fal’s nonstick abilities paled in comparison to the other pans, producing the worst omelet of the group. The contoured silicone handle provided a nice grip, with a shape that makes flipping motions easy. The silicone material on the handle extends all the way up to the base of the pan, causing the whole handle to heat up very quickly. While I liked the pan’s shape and compatibility with induction cooktops, its performance fell disappointingly short. Pros Easy to maneuver Induction compatible Affordable Cons Thermo-spot indicator didn't work on glass Handle gets too hot Unimpressive nonstick surface $31.28 from Amazon $43.74 from Walmart

How We Tested Nonstick Pans The Tester Hi, I’m Lindsay Mattison, a trained professional chef, and a big breakfast fan. I never skip this all-important meal, even though I spent several years waking up early to cook brunch for restaurant guests. I know exactly what to look for in a nonstick pan, and I’d love to help you find the perfect one for your kitchen. The Tests We choose highly rated products to test. Most were 10 inches—large enough to cook a three-egg omelet, but not too big to fry a single egg. Tests focused on whether the nonstick pans released food easily, but design and construction also factored into the score. Pans needed to demonstrate even heat distribution and be properly balanced and weighted for comfort.  
Credit: Reviewed.com/Lindsay D. Mattison Pancakes are delicious, but they’re also a good measure of how evenly a pan conducts and retains heat.

Step One: We cooked two over-easy eggs in each pan without any cooking oil, flipping them with a flick of our wrists. If we needed to use a utensil to loosen the egg or flip it manually with a spatula, the pan lost points. Step Two: Then, we cleaned the pans and whisked up a three-egg French omelet, skipping the oil to see how they were released from the pan. Smooth omelets passed; rough and jagged omelets not so much. Step Three: Next, we made a batch of pancakes, a great measure of how evenly a pan conducts and retains heat. If the pan cooked the first side evenly, without sticking, and retained enough heat to brown the second side, it walked away with top marks. Step Four: Finally, we heated room-temperature water in each pan and measured the water temperature after one and two minutes. Products that heated quickly were awarded bonus points. Step Five: We then removed the hot water and replaced it with new water, monitoring how quickly the pan could recover to its original temperature.

How to Choose the Best Nonstick Pan for You Credit: Reviewed.com/Lindsay D. Mattison We cooked French omelets without cooking oil. Smooth omelets passed; rough and jagged omelets not so much. Why You Should Own a Nonstick Pan Stainless steel and cast-iron pans are great for many uses. They can be used at high heat, making them ideal for searing meat and creating pan sauces. They’re also designed to last a long time, with heavy, tri-ply, or multi-clad construction and durable surfaces. However, they can be a pain to clean, and they’re not the best for cooking delicate foods that stick easily. Nonstick pans, on the other hand, are designed to release food easily, making them ideal for eggs, pancakes, delicate fish, or crepes. Beyond helping cook, the nonstick coating makes clean-up significantly easier. While some products feature a stainless-steel base that can be used with induction burners, most are made from coated aluminum to lighten them up. Aluminum construction also helps the pan heat up faster, making them great for quick dishes like grilled cheese, quesadillas, or reheating leftovers without a microwave. You may also see etched surfaces in stainless steel or cast aluminum that create a nonstick surface. PTFE Vs. Ceramic Coating Credit: Reviewed.com / Lindsay Mattison It’s important that your nonstick pan heats evenly, otherwise there’s no chance those eggs will look Instagram-worthy. Nonstick pans once had a reputation for being cancer-causing, but the chemical coating (containing PFOAs) that was responsible for health concerns isn’t used anymore. Today, the two main types of coating for nonstick pans are a friction-resistant synthetic called PTFE (commonly known as Teflon) and ceramic. Some companies produce proprietary PTFE, like All-Clad’s non-reinforced PTFE or Scanpan’s titanium-reinforced PTFE. Regardless of the brand, these pans work because they’re sprayed with one or several layers of the nonstick coating, which simulates the coating that builds up over time on cast iron or carbon steel pans. Over time, this coating can scratch or wear off, losing its nonstick properties. High heat also degrades PTFE, which breaks down at high temperatures exceeding 500 degrees Fahrenheit. Ceramic pans have gained popularity because of their “green” status and safety concerns of chemical coatings. These pans are not actually made from ceramic material: Like PTFE pans, they feature a coating on top of a steel or aluminum base. Ceramic coating is made from sand that’s turned into a solution-gel, or “sol-gel.” When the pan is heated, the coating releases a silicon oil (different from synthetic silicone) that resists sticking. Like PTFE, the silicon layer degrades over time (especially in contact with high heat), so the product has a limited nonstick lifetime. Caring for Nonstick Pans Credit: Reviewed.com / Jackson Ruckar We tested to see how the nonstick coatings would hold up over time. We picked a few models with PTFE and ceramic coatings and performed destructive tests designed to test the pan’s ability to hold up over time. We used steel wool and metal cutlery (which you should never use on a nonstick pan unless the manufacturer states otherwise) to get a sense of each pan’s durability. Almost all of the pans scratched when we hacked at them with steel wool, but some did better than others when used with metal utensils. Many warped when we exposed them to thermal shock, dunking the pan in cold water after heating it on high heat. These tests demonstrated that almost all of these pans can be damaged with little effort, so it’s important to take care when using coated pans! To avoid damaging your pan, choose wooden, silicone, rubber, or nylon utensils instead of metal ones, and never use stainless-steel scrubbing brushes when cleaning. Always use gentle detergents, and avoid the dishwasher—even if they say they’re dishwasher safe. (I know, hand washing is such a pain!) When cooking, use low or medium settings instead of high heat. Don’t heat them up empty, and avoid using them in the oven (especially if they have plastic handles). Finally, take care when storing nonstick pans. Stacking them on top of each other can damage the coating on the edges of the pan. If stacking is your only option, place a towel or cork trivet between the pans for protection. More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best Cookware Sets The Best Meal Kit Delivery Services The Best Cast-Iron Skillets This minimalist spatula is my new favorite cooking tool

When friends and family ask for my advice on buying nonstick pans, I generally advise them not to spend a lot of money. Sure, this kitchen essential will fry eggs and flip pancakes with ease, and they’re easy to clean, but they’re generally not built to last. Without proper care, it’s easy to scratch the bottom of the pan beyond repair. So I’ve been surprised that so many expensive nonstick pans have popped up in the last few years, and set out to test them.

Our top pick is the OXO Good Grips 10-inch Non-Stick Pro Open Fry Pan (available at Amazon for $49.95), an affordable, high-quality nonstick pan that’s just right for the day-to-day kitchen tasks. This pan also happens to be our best value. But if budget isn’t an issue, upgrade to our number-two choice, the induction-capable All Clad 10-inch Non-Stick Fry Pan (available at Amazon), which features more even heating with its multi-clad stainless steel construction. Rest assured, we’ve done the testing to find the right choice for you.

These are the best nonstick pans we tested, ranked in order:

The OXO Good Grips nonstick pan is an affordable, high-quality non-stick pan that’s just right for the day-to-day tasks of your kitchen.

We were pleasantly surprised when one of the least expensive pans we tested also received the highest scores. OXO’s attention to detail rarely disappoints, and this 10-inch Non-Stick Pro Open Fry Pan was a winner from the beginning. The long metal handle was smooth with an ergonomic design that was comfortable to hold and balance, and it stays cool during use.

The OXO aced all our tests. Fried eggs moved freely around in the pan without any cooking oil, and the angle of its edges made it effortless to flip over-easy eggs with the flick of a wrist. The omelet we made didn’t stick or leave any residue in the pan, and we ended up with a dish we’d be proud to serve at a restaurant.

The product heated quickly, and when we added room-temperature water to the heated pan, it recovered its original temperature within one minute. That heat recovery was further evidenced by our pancake test, creating a light and fluffy pancake that had even browning on both sides.

We had no problems naming this 3-layer PTFE, heavy-gauge anodized aluminum pan our choice for Best Overall. In fact, I ordered a set of 8- and 10-inch pans for my home kitchen right after testing it! The only flaw we could find is that it’s not induction-capable.

Heats quickly   
  
 Retains heat   
  
 Comfortable handle   
  
 Inexpensive   
  
 Not induction-capabale

The All-Clad 10-inch nonstick pan was the quickest to warm up and provided the most even heating of all the nonstick pans we tested.

All-Clad’s USA-made, bonded stainless-steel pans regularly top performance lists. They make our favorite stainless-steel skillet, so we weren’t surprised their nonstick aced our tests.

This pan features their renowned all-clad stainless-steel bottom with three layers of PFOA-free nonstick coating. Although we recommend hand-washing nonstick pans, it is dishwasher-safe and oven-safe to up to 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

The induction-compatible All-Clad earned top marks on all our tests. Omelets slid easily on the surface, and pancakes turned out light and fluffy. Of all the pans in our test group, the All-Clad was the quickest to warm up and provided the most even heating, browning both sides of the pancake nicely.

It was one of the heaviest pans we tested, but the straight handle design balanced the weight well. While it was slightly too hefty to flip eggs, the nonstick coating still performed. The eggs released easily, and we could flip them with the flick of a spatula, even without cooking oil.

Our only significant complaint is the lofty price tag. All-Clad backs their cookware with a limited lifetime guarantee, but they don’t cover normal wear and tear. Several Amazon reviewers note that the warranty doesn’t cover scratches to the nonstick surface, so you’ll want to take very good care of this expensive pan to avoid longevity issues.

Quick and even heating   
  
 Induction compatible   
  
 Sturdy and well-built   
  
 Too heavy to easily flip   
  
 Expensive

A seared steak is cooked perfectly inside a Mauviel M’Steel 12.5-inch pan, the best carbon steel pan we tested.

Unlike the other pans on this list, the Mauviel M’Steel 12.5-inch Black Carbon Steel Fry Pan doesn’t contain a nonstick coating. Instead, carbon steel cookware is seasoned with a coating of oil (similar to the seasoning you’ll find on cast-iron skillets). That makes the pan naturally nonstick so it will last longer than coated pans, although it can’t be washed with soap and water.

When we tested the best carbon steel pans, the M’Steel exceeded our expectations in almost every way. This French-made pan was easy to season, immediately developing a nonstick coating. Our fried eggs and French omelet slid easily around the pan without sticking, making clean-up a breeze.

This pan also heated up quickly and maintained that heat to create an even sear on both sides of a steak. It’s also oven-safe, and excelled at sauteing vegetables. At just over three pounds, we loved its lightness, and the handle balanced that weight perfectly to make it feel like an extension of our arm.

Unfortunately, holding the handle is a little uncomfortable, and the inside cooking area was a touch smaller than the other products we tested. Those sacrifices are small considering the perfectly cooked food.

Lightweight   
  
 Works well as a nonstick pan   
  
 Heats quickly   
  
 Maintains heat   
  
 Uncomfortable handle   
  
 Small interior surface area

The Great Jones 10-1/4-inch Large Fry Pan has an unusual, but great handle. The copper U-shaped handle is surprisingly ergonomic, making it easy to flip eggs with one hand. It’s also attached without any rivets on the inside—making clean-up that much easier.

The ceramic coating was fully nonstick, excelling at both eggs and pancakes, and we loved that the aluminum core fully clad stainless steel construction heated quickly.

Unfortunately, the product didn’t maintain heat as well as some other models, creating less color on the second side of the pancake. That said, we’d be happy to make pancakes in this pan any day; they cooked up fluffier than ones made in the other pans and still tasted great.

Releases eggs easily   
  
 Easy to clean   
  
 Heavy   
  
 Doesn't retain heat well

Overall, we were very impressed with the Caraway 10.5-inch Fry Pan. We will say that the pan was very heavy—one of the heaviest in the test group—but the handle features a tiny bump on the bottom.

It fits perfectly against your index finger, helping you position your hand in the ideal place to balance the weight. The weight can be attributed to the construction, which uses an aluminum and stainless steel base, but that also helps it heat up quickly and retain heat well.

When it came to nonstick properties, we loved that the omelet was released without sticking to the ceramic coating, and it ended up being one of our favorite pans to use for flipping eggs—despite the weight.

It’s also easily one of the most beautiful pans in the group, but the price tag is a little higher than we’d prefer.

Gorgeous appearance   
  
 Releases eggs easily   
  
 Heats quickly   
  
 Heavy   
  
 Expensive

GreenPan made the first ceramic nonstick pans to hit the market, and today they offer the most variety. Their modern catalog includes stainless steel, hard-anodized aluminum, or aluminum coated with their Thermolon ceramic coating.

We tested the SmartShape Ceramic because of its high ratings and magnetic base for induction. The pan performed admirably, allowing the fried eggs to move freely and flip with ease. The omelet left a tiny bit of pan residue, but it was released with a presentation-ready finish.

We also love that the pan doesn’t have any rivets on the inside, making clean-up a breeze. Our only major complaint was that it didn’t maintain heat well, so the pancake took longer than we’d like to brown on the second side.

Lightweight   
  
 Releases eggs easily   
  
 Induction capable   
  
 Easy to clean   
  
 Didn't maintain heat well

The Hestan ProBond Forged Stainless Steel Nonstick Skillet’s price is high enough to take your breath away: $200 is a lot of money to spend on any pan, especially knowing that PTFE coating has a limited lifetime. That said, we can’t deny this pan is extremely well made.

It features an exclusive TITUM nonstick coating. Three layers of PFOA-free nonstick are reinforced with diamond particles that are anchored to the pan with durable titanium plasma technology.

The pan is a little on the heavy side, but during testing, the eggs moved around freely, and it created one of the best omelets in the group. It also heated quickly and maintained its heat exceptionally well. If budget isn’t an issue, we have no hesitation in recommending this pan.

Great nonstick surface   
  
 Heats quickly   
  
 Maintains heat well   
  
 Heavy   
  
 Expensive

Considering its extremely low price tag, we were impressed with the Gotham Steel 9.5-Inch Nonstick Fry Pan. It was one of the lightest pans we tested, and its all-aluminum base helped it heat up very quickly.

The Ti-Cerama titanium-reinforced ceramic coating created a great cooking surface, and our omelet turned out the perfect color with no stick at all. It certainly rivaled more expensive pans performance-wise, but the handle was very uncomfortable and became hot after extended use.

The pan also had a few scratches after normal use, so we don’t expect it to last a lifetime.

Heats quickly   
  
 Releases eggs easily   
  
 Inexpensive   
  
 Uncomfortable handle   
  
 Handle gets hot

This Danish-made product features a proprietary PFOA-free ceramic titanium, making it unique among the PTFE pans we tested. This type of nonstick coating is supposedly safe for use with metal utensils, which is typically a big no-no.

Sure enough, the Scanpan Classic Fry Pan was one of the only pans to pass our scratch tests with flying colors. We saw visible marks after scouring it with steel wool and scraping it with metal utensils, but none of the scratches penetrated the surface. However, it was the only pan we tested that warped when heated and placed in cold water.

During testing, the pan felt light in my hands, and its short handle made it easy to maneuver—although the handle’s plastic material did get hot after extended use. It was one of the few pans we tested that didn’t have rivets connecting the handle to the inside of the pan, which made for easier cleaning. Unfortunately, the pan’s heavy base made it the slowest to preheat.

The Scanpan Classic Fry Pan is definitely an appealing purchase, thanks to its ease of cleaning and scratch resistance. This product could last a long time, so long as you’re careful not to expose it to extreme changes in temperature, like placing it in the sink while it’s still hot.

Scratch-resistant coating   
  
 Easy to maneuver   
  
 Easy to clean   
  
 Handle gets hot   
  
 Slow to heat

The Cuisinart Contour Hard Anodized Skillet is a favorite on Amazon, and it’s easy to see why. The pan’s heavy weight is well balanced by a contoured handle that angles up, making it comfortable to hold and use. While the pan’s tall, sloped sides make it slightly harder to flip eggs, it performed well overall.

It browned our pancakes a bit unevenly, indicating poor heat retention. However, when we added room-temperature ingredients to the pan, it returned to its original temperature very quickly.

Overall, this pan is solidly constructed and gets the job done. It comes with a limited lifetime warranty, which won’t cover any damage you do to the nonstick surface but will cover manufacturer defects.

Well-built   
  
 Balanced weight   
  
 Comfortable to hold   
  
 Difficult to flip food   
  
 Uneven cooking results

The Abbio Large Nonstick Skillet was much larger than most of the products we tested (11.5-inches). Unsurprisingly, it was heavier than most pans we tested, making it difficult to flip eggs with ease. Despite four layers of PFOA-free coating, the eggs needed a little coaxing to release from the pan.

Once they were free, though, they moved easily around the pan without sticking, and our omelet looked beautiful.

We were happy with the tri-ply steel and aluminum base, which heated quickly and maintained heat well enough to brown the pancake beautifully on both sides. Overall, this pan fell in the middle of the pack in performance, but it’s a little on the high end when it comes to price.

Comfortable handle   
  
 Quick to heat   
  
 Maintains heat well   
  
 Heavy   
  
 Eggs got stuck

We’ve tested Calphalon pans in the past, and generally been happy with their results. The Calphalon Premier 10-Inch Hard-Anodized Nonstick Frying Pan, however, missed the mark. The three-layer PTFE coating was nonstick in the center, creating a gorgeous omelet, but the pan has rounded edges instead of fluted ones.

That bowl-like shape made the fried eggs difficult to flip, and they stuck to the edges when they came in contact. The forked handle design also made the handle hot after extended use. It wasn’t the worst pan we tested, but it certainly wasn’t our favorite.

Releases eggs easily   
  
 Quick to heat   
  
 Edges aren't as nonstick as center   
  
 Handle gets hot

Anolon has been a long-standing name in nonstick cookware, so we weren’t surprised that the Anolon Advanced Home 10.25-inch Frying Pan performed well. The PTFE coating had no issues releasing eggs freely, and it created a beautiful pancake.

We had an issue with some of the design decisions, though. The hard-anodized aluminum was heavy, even when compared to other pans made from the same material. The edges are fluted strongly upward, too, so the cooking surface area is much smaller than pans of a similar size.

We also found small scratches around the edge of the pan after normal use, leading us to question the longevity of this product.

Releases eggs easily   
  
 Comfortable handle   
  
 Heavy   
  
 Smaller cooking surface area

In general, we like the highly sought-after Our Place Always Pan. It’s designed to replace several pots and pans to streamline storage: It has a nonstick ceramic coating, deep walls for pan-frying, a large surface area for stir-frying, and a steamer basket insert, all wrapped up in a gorgeous package.

Unfortunately, it doesn’t work as a replacement for a nonstick frying pan. The fried eggs stuck on both sides, and the pancake had a patchy color.

The water tests confirmed what we saw on the pancake: This pan might heat up quickly, but it doesn’t retain heat well. If you only have storage space for one pan, the Always Pan would work in a pinch, but it isn’t our first choice for cooking eggs.

Versatile pan   
  
 Gorgeous appearance   
  
 Heats quickly   
  
 Doesn’t retain heat well   
  
 Not fully nonstick with eggs   
  
 Exterior paint chips easily

We weren’t super impressed with the Misen 10-inch Nonstick pan. For starters, it was one of the heavier pans we tested, with a five-ply stainless base. It went a long way to promote even heating and good heat recovery, but it was too heavy for comfort when flipping eggs. The handle is also longer than most of the pans in the test group, throwing off the balance of the already-heavy pan.

While the pancake cooked beautifully, both the fried eggs and omelet stuck to the pan despite the PTFE coating. Since the pan was also pretty slow to heat, it fell to the bottom of our list.

Even heating   
  
 Good heat recovery   
  
 Heavy   
  
 Slow to heat

The HexClad 10-inch Hybrid pan had the worst nonstick surface in the group. To be fair, the instructions that come with the cookware instruct you to use oil when cooking eggs. Without oil, the fried eggs stuck so badly that they didn’t release even when we coaxed them free with a rubber spatula, and the omelet was embarrassingly rugged. The pan performed better with the pancakes, easily releasing the pancake and browning both sides perfectly, demonstrating this pan’s ability to retain heat.

Overall, we were impressed with this pan’s quick and even heating, but unimpressed that it has to be seasoned, which nonstick pans don’t usually require. The pan might build up a more nonstick surface over time, but it’s not nonstick out of the box.

Still, its unique laser-etched hexagon top makes it less likely to scratch than other nonstick pans, even with metal utensils.

Comfortable   
  
 Heats quickly   
  
 Heats evenly   
  
 Pan needs to be seasoned   
  
 Eggs stuck to pan

The Tramontina Professional Restaurant Frypan has a long, rubber handle that is hard for me to love. While it did keep my hands away from the heat during testing, the balance and grip felt weird and uncomfortable to use.

On the flip (heh) side, the pan has an exceptional nonstick surface, producing a perfect omelet and fried eggs that flipped without clinging to the pan at all. Less sticking should mean quicker cleanup, but the handle has three rivets instead of the classic two, forcing you to really dig your sponge into the side to clean it.

Exceptional nonstick surface   
  
 Uncomfortable rubber handle   
  
 Difficult to clean

From one of the most well-known names in inexpensive cookware, the T-Fal Professional Nonstick Fry Pan seemed poised to perform. The pan’s claim to fame is the Thermo-spot indicator, an area that displays a solid red spot when the pan is preheated.

Unfortunately, this feature didn’t work well on my gas cooktop. While it did heat up quickly, T-Fal’s nonstick abilities paled in comparison to the other pans, producing the worst omelet of the group.

The contoured silicone handle provided a nice grip, with a shape that makes flipping motions easy. The silicone material on the handle extends all the way up to the base of the pan, causing the whole handle to heat up very quickly. While I liked the pan’s shape and compatibility with induction cooktops, its performance fell disappointingly short.

Easy to maneuver   
  
 Induction compatible   
  
 Affordable   
  
 Thermo-spot indicator didn't work on glass   
  
 Handle gets too hot   
  
 Unimpressive nonstick surface

Hi, I’m Lindsay Mattison, a trained professional chef, and a big breakfast fan. I never skip this all-important meal, even though I spent several years waking up early to cook brunch for restaurant guests. I know exactly what to look for in a nonstick pan, and I’d love to help you find the perfect one for your kitchen.

We choose highly rated products to test. Most were 10 inches—large enough to cook a three-egg omelet, but not too big to fry a single egg. Tests focused on whether the nonstick pans released food easily, but design and construction also factored into the score. Pans needed to demonstrate even heat distribution and be properly balanced and weighted for comfort.

Pancakes are delicious, but they’re also a good measure of how evenly a pan conducts and retains heat.

Step One: We cooked two over-easy eggs in each pan without any cooking oil, flipping them with a flick of our wrists. If we needed to use a utensil to loosen the egg or flip it manually with a spatula, the pan lost points.

Step Two: Then, we cleaned the pans and whisked up a three-egg French omelet, skipping the oil to see how they were released from the pan. Smooth omelets passed; rough and jagged omelets not so much.

Step Three: Next, we made a batch of pancakes, a great measure of how evenly a pan conducts and retains heat. If the pan cooked the first side evenly, without sticking, and retained enough heat to brown the second side, it walked away with top marks.

Step Four: Finally, we heated room-temperature water in each pan and measured the water temperature after one and two minutes. Products that heated quickly were awarded bonus points.

Step Five: We then removed the hot water and replaced it with new water, monitoring how quickly the pan could recover to its original temperature.

We cooked French omelets without cooking oil. Smooth omelets passed; rough and jagged omelets not so much.

Stainless steel and cast-iron pans are great for many uses. They can be used at high heat, making them ideal for searing meat and creating pan sauces.

They’re also designed to last a long time, with heavy, tri-ply, or multi-clad construction and durable surfaces. However, they can be a pain to clean, and they’re not the best for cooking delicate foods that stick easily.

Nonstick pans, on the other hand, are designed to release food easily, making them ideal for eggs, pancakes, delicate fish, or crepes. Beyond helping cook, the nonstick coating makes clean-up significantly easier.

While some products feature a stainless-steel base that can be used with induction burners, most are made from coated aluminum to lighten them up. Aluminum construction also helps the pan heat up faster, making them great for quick dishes like grilled cheese, quesadillas, or reheating leftovers without a microwave. You may also see etched surfaces in stainless steel or cast aluminum that create a nonstick surface.

It’s important that your nonstick pan heats evenly, otherwise there’s no chance those eggs will look Instagram-worthy.

Nonstick pans once had a reputation for being cancer-causing, but the chemical coating (containing PFOAs) that was responsible for health concerns isn’t used anymore. Today, the two main types of coating for nonstick pans are a friction-resistant synthetic called PTFE (commonly known as Teflon) and ceramic.

Some companies produce proprietary PTFE, like All-Clad’s non-reinforced PTFE or Scanpan’s titanium-reinforced PTFE. Regardless of the brand, these pans work because they’re sprayed with one or several layers of the nonstick coating, which simulates the coating that builds up over time on cast iron or carbon steel pans.

Over time, this coating can scratch or wear off, losing its nonstick properties. High heat also degrades PTFE, which breaks down at high temperatures exceeding 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

Ceramic pans have gained popularity because of their “green” status and safety concerns of chemical coatings. These pans are not actually made from ceramic material: Like PTFE pans, they feature a coating on top of a steel or aluminum base.

Ceramic coating is made from sand that’s turned into a solution-gel, or “sol-gel.” When the pan is heated, the coating releases a silicon oil (different from synthetic silicone) that resists sticking. Like PTFE, the silicon layer degrades over time (especially in contact with high heat), so the product has a limited nonstick lifetime.

We tested to see how the nonstick coatings would hold up over time.

We picked a few models with PTFE and ceramic coatings and performed destructive tests designed to test the pan’s ability to hold up over time. We used steel wool and metal cutlery (which you should never use on a nonstick pan unless the manufacturer states otherwise) to get a sense of each pan’s durability.

Almost all of the pans scratched when we hacked at them with steel wool, but some did better than others when used with metal utensils. Many warped when we exposed them to thermal shock, dunking the pan in cold water after heating it on high heat.

These tests demonstrated that almost all of these pans can be damaged with little effort, so it’s important to take care when using coated pans!

To avoid damaging your pan, choose wooden, silicone, rubber, or nylon utensils instead of metal ones, and never use stainless-steel scrubbing brushes when cleaning. Always use gentle detergents, and avoid the dishwasher—even if they say they’re dishwasher safe. (I know, hand washing is such a pain!)

When cooking, use low or medium settings instead of high heat. Don’t heat them up empty, and avoid using them in the oven (especially if they have plastic handles).

Finally, take care when storing nonstick pans. Stacking them on top of each other can damage the coating on the edges of the pan. If stacking is your only option, place a towel or cork trivet between the pans for protection.

Lindsay D. Mattison  
   
  
  
 Professional Chef

Lindsay D. Mattison is a professional chef, food writer, and amateur gardener. She is currently writing a cookbook that aims to teach home cooks how to write without a recipe.

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# The Best Pressure Cookers of 2022

## The Testers

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

The Foodi OL701 features 14 cooking functions, a built-in smart thermometer, and easy-to-clean accessories.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This pressure cooker is sleek and has highly customizable settings, making it a great option for home cooks and pro chefs alike.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Combines pressure cooking, steaming, slow cooking, and air frying all in one. Pricier than most, and takes up serious counter space, with multiple lids and accessories that need to go somewhere.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This easy-to-use multicooker has multiple presets for different cooking needs.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 With 13 cooking functions under one lid, this machine promises a lot. Unfortunately it falls short on certain tasks, like air frying and yogurt.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated October 26, 2022

An electric pressure cooker, like our favorite Ninja Foodi Pressure Cooker Steam Fryer (available at Amazon for $349.99), can transform a weeknight dinner routine. Meals that used to take an hour now take 20 minutes, and recipes that once dirtied all of your pots and pans now only require you to wash a pot, a lid, and a cutting board. Electric pressure cookers—also known as multicookers—are countertop appliances that combine the functions of an old-school stovetop pressure cooker, slow cooker, rice cooker, yogurt maker, and more in one unit of efficiently released pressure. It allows you to cook almost anything you’d like in a single pot, from boiled eggs to entire dinners, quickly and without overheating in a pot. Since these devices can do so much, we put major brands like Ninja and Instant Pot to the test against other manufacturers to see who really makes the top appliance. While Ninja has earned the title of our best overall, we also love our best value pick, the Chef’s IQ (available at Walmart), for its minimal design and customizable cook functions.

ADVERTISEMENT

Credit: Reviewed / Tim Renzi The Ninja Foodi Pressure Cooker Steam Fryer is the best multicooker we've tested.

Best Overall Ninja Foodi OL701 Dimensions: 15.39 x 14.21 x 14.25 inches Capacity: 8 quarts Weight: 25 pounds Cooking Presets: 14 Dishwasher safe: Yes The latest model of the Foodi takes all the fantastic functionality of the previous two-lid model and makes it better (all under one lid). It features 14 different cooking functions—from commonplace pressure cooking and air frying to more advanced bread proofing and sous vide. We especially love the Steam & Crisp function, which can be used to whip up grains, veggies, and protein all at the same time and with excellent results (read: tender on the inside, crispy on the outside). This model also features a Smart Thermometer, which can be used to automatically cook protein according to desired doneness. Just insert the probe, decide how well you’d like your meat cooked, and the Foodi does the rest. The provided booklet does fall short, though. The instructions are lacking, leading to initial confusion upon set-up. And some of the provided recipes were underwhelming: the risotto was overcooked and lacking flavor, while the crusty bread was underbaked. But with a little trial and error, getting the hang of this Ninja Foodi is worth the wait. It may be a littler pricier than other models, but it delivers: It’s easy to navigate, a breeze to wash, and a workhorse at delivering tasty, well-cooked meals. Read the full review here. Pros Cooks well Lots of features Built-in thermometer Easy to clean Cons Manual could be more helpful $349.99 from Amazon

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Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The Chef iQ is designed for chefs by chefs, and it's our pick for best value pressure cooker.

Best Value Chef IQ Smart Cooker Dimensions: 13 x 13 x 13 inches Capacity: 6 quarts Weight: 10.4 pounds Cooking Presets: 10 Dishwasher safe: Yes We loved the Chef iQ smart cooker for its gorgeous build—minimalist black both inside and out with a simple screen and black knob—and customizable cook functions. You can dictate almost all aspects of each setting. For example, its Ferment function allows you to adjust the fermentation temperature, making it more versatile than the preset Yogurt function on the Instant Pot. Designed for chefs by chefs, this pressure cooker offers some small but impactful details. It has a built-in tare function, so you can weigh ingredients directly into the pot and minimize dishes from building up in the sink. It also removes the guesswork during the initial pressurizing phase by displaying exactly how much pressure has built up in the cooker, so anxious cooks can more accurately estimate how long it’ll take until dinner is ready. Plus, you can choose when and how pressure is released after cooking, so if you opt for immediate quick release, the cooker will automatically beep to let you know it’s about to release pressure and then do it for you in a totally hands-free experience. This pressure cooker also connects easily to the Chef iQ app, which is beautifully designed and full of recipes and tips. It’s not required for you to sync the two before use, so you can add on the app at any point. Pros Sleek, attractive design Customizable settings Built-in weighing functionality Hands-free pressure release Cons None that we could find Buy now at Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $99.00 from Walmart

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Other Pressure Cookers We Tested Ninja Foodi OP301 Dimensions: 14.25 x 16.75 x 13.1 inches Capacity: 6.5 quarts Weight: 25 pounds Cooking Presets: 9 Dishwasher safe: Yes The original Ninja Foodi may not be as convenient as its successor, but it also performed well in many of our tests. In addition to a reliable pressure cooking functionality—making flavorful broths, succulent braises, and creamy risotto—it also can offer the dry-heat cooking that other pressure cookers cannot. By far the biggest added benefit to the Ninja is the air crisper lid. Combined with the pressure cooking function, it can also crisp up the skin of roast chicken, or get that nice golden-brown on a batch of fish and chips. While it works best to make dinner for one or two people (we tried batch cooking with this function and it worked, but not as well), it’s ideal if you don’t care about leftovers. Within 20 minutes, we were able to make a full meal that didn’t require pressure cooking—ultimately making this the most versatile multicooker yet. With two different lids, one for pressure cooking and one for air frying and crisping, we were able to not only complete the chicken soup, veggie chili, and risotto tests with ease, we were also able to make a complete meal of rice with baked tofu and crisped veggies. The only tricky test was the yogurt, as this multicooker does not have a yogurt function. However, after a quick online search, we learned that you can use the dehydrate function to keep the yogurt at the proper temperature. So while a bit less creamy than the batches done with the Instant Pot, the Ninja made tasty yogurt even without a dedicated cooking program. Pros Cooks very well Includes air fryer function Versatile Cons Oversized Buy now at Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $199.99 from JCPenney $179.99 from Walmart

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Crockpot Express Easy Release - 6 Qt Dimensions: 13 x 12.5 x 12.5 inches Capacity: 6 quarts Weight: 12.8 pounds Cooking Presets: 13 Dishwasher safe: Yes If you’re shopping for a budget pressure cooker, the Crock-Pot Easy Release is worth your consideration. A replacement for an older model that was recalled, this multicooker’s sleek brushed stainless steel exterior is super easy to clean, and we wouldn’t mind leaving it on display either. While this model isn’t touchscreen, the dials are relatively intuitive. Features include the Progress Bar that allows you to monitor pressurization and preheat status before cooking begins, along with 11 cooking presets including Yogurt, Beans/Chili, Meat/Poultry, Slow Cook, Rice/Grains, and more. Additionally, pressurization, time, and temperature are all customizable by using the manual settings. This cooker is equipped with a spacious 6-quart inner pot that would be large enough to cook meals for a big family. Beyond the impressive cooking capacity, this Crock-Pot also excelled in the chili, chicken, risotto, and yogurt tests. In terms of safety features, we liked the locking mechanism that makes sure the lid won’t be accidentally opened when the cooker is pressurized. Its Easy-Release switch also made depressurization stress-free. Though the user manual suggested that it may take up to 20 minutes to depressurize, it took less than 10. However, this multicooker isn’t without its disadvantages. During one of our tests, we received an error code “E6” and consulted the user manual to find answers—thankfully, there’s an explanation for each error code that may pop up. After troubleshooting using the guidance provided by the manual, we were able to continue testing. Another minor inconvenience is its size. We had no problem lifting and moving it around the kitchen, but it’s a bit too tall for our tester, who’s 5’2’’. She was standing on her toes trying to look inside the pot after it was done cooking. Pros Cooks well Easy to clean Tons of features Cons Oversized Buy now at Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $89.99 from Wayfair

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Instant Pot Duo Crisp with Ultimate Lid Dimensions: 17.5 x 17.4 x 15.4 inches Capacity: 6.5 quarts Weight: 27.8 pounds Cooking Presets: 13 Dishwasher safe: Yes Perhaps a direct response to its competing Ninja Foodi, this Instant Pot Duo Crisp Ultimate Lid promises 13 different cooking functions—including air frying—under a singular lid. It boasts a wide range of tasks, including bread proofing, sous vide, and roasting, along with the staple pressure cooking and slow cooking functions. Although its functionality and convenience has definitely improved from the previous Duo Crisp model, we still encountered a range of issues with this machine. First, the provided Yogurt function doesn't work. We tried a recipe directly from the Instant app twice, and both times, it resulted in warm, clumpy milk in place of actual yogurt. The air fryer function also disappointed us during testing. Fried chicken thighs were unevenly browned, with the tops crispy and bottoms slightly mushy. And since there's no air fryer basket included, it would be difficult to get even air flow for crisping large batches of food. Unfortunately, although this machine boasts a wide range of functions, it only comes with one recipe (for banana bread). You can access several recipes via the Instant app, and a cooking time table on the website, but you'll have to dig for them. And none of those recipes are specific to this model, so you may run into confusing steps along the way. Pros Wide range of functions Dishwasher safe accessories Cons Air fries unevenly Faulty yogurt function Manual is lacking $229.95 from Amazon $229.99 from JCPenney $204.99 from Walmart   
  
 Instant Pot Ultra 10-in-1 (6 Quart) Dimensions: 13 x 12.5 x 12.5 inches Capacity: 6 quarts Weight: 11.8 pounds Cooking Presets: 10 Dishwasher safe: Yes Performing extremely consistently across meat cookery with tender, juicy results, rice cooking, plus slow cooking, and its preset Yogurt function (which can be also repurposed for general fermentation), this Instant Pot can suit all your pressure cooking needs and more. It also offers some nice aesthetic and exterior updates from its predecessors with its display graph, showing you exactly where it is in the pre-heating, cooking, or keep-warm cycle. The knob design and “+/-“ keys, are sleeker than before. And perhaps best of all, the release valve no longer requires a slightly hazardous manual push from an arm’s distance with chopsticks or tongs; there’s a switch you can flip next to the valve to get it started. In terms of functionality, the Ultra offers some extra settings: Sterilize, Cake Maker, Egg Cooker, and Ultra. You could mimic most of these with the Duo or Smart Wi-Fi, but the Ultra offers a slightly more precise set of criteria for these. The “Ultra” feature allows maximum customizability, and you’re able to control the temperature for sous vide cooking. While this version of the Instant Pot doesn’t connect to an app, you can always use the manual Delay Start function to pre-plan your cooking needs and browse the Instant Pot app for recipes and tips. Pros Cooks perfectly Intuitive to use Easy to clean Cons Not "smart" Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Instant Pot Duo Plus 9-in-1 (6 Quart) Dimensions: 13.4 x 12.2 x 12.5 inches Capacity: 6 quarts Weight: 11.8 pounds Cooking Presets: 14 Dishwasher safe: Yes The Instant Pot Duo Plus 9-in-1 has 14-plus functions, including Steam, Sterilize, and Cake. But if you start to feel overwhelmed, you can always Google your question and come away with an avalanche of blog posts, Facebook forums, and YouTube videos to guide your way. The reason there's a growing online community around this gadget is that it works like a charm. The soup we cooked tasted like grandma’s, the risotto was delightfully creamy, and the yogurt turned out tangy and bright. The Sterilize function was also a great bonus, helpful for preparing the pot to make yogurt. While it wasn't as intuitive as I would have liked—and the lid occasionally tripped me up—I have a feeling this Instant Pot could still edge out your current slow cooker or your rice cooker. If you’re looking for a comprehensive Instant Pot with a longer history and larger user base than the Smart Wi-Fi, this is your best bet. Pros Cooks well Simple to use Cons Lacks features in other models $129.95 from Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $129.99 from JCPenney $119.88 from Walmart   
  
 Instant Pot Duo Crisp + Air Fryer (6 Qt) Dimensions: 14.76 x 13.58 x 15.28 inches Capacity: 8 quarts Weight: 22.2 pounds Cooking Presets: 11 Dishwasher safe: Yes Likely built as the Instant Pot’s answer to the Ninja Foodi, this pressure cooker also boasts an Air Fry function through the use of separate lids (and you can remove and store the lids when not in use, unlike the Ninja). As with the Ninja, the Duo Crisp is a pressure cooker first and air fryer second; if you’re primarily looking for the latter, check out the best air fryers we’ve tested. The Duo Crisp performed similarly to its Instant Pot counterparts in the standard functions. It does lack the Yogurt function, but offers a Sous Vide function in its stead—which could be more or less useful depending on what you need in the kitchen. Pros Easy to clean Consistent, reliable results Also offers air fry function Cons No Yogurt function Large $180.90 from Amazon $199.99 from Target Buy now at Home Depot $199.99 from JCPenney   
  
 Instant Pot Duo 60 7-in-1 (6 Quart) Dimensions: 13.38 x 12.2 x 12.48 inches Capacity: 6 quarts Weight: 11.8 pounds Cooking Presets: 7 Dishwasher safe: Yes The Duo remains one of Instant Pot’s top sellers—making it a worthwhile test. But after putting the Duo through its paces, we have to say that it ranks firmly in the middle of the pack. The Duo made good soup and decent risotto but flubbed on the slow cooker chili. Even after 12 hours of slow cooking, the onions were not cooked and the chili was more soup than a thick stew. It also struggled with yogurt, unable to bring the milk up to the proper temperature without switching out of the yogurt function and into sauté. It was also the slowest to come up to pressure during cooking, often leaving me to wonder if we had set it correctly at all. With so many other options on the market—including newer Instant Pots—we would personally skip the Instant Pot Duo in favor of a slightly more robust pressure cooker. Pros Simple to use Affordable Cooks fine Cons Slow to pressure Cooks chili and yogurt poorly Lacks features in other models $99.00 from Amazon Buy now at Home Depot $99.95 from Macy's $99.99 from Walmart   
  
 Breville the Fast Slow Pro BPR700 Dimensions: 12.5 x 13.5 x 14 inches Capacity: 6 quarts Weight: 14 pounds Cooking Presets: 12 Dishwasher safe: Yes We were honestly disappointed by the Breville Fast Slow Pro Pressure Cooker. While it was a favorite out of the box due to the beautiful, easy-to-use interface, multitude of smart programs, and attached lid, it ultimately fell toward the bottom of the pack. We had to consult the manual while making the soup (ultimately ending up with tougher vegetables than the recipe indicated), and despite a seemingly endless array of cooking options, there was no yogurt function at all. And unlike the Ninja multicooker, we were unable to produce yogurt with the functions that were available. In a similar vein, we loved the idea of an attached lid, but the reality was rather frustrating. It took twisting the lid a very particular way to get it to close, which we could never seem to get right on the first or even third try. On the positive side, the interface and recipe options were phenomenal. Similar to the Instant Pot Ultra, the scroll-through interface was easy to use and offered a lot of cooking options. It has an auto-release steam valve, which means that when it’s time to release steam from the pressure cooker, it does so automatically. This makes the Breville a true set-and-forget cooker—but only if you were using one of its smart programs. For its high price point, we were expecting much better. Pros Attractively designed Intuitive interface Cons Overpriced Lacks many features Difficult to use $279.99 from Amazon $299.95 from Abt $299.95 from Wayfair $245.00 from Walmart

How We Tested Pressure Cookers The Testers Hi, I’m Jenny! I’m a professional chef, writer, founder of a nonprofit community think tank called Studio ATAO, and author of Mastering the Instant Pot. I’ve been a pressure cooker fan since way before Instant Pots were a thing Pressure cookers have been a staple in my mother’s kitchen for making flavorful stocks, tender braises, and creamy porridge for decades. In fact, it’s the first appliance she bought for me when I moved to a new city after college. And we’re Bethany, Cassidy, and Valerie. All of us love to cook but work full-time, so coming home and having to prep dinner and lunch for over an hour gets exhausting, fast. Needless to say, we’re pressure cooker fans—and having each contributed to this piece more than once, we know our stuff. Before selecting our final list of multicookers, we looked at a total of 20 Instant Pots and competitors. We passed over some of the earlier Instant Pots like the Instant Pot Lux, as the newer models offer features we wanted to check out. Otherwise, we chose the ones with the best combination of high reviews, great features, and reasonable pricing. (If a multicooker was twice the price with half the features, it didn’t make the cut.) We exclusively tested moderately sized 6-quart Instant Pots and other multicookers, although you can find many of these multicookers in 3- to 8-quart models. The 8-quart models are better for large families. Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar We like the Instant Pot Smart Wifi because it’s a smart device with tons of features. The Tests To ensure each pressure cooker was a good all-rounder, we tried three recipe types in our first round of testing: a classic comfort food (chicken noodle soup), a date night special (saffron risotto), and a finicky breakfast bowl (yogurt from scratch). We added a slow cooker chili in subsequent updates to see how these appliances measured up to a traditional slow cooking device. We used the same ingredients for each and took detailed notes about how easy or difficult it was to select the cooking functions and times, how the food came out, and how tough the pressure cooker was to clean. We also noted any surprises. Did the milk heat up to the right temperature for making yogurt? Did the Instant Pot flash a weird symbol during cooking? Did the steam valve spray hot milk everywhere and startle us so much we accidentally threw a recipe book across the room? For cleaning, we did everything by hand. We also took into account how helpful the manual was (and how much we needed to use it while cooking), whether or not it came with a recipe book, whether or not you could manually set cooking temperature and pressure rather than rely on cooking programs, and whether or not those cooking functions worked as expected. One of the nice things about these appliances is that with enough time spent consulting the manual and Googling your questions, you can figure out even the most confounding of tasks. That said, if a product left me wondering whether or not our food would be edible when it was finished, we took that into account. How to Choose the Best Pressure Cooker For You Size and Capacity Most pressure cookers and multicookers come in a variety of sizes, so you can choose the best model for your family and living situation. If you’re typically only cooking for one or two, models that come in a 3 or 6-quart size should suit you fine. But if you’re used to cooking for larger crowds, you’ll likely need an 8-quart pot. And be mindful that most of these cookers will take up lots of space on your countertop, and are likely too heavy to lift in and out of a cabinet after each use. Be sure your kitchen space allows for a mainstay like this before purchasing one. Cooking Functions Some of the latest multicookers offer as many as 14 different cooking functions—from sous vide to air frying to yogurt making. But is that something you’ll really take advantage of as a home cook? Consider how many cooking functions you’ll want to use in your multicooker, and whether it’s worth upgrading to the latest model. Similarly, if you’re someone who loves making your own yogurt or bread in a multicooker, be sure to make sure the model you’re eyeing has that capacity—not all of them do. What Is The Difference Between A Pressure Cooker, A Slow Cooker and A Multicooker? Given how many different types of kitchen gadgets are on the market these days, it’s helpful to know the difference between a pressure cooker, a slow cooker, and a multicooker. In brief, a slow cooker—often referred to as a Crock-Pot—cooks or simmers food at a relatively low temperature for a long time. It’s frequently used to make stews, briskets, or anything that you might want to prep before heading out for the day and eat when you get home from work. A pressure cooker speeds up this process by sealing food and liquid in a pot and using the trapped steam from cooking to quickly raise both the temperature and pressure. That makes them great for quickly making a meal that would otherwise take an hour or two. Older pressure cookers used to be mostly stovetop models, but these days they’re largely electric and live on your counter. Credit: Reviewed / Betsey Goldwasser The Ninja Foodi Pressure Cooker are Instant Pot Ultra are both multi-cookers that can do a lot more than slow cook—the Ninja can ever air fry. A multicooker is simply an electric cooking device that combines multiple functions, such as slow cooking and pressure cooking and yogurt making, into one device. In our experience, most electric pressure cookers—including the Instant Pot—are actually multicookers. But before you buy one, make sure it has the functions that you’re most likely to use. These gadgets are extremely versatile, and ideal for quick cooking when you don’t want to dirty all of your pots and pans—or don’t want to turn on your oven. They’re also great for large families who need to cook for a lot of people at once. (Looking for more tips? Here’s everything you need to know to use a pressure cooker). More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best Slow Cookers The Best Rice Cookers

The Best Toaster Ovens The Best Air Fryers

An electric pressure cooker, like our favorite Ninja Foodi Pressure Cooker Steam Fryer (available at Amazon for $349.99), can transform a weeknight dinner routine. Meals that used to take an hour now take 20 minutes, and recipes that once dirtied all of your pots and pans now only require you to wash a pot, a lid, and a cutting board.

Electric pressure cookers—also known as multicookers—are countertop appliances that combine the functions of an old-school stovetop pressure cooker, slow cooker, rice cooker, yogurt maker, and more in one unit of efficiently released pressure. It allows you to cook almost anything you’d like in a single pot, from boiled eggs to entire dinners, quickly and without overheating in a pot.

Since these devices can do so much, we put major brands like Ninja and Instant Pot to the test against other manufacturers to see who really makes the top appliance. While Ninja has earned the title of our best overall, we also love our best value pick, the Chef’s IQ (available at Walmart), for its minimal design and customizable cook functions.

The Ninja Foodi Pressure Cooker Steam Fryer is the best multicooker we’ve tested.

The latest model of the Foodi takes all the fantastic functionality of the previous two-lid model and makes it better (all under one lid).

It features 14 different cooking functions—from commonplace pressure cooking and air frying to more advanced bread proofing and sous vide. We especially love the Steam & Crisp function, which can be used to whip up grains, veggies, and protein all at the same time and with excellent results (read: tender on the inside, crispy on the outside).

This model also features a Smart Thermometer, which can be used to automatically cook protein according to desired doneness. Just insert the probe, decide how well you’d like your meat cooked, and the Foodi does the rest.

The provided booklet does fall short, though. The instructions are lacking, leading to initial confusion upon set-up. And some of the provided recipes were underwhelming: the risotto was overcooked and lacking flavor, while the crusty bread was underbaked.

But with a little trial and error, getting the hang of this Ninja Foodi is worth the wait. It may be a littler pricier than other models, but it delivers: It’s easy to navigate, a breeze to wash, and a workhorse at delivering tasty, well-cooked meals. Read the full review here.

Cooks well   
  
 Lots of features   
  
 Built-in thermometer   
  
 Easy to clean   
  
 Manual could be more helpful

The Chef iQ is designed for chefs by chefs, and it’s our pick for best value pressure cooker.

We loved the Chef iQ smart cooker for its gorgeous build—minimalist black both inside and out with a simple screen and black knob—and customizable cook functions. You can dictate almost all aspects of each setting. For example, its Ferment function allows you to adjust the fermentation temperature, making it more versatile than the preset Yogurt function on the Instant Pot.

Designed for chefs by chefs, this pressure cooker offers some small but impactful details. It has a built-in tare function, so you can weigh ingredients directly into the pot and minimize dishes from building up in the sink. It also removes the guesswork during the initial pressurizing phase by displaying exactly how much pressure has built up in the cooker, so anxious cooks can more accurately estimate how long it’ll take until dinner is ready.

Plus, you can choose when and how pressure is released after cooking, so if you opt for immediate quick release, the cooker will automatically beep to let you know it’s about to release pressure and then do it for you in a totally hands-free experience.

This pressure cooker also connects easily to the Chef iQ app, which is beautifully designed and full of recipes and tips. It’s not required for you to sync the two before use, so you can add on the app at any point.

Sleek, attractive design   
  
 Customizable settings   
  
 Built-in weighing functionality   
  
 Hands-free pressure release   
  
 None that we could find

The original Ninja Foodi may not be as convenient as its successor, but it also performed well in many of our tests.

In addition to a reliable pressure cooking functionality—making flavorful broths, succulent braises, and creamy risotto—it also can offer the dry-heat cooking that other pressure cookers cannot.

By far the biggest added benefit to the Ninja is the air crisper lid. Combined with the pressure cooking function, it can also crisp up the skin of roast chicken, or get that nice golden-brown on a batch of fish and chips.

While it works best to make dinner for one or two people (we tried batch cooking with this function and it worked, but not as well), it’s ideal if you don’t care about leftovers. Within 20 minutes, we were able to make a full meal that didn’t require pressure cooking—ultimately making this the most versatile multicooker yet.

With two different lids, one for pressure cooking and one for air frying and crisping, we were able to not only complete the chicken soup, veggie chili, and risotto tests with ease, we were also able to make a complete meal of rice with baked tofu and crisped veggies.

The only tricky test was the yogurt, as this multicooker does not have a yogurt function. However, after a quick online search, we learned that you can use the dehydrate function to keep the yogurt at the proper temperature. So while a bit less creamy than the batches done with the Instant Pot, the Ninja made tasty yogurt even without a dedicated cooking program.

Cooks very well   
  
 Includes air fryer function   
  
 Versatile   
  
 Oversized

If you’re shopping for a budget pressure cooker, the Crock-Pot Easy Release is worth your consideration. A replacement for an older model that was recalled, this multicooker’s sleek brushed stainless steel exterior is super easy to clean, and we wouldn’t mind leaving it on display either.

While this model isn’t touchscreen, the dials are relatively intuitive. Features include the Progress Bar that allows you to monitor pressurization and preheat status before cooking begins, along with 11 cooking presets including Yogurt, Beans/Chili, Meat/Poultry, Slow Cook, Rice/Grains, and more. Additionally, pressurization, time, and temperature are all customizable by using the manual settings.

This cooker is equipped with a spacious 6-quart inner pot that would be large enough to cook meals for a big family. Beyond the impressive cooking capacity, this Crock-Pot also excelled in the chili, chicken, risotto, and yogurt tests.

In terms of safety features, we liked the locking mechanism that makes sure the lid won’t be accidentally opened when the cooker is pressurized. Its Easy-Release switch also made depressurization stress-free. Though the user manual suggested that it may take up to 20 minutes to depressurize, it took less than 10.

However, this multicooker isn’t without its disadvantages. During one of our tests, we received an error code “E6” and consulted the user manual to find answers—thankfully, there’s an explanation for each error code that may pop up. After troubleshooting using the guidance provided by the manual, we were able to continue testing.

Another minor inconvenience is its size. We had no problem lifting and moving it around the kitchen, but it’s a bit too tall for our tester, who’s 5’2’’. She was standing on her toes trying to look inside the pot after it was done cooking.

Cooks well   
  
 Easy to clean   
  
 Tons of features   
  
 Oversized

Perhaps a direct response to its competing Ninja Foodi, this Instant Pot Duo Crisp Ultimate Lid promises 13 different cooking functions—including air frying—under a singular lid. It boasts a wide range of tasks, including bread proofing, sous vide, and roasting, along with the staple pressure cooking and slow cooking functions.

Although its functionality and convenience has definitely improved from the previous Duo Crisp model, we still encountered a range of issues with this machine. First, the provided Yogurt function doesn’t work. We tried a recipe directly from the Instant app twice, and both times, it resulted in warm, clumpy milk in place of actual yogurt.

The air fryer function also disappointed us during testing. Fried chicken thighs were unevenly browned, with the tops crispy and bottoms slightly mushy. And since there’s no air fryer basket included, it would be difficult to get even air flow for crisping large batches of food.

Unfortunately, although this machine boasts a wide range of functions, it only comes with one recipe (for banana bread). You can access several recipes via the Instant app, and a cooking time table on the website, but you’ll have to dig for them. And none of those recipes are specific to this model, so you may run into confusing steps along the way.

Wide range of functions   
  
 Dishwasher safe accessories   
  
 Air fries unevenly   
  
 Faulty yogurt function   
  
 Manual is lacking

Performing extremely consistently across meat cookery with tender, juicy results, rice cooking, plus slow cooking, and its preset Yogurt function (which can be also repurposed for general fermentation), this Instant Pot can suit all your pressure cooking needs and more.

It also offers some nice aesthetic and exterior updates from its predecessors with its display graph, showing you exactly where it is in the pre-heating, cooking, or keep-warm cycle.

The knob design and “+/-“ keys, are sleeker than before. And perhaps best of all, the release valve no longer requires a slightly hazardous manual push from an arm’s distance with chopsticks or tongs; there’s a switch you can flip next to the valve to get it started.

In terms of functionality, the Ultra offers some extra settings: Sterilize, Cake Maker, Egg Cooker, and Ultra. You could mimic most of these with the Duo or Smart Wi-Fi, but the Ultra offers a slightly more precise set of criteria for these.

The “Ultra” feature allows maximum customizability, and you’re able to control the temperature for sous vide cooking.

While this version of the Instant Pot doesn’t connect to an app, you can always use the manual Delay Start function to pre-plan your cooking needs and browse the Instant Pot app for recipes and tips.

Cooks perfectly   
  
 Intuitive to use   
  
 Easy to clean   
  
 Not "smart"

The Instant Pot Duo Plus 9-in-1 has 14-plus functions, including Steam, Sterilize, and Cake. But if you start to feel overwhelmed, you can always Google your question and come away with an avalanche of blog posts, Facebook forums, and YouTube videos to guide your way.

The reason there’s a growing online community around this gadget is that it works like a charm. The soup we cooked tasted like grandma’s, the risotto was delightfully creamy, and the yogurt turned out tangy and bright. The Sterilize function was also a great bonus, helpful for preparing the pot to make yogurt.

While it wasn’t as intuitive as I would have liked—and the lid occasionally tripped me up—I have a feeling this Instant Pot could still edge out your current slow cooker or your rice cooker.

If you’re looking for a comprehensive Instant Pot with a longer history and larger user base than the Smart Wi-Fi, this is your best bet.

Cooks well   
  
 Simple to use   
  
 Lacks features in other models

Likely built as the Instant Pot’s answer to the Ninja Foodi, this pressure cooker also boasts an Air Fry function through the use of separate lids (and you can remove and store the lids when not in use, unlike the Ninja).

As with the Ninja, the Duo Crisp is a pressure cooker first and air fryer second; if you’re primarily looking for the latter, check out the best air fryers we’ve tested.

The Duo Crisp performed similarly to its Instant Pot counterparts in the standard functions. It does lack the Yogurt function, but offers a Sous Vide function in its stead—which could be more or less useful depending on what you need in the kitchen.

Easy to clean   
  
 Consistent, reliable results   
  
 Also offers air fry function   
  
 No Yogurt function   
  
 Large

The Duo remains one of Instant Pot’s top sellers—making it a worthwhile test. But after putting the Duo through its paces, we have to say that it ranks firmly in the middle of the pack.

The Duo made good soup and decent risotto but flubbed on the slow cooker chili. Even after 12 hours of slow cooking, the onions were not cooked and the chili was more soup than a thick stew.

It also struggled with yogurt, unable to bring the milk up to the proper temperature without switching out of the yogurt function and into sauté. It was also the slowest to come up to pressure during cooking, often leaving me to wonder if we had set it correctly at all. With so many other options on the market—including newer Instant Pots—we would personally skip the Instant Pot Duo in favor of a slightly more robust pressure cooker.

Simple to use   
  
 Affordable   
  
 Cooks fine   
  
 Slow to pressure   
  
 Cooks chili and yogurt poorly   
  
 Lacks features in other models

We were honestly disappointed by the Breville Fast Slow Pro Pressure Cooker. While it was a favorite out of the box due to the beautiful, easy-to-use interface, multitude of smart programs, and attached lid, it ultimately fell toward the bottom of the pack.

We had to consult the manual while making the soup (ultimately ending up with tougher vegetables than the recipe indicated), and despite a seemingly endless array of cooking options, there was no yogurt function at all.

And unlike the Ninja multicooker, we were unable to produce yogurt with the functions that were available. In a similar vein, we loved the idea of an attached lid, but the reality was rather frustrating. It took twisting the lid a very particular way to get it to close, which we could never seem to get right on the first or even third try.

On the positive side, the interface and recipe options were phenomenal. Similar to the Instant Pot Ultra, the scroll-through interface was easy to use and offered a lot of cooking options.

It has an auto-release steam valve, which means that when it’s time to release steam from the pressure cooker, it does so automatically. This makes the Breville a true set-and-forget cooker—but only if you were using one of its smart programs. For its high price point, we were expecting much better.

Attractively designed   
  
 Intuitive interface   
  
 Overpriced   
  
 Lacks many features   
  
 Difficult to use

Hi, I’m Jenny! I’m a professional chef, writer, founder of a nonprofit community think tank called Studio ATAO, and author of Mastering the Instant Pot. I’ve been a pressure cooker fan since way before Instant Pots were a thing

Pressure cookers have been a staple in my mother’s kitchen for making flavorful stocks, tender braises, and creamy porridge for decades. In fact, it’s the first appliance she bought for me when I moved to a new city after college.

And we’re Bethany, Cassidy, and Valerie. All of us love to cook but work full-time, so coming home and having to prep dinner and lunch for over an hour gets exhausting, fast. Needless to say, we’re pressure cooker fans—and having each contributed to this piece more than once, we know our stuff.

Before selecting our final list of multicookers, we looked at a total of 20 Instant Pots and competitors. We passed over some of the earlier Instant Pots like the Instant Pot Lux, as the newer models offer features we wanted to check out.

Otherwise, we chose the ones with the best combination of high reviews, great features, and reasonable pricing. (If a multicooker was twice the price with half the features, it didn’t make the cut.)

We exclusively tested moderately sized 6-quart Instant Pots and other multicookers, although you can find many of these multicookers in 3- to 8-quart models. The 8-quart models are better for large families.

We like the Instant Pot Smart Wifi because it’s a smart device with tons of features.

To ensure each pressure cooker was a good all-rounder, we tried three recipe types in our first round of testing: a classic comfort food (chicken noodle soup), a date night special (saffron risotto), and a finicky breakfast bowl (yogurt from scratch).

We added a slow cooker chili in subsequent updates to see how these appliances measured up to a traditional slow cooking device. We used the same ingredients for each and took detailed notes about how easy or difficult it was to select the cooking functions and times, how the food came out, and how tough the pressure cooker was to clean.

We also noted any surprises. Did the milk heat up to the right temperature for making yogurt? Did the Instant Pot flash a weird symbol during cooking? Did the steam valve spray hot milk everywhere and startle us so much we accidentally threw a recipe book across the room?

For cleaning, we did everything by hand.

We also took into account how helpful the manual was (and how much we needed to use it while cooking), whether or not it came with a recipe book, whether or not you could manually set cooking temperature and pressure rather than rely on cooking programs, and whether or not those cooking functions worked as expected.

One of the nice things about these appliances is that with enough time spent consulting the manual and Googling your questions, you can figure out even the most confounding of tasks. That said, if a product left me wondering whether or not our food would be edible when it was finished, we took that into account.

Most pressure cookers and multicookers come in a variety of sizes, so you can choose the best model for your family and living situation.

If you’re typically only cooking for one or two, models that come in a 3 or 6-quart size should suit you fine. But if you’re used to cooking for larger crowds, you’ll likely need an 8-quart pot.

And be mindful that most of these cookers will take up lots of space on your countertop, and are likely too heavy to lift in and out of a cabinet after each use. Be sure your kitchen space allows for a mainstay like this before purchasing one.

Some of the latest multicookers offer as many as 14 different cooking functions—from sous vide to air frying to yogurt making. But is that something you’ll really take advantage of as a home cook?

Consider how many cooking functions you’ll want to use in your multicooker, and whether it’s worth upgrading to the latest model. Similarly, if you’re someone who loves making your own yogurt or bread in a multicooker, be sure to make sure the model you’re eyeing has that capacity—not all of them do.

Given how many different types of kitchen gadgets are on the market these days, it’s helpful to know the difference between a pressure cooker, a slow cooker, and a multicooker.

In brief, a slow cooker—often referred to as a Crock-Pot—cooks or simmers food at a relatively low temperature for a long time. It’s frequently used to make stews, briskets, or anything that you might want to prep before heading out for the day and eat when you get home from work.

A pressure cooker speeds up this process by sealing food and liquid in a pot and using the trapped steam from cooking to quickly raise both the temperature and pressure. That makes them great for quickly making a meal that would otherwise take an hour or two.

Older pressure cookers used to be mostly stovetop models, but these days they’re largely electric and live on your counter.

The Ninja Foodi Pressure Cooker are Instant Pot Ultra are both multi-cookers that can do a lot more than slow cook—the Ninja can ever air fry.

A multicooker is simply an electric cooking device that combines multiple functions, such as slow cooking and pressure cooking and yogurt making, into one device.

In our experience, most electric pressure cookers—including the Instant Pot—are actually multicookers. But before you buy one, make sure it has the functions that you’re most likely to use.

These gadgets are extremely versatile, and ideal for quick cooking when you don’t want to dirty all of your pots and pans—or don’t want to turn on your oven. They’re also great for large families who need to cook for a lot of people at once.

(Looking for more tips? Here’s everything you need to know to use a pressure cooker).

Bethany Kwoka  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Bethany is a freelance contributor for Reviewed. An avid home baker and aspiring home cook, she reviews and writes mostly about kitchen gadgets (with the occasional fitness review thrown in). Her specialty might be fancy desserts, but she’s never met a batch-cooked dinner recipe she didn’t like. Outside of her work for Reviewed, Bethany is a content creator working on clean energy and climate change at a regional non-profit and runs a tabletop game at her local comic book shop.

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Cassidy Olsen  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Cassidy covered all things cooking as the kitchen editor for Reviewed from 2018 to 2020. An experimental home chef with a healthy distrust of recipes, Cassidy lives by the “Ratatouille” philosophy that, with a few techniques and key tools, anyone can cook. She’s produced in-depth reviews and guides on everything from meal kits to stand mixers and the right way to cook an egg.

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Valerie Li Stack  
   
  
  
 Senior Staff Writer

Valerie Li Stack is a senior staff writer for Kitchen & Cooking. She is an experienced home cook with a passion for experimenting with the cuisines of countries she’s visited. Driven by an interest in food science, Valerie approaches the culinary scene with a firm grasp of cooking processes and extensive knowledge of ingredients. She believes food speaks to all people regardless of language and cultural background.

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Monica Petrucci  
   
  
  
 Senior Staff Writer, Kitchen & Cooking

Monica is Reviewed’s senior Kitchen & Cooking staff writer. A graduate of Emerson College, she’s had her work published in The Boston Globe, Culture Cheese Magazine, Modern Luxury, and more. In her spare time, you can find her making coffee, practicing yoga, or falling down a TikTok rabbit hole.

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Jenny Dorsey  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Jenny is a professional chef, author and speaker specializing in interdisciplinary storytelling fusing food with social good. She leads a nonprofit named Studio ATAO and runs her own culinary consulting business. Her food and work has been featured in outlets such as Food Network, Oxygen TV, Eater, Food & Wine, Bon Appetit, among others. Her full biography, food portfolio, and bylines can be found here.

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# The Best Smart Pet Cameras of 2022

## The Tester

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

Eufy's Pet Dog Camera D605 is our best overall pick for thanks to its free local storage, dog-friendly smart alerts, and custom treat dispensing.  
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 A smart pet camera doesn't need to cost a lot and the Petcube Cam is the perfect blend of affordability, features, and smarts to care for your pet.  
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 The Petcube 2 is a treat-tossing pet camera complete with 1080p video quality and a 160-degree field of view, perfect for saying hi to Fido remotely.  
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 From performance to features, the Petcube Bites 2 Lite has many of the trimmings of the pricier Bites 2 camera, but it's a more affordable pick.  
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 The Play 2 is uniquely built with a laser, so you can play games with your pet remotely. It also has crisp video and four mics for easy communication.  
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Updated October 3, 2022

As a pet owner, you may wish that you could be there for your four-legged friend at all times. But unless your pet is small enough to fit in a handbag, you probably can’t get away with taking them with you everywhere you go. Sometimes the dog or cat just has to stay home. But thanks to modern technology like smart pet cameras, your pet never has to feel alone. For the best pet camera, you’ve got to go with the interactive Eufy Pet Dog Camera D605 (available at Amazon). It’s got all the bells and whistles the best pet camera should have like free local storage for video clips, a robust spread of dog-specific smart alerts, and crystal clear video. Eufy’s motion-tracking pet camera keeps your pup in view almost anywhere in the room, and can also toss treats on-demand. Looking for something cheaper? The Petcube Cam (available at Amazon) offers plenty of value for the money with features like bark detection and in-app vet chats. However, there are plenty of great pet cameras we’ve tested for you to check out with pup. Credit: Reviewed / Rachel Murphy The Eufy Pet Dog Camera D605 (pictured) is one of the best pet cameras you can buy right now. Best Overall Eufy Pet Dog Camera D605 If you’re looking to treat your dog—and yourself—to a smart pet camera with all the best bells and whistles, look no further than the treat-tossing Eufy Pet Dog Camera D605. Offering a 170-degree wide-angle view with 1080p video resolution, the view from Eufy’s dog camera is impressive both day and night. Unlike most pet cameras, Eufy’s comes with free local storage (up to 16GB), so you don’t have to pay a penny more after purchasing (or worry about uploading videos to the cloud). The camera also excels at sending timely alerts when your dog comes into view (and automatically begins recording), and has a wide range of motion up to 270-degrees, which did a great job of tracking my pup as she moved around the room. At the end of each day, the Eufy Pet app uniquely sends a “Doggy Diary” that recaps what your pup has been doing. While this isn’t a necessary feature, it makes it much easier to learn about your dog’s day rather than scrolling back through an entire 24-hours worth of footage. The spread of free smart alerts is robust, too. Not only can it tell you when it sees your dog, but it can also send alerts when your dog goes to the bathroom, licks its paws, or barks. The treat-tossing portion of the camera has an anti-clog design that can launch tiny dog biscuits, cookies, and other small pieces of food at three different distances. The camera makes a noise when it gears up to launch a treat, which may bother some pups, but my dog did not mind. One bummer is that the camera does not work with smart assistants like Alexa or Google Assistant. However, Eufy says that plans are in the works for voice support down the road. There is also no option to view the live stream in a web browser like you can with Eufy’s home security cameras. The only way to check in on your pup remotely is by using the Eufy Pet app on your iOS or Android mobile device or tablet, which works well and was quick to load during our testing. While the Eufy Pet Dog Camera D605 is one of the more expensive cameras in the category, it is worth the money if you want a feature-filled, treat-tossing dog camera that is reliable, accurate, and comes with free local storage. Pros Motion-tracking Tosses treats Free alerts and storage Cons No smart assistant support Buy now at Amazon

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Credit: Reviewed / Rachel Murphy The Petcube Cam is the best affordable smart pet camera you can buy.

Best Value Petcube Cam For an affordable pet camera that doesn’t skimp on smarts, you’ve got to go with the PetCube Cam. The Petcube Cam packs a lot of useful features into a device that squarely fits in the palm of your hand. It doesn’t come with fancy extras like treat tossing or laser games like some competitors, but it’s got everything you need to successfully check-in with your furry friend from anywhere without spending a lot of money. As the most affordable pet camera we’ve come across, it’s also the smallest, making it easy to place just about anywhere in your home. It also has a magnetic base, which you can use to hang from existing steel surfaces, or you can use the peel-and-stick tape to secure the mount in place. Many of the other cameras in our guide are large and take up a lot of space, so the small size is appealing whether you live in an apartment or mansion. Offering 1080p HD resolution, the camera delivers high-quality daytime video, great night vision up to 30 feet away, and 8x digital zoom. The 110-degree viewing angle isn’t the largest available, but it gets the job done just fine. The Petcube Cam’s audio is among the best we’ve tested, allowing us to communicate simultaneously without any static or delays. It’s a snappy little gadget that accurately and quickly sends notifications. Like other Petcube cameras, it only works with Amazon Alexa—not Google Assistant or Apple’s Siri. However, the Petcube app is the easiest way to control the camera and offers a pleasant user experience. It’s worth noting that you’ll need one of Petcube’s Care Memberships to get the best features like smart alerts, web viewing, instant vet chat, and video history. The paid plan also supports secure cloud recording using 128-bit AES encryption, according to Petcube. The live stream automatically begins playing as soon as you open the app, where you can set recording schedules. You can set the camera to record as soon as motion and sound are detected (and anytime someone interacts with the camera). It also intuitively listens for barks and meows and can differentiate between people and pets. For a simple, affordable way to keep tabs on your pet from the palm of your hand, the Petcube Cam offers value like no other. Pros Affordable Compact Great features Cons Narrow viewing angle Buy now at Amazon $39.99 from Chewy $39.99 from Walmart

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Other Smart Pet Cameras We Tested Petcube Bites 2 The Petcube 2 is an interactive pet camera complete with 1080p video quality and a 160-degree field of view. One of the coolest things about this pet camera is that it tosses treats, giving you a way to feed your cat or dog when you’re not there. It’s also super easy to set up and refill. The Bites 2 is compatible with Alexa (not Google Assistant or Siri), so you can toss the pup a treat with just your voice. But, what sets the second generation of Petcube’s pet cam apart is the integrated Alexa speaker. You can use the Bites 2 just as you’d use an Echo smart speaker. Ask for the weather, check your calendar, play games, set timers… the list is endless. Don’t expect too much of the speaker in terms of music quality, but it’s certainly decent enough for interactions with Alexa. The app is easy to use and offers an activity timeline of three to 30 days as part of the optional Petcube Care membership, which ranges in price from $4.99 to $14.99 per month. Through the app, owners can also connect directly with a vet if they have pet health questions, which is cool. The first consultation is free, and thereafter, the service is $4.99 per month. The app also lets you filter the video timeline to show only specific activities like barking or meowing, play sessions, humans coming and going, and more. It ideally sits on a tabletop to offer a wide-angle view of the room, and its minimal design comes in three finishes to blend well with just about any decor. Petcube automatically starts recording when it detects activity, which is a nice touch for remote management. Those clips are capped at ten seconds of length and only available for four hours, though, unless you subscribe to Petcube Care. If you need a reliable pet camera that’s packed with features, the Petcube 2 is a fantastic selection. Pros Built-in Alexa Tosses treats Great video Cons Large size Buy now at Amazon $249.00 from Chewy $249.00 from Walmart

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Petcube Bites 2 Lite The Petcube Bites 2 Lite is a stripped-back, more affordable version of the Petcube Bites 2. Both cameras are the same size and share features like 160-degree viewing angle, 1080p HD, built-in treat dispenser, and night vision. Both work with Alexa, but the Bites 2 has Alexa built-in. The Lite version only has one mic (instead of four like the Bites 2) and connects over a 2.4GHz connection, whereas the Bites 2 supports dual-band Wi-Fi. We didn’t notice much difference between the two cameras during use, as Petcube’s performance and smarts are pretty much the same from camera to camera. A monthly Pet Cube care subscription gets you smart alerts for sounds like barks and meows, which were delivered quickly to our devices during testing. The plan also includes video history, web viewing, saving and sharing video clips, and smart filters to prevent unwanted alerts. Additionally, it holds 1.5 pounds. of dry treats that you can dispense at different distances using the PetCube app. Or, you can also use Alexa voice control to toss treats. If you don’t want Alexa built into your pet camera, but still want the features of the Bites 2, the Bites 2 Lite is a well-working, less expensive alternative. Pros Works with Alexa Tosses treats Good video quality Cons Large size Easy to knock over Buy now at Amazon $109.95 from Chewy $124.99 from Walmart $99.98 from QVC

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Petcube Play 2 Petcube’s Play 2 pet cam borrows its app and aesthetic from the Petcube Bites 2. What sets it apart is a pretty cool feature that allows a pet owner to play Chase the Laser with their pet from anywhere. When we tried it with a cat, we were able to rouse her from a nap and get her interested in the laser, but the cat quickly became intrigued by the not-so-quiet mechanical sound of the laser moving around. A tap and drag of the finger within the Petcube app is all it takes to initiate a game of laser, but the movement is delayed and a bit jerky. It’s a nice way to play with your pet from anywhere, but only if your cat or dog loves chasing lasers. The Play 2 has a 160-degree viewing angle, 1080p HD video, night vision, and is built with four mics and a speaker bar. Like other Petcube cameras on our list, you can get access to 24/7, year-round vet assistants in the Petcube app using videos from sources like Petcube cameras. Each recorded clip is 30 seconds long and is stored securely in the cloud using 256-bit AES encryption, according to Petcube. The Petcube Play 2 is for anyone whose pet is easily bored and needs some engagement throughout the day. Pros Encrypted storage Clear video Built-in games Cons Laser sound can be loud Buy now at Amazon $199.00 from Chewy $199.00 from Walmart

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Furbo 360° Dog Camera The Furbo 360° Dog Camera, like the name states, has 360-degree rotation abilities. The smart pet camera is virtually identical to the original Furbo—all the way down to the bamboo cover and treat-tossing abilities—but it’s mounted on a rotating base that you can turn in a full circle when viewing live video from your phone. This model also offers automatic motion tracking, so it will keep your dog in frame if they’re moving around while you’re watching the live feed. Like the original Furbo, we found that this camera offers clear video both during the day and at night. The camera has a wide-angle lens that lets you see 132 degrees, and the unit rotates smoothly when you turn it via the app. Additionally, the two-way audio works well, allowing you to hear what’s going on in the room and talk to your dogs as needed. However, we encountered a few issues with the Furbo dog camera that prevented it from ranking higher on our list. First, the app offers free “barking alerts” to let you know if your pet is making a commotion, but we found that any louder-than-average noise triggers an alert. Things like the door shutting, a squeaky toy, or a loud TV scene all triggered alerts, resulting in a frustrating number of false alarms. Further, despite several attempts, we were unable to connect the Furbo to Alexa, a commonly noted problem among users. Read our review of the Furbo 360° Dog Camera. Pros Clear video Motion tracking Tosses treats Cons Poor Alexa connectivity Sensitive bark alerts Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Skymee Petalk AI II The Skymee Pet Talk AI II pet camera tosses treats on-demand and allows for the creation of feeding schedules, helpful features for on-the-go pet owners, but the overall performance of this pet cam leaves a lot to be desired. The daytime video is supposed to be 1080p, but it’s not as clear as other cameras we’ve tested with the same resolution. On the plus side, it touts great features like remote pan/tilt for the camera, which is responsive and works well. The built-in camera also has an impressive 180-degree field of view, one of the largest of any pet camera we’ve tested. You can also set helpful treat-feeding schedules or manually toss your pet a bite-sized snack in the Skymee app. But the video feed can be slow to load and we experienced a fair amount of in-app buffering during our testing. When speaking from the app to the camera, the audio was delayed and hard to understand, making it some of the worst we’ve tested. There’s also no cloud storage plan to easily access missed events. Instead, the camera supports SD cards, so you can review video activity at a later time, which isn’t that helpful for remote management unless you’re always watching the live stream. The bottom line: Skymee’s pet camera has a few great features, but, ultimately, there are better treat-tossing cameras to buy, like our Best Overall pick. Pros Tosses treats Feeding schedules 180-degree viewing angle Cons So-so video quality App buffering Muffled audio Buy now at Amazon   
  
 WOpet TitBit WOPet is a fine choice if all you want to do is live stream your pet and toss the occasional treat, but that’s really about all the camera can do. The device claims to work with Amazon Alexa, however, we couldn’t get it to work, and other users noted a similar problem. It doesn’t offer any compatibility with Google Assistant or Apple’s Siri, which leaves you to rely on the WOPet app for total control of the camera. The app has among the most dated and barebones interfaces of any we’ve tested, but in terms of functionality, it’s fine. It captures details about your pet like age, weight, breed, and activity level. There are features like remote treat tossing and recording and saving videos directly to your phone. Two-way talk is available, but there is a slight delay. The 1080p video looks good during the day and the night vision is equally sharp. We also like how easy it is to dispense a treat with just the tap of a button in the app. Design-wise, this camera looks unlike anything else in its class. The cylindrical shape makes it easy to place in corners of a room to capture the full view. It also comes with a suction cup base to help prevent curious pets from knocking it over. Oddly enough, WOPet doesn’t offer cloud storage plans or any way to review video at a later date. There are also no smart alerts. For the price of this camera, you can certainly do better with a smarter, more affordable option like our Best Overall pick. Pros Tosses treats Good video quality Easy to use Cons Dated app No cloud storage Buy now at Amazon $141.99 from Walmart

How We Test Smart Pet Cameras Credit: Reviewed / Rachel Murphy Meet the other tester, Bacon the Bulldog, pictured here during one of several rounds of on-camera appearances. The Tester Hi there, I’m Rachel Murphy, the senior staff writer for Reviewed’s smart home section. My work in this article was built on top of the original piece, which was written and tested by Sarah Kovac, Reviewed’s former smart home editor. I live and work in an actual smart home, where I can test products in real-life scenarios and run into all possible hangups and annoyances (and there are many). The Tests Credit: Reviewed / Rachel Murphy The best smart pet cameras come in all shapes and sizes. Pet cams might be able to help relieve some of that guilt for pet owners who have to be away from their furry friends. You can check-in, chat with, and toss treats to your dog or cat from anywhere with an internet connection… but will your dog find it calming or creepy? To find out which cameras are worth your time, I enlisted the help of my 12-year-old English bulldog, who begrudgingly put up with my testing for several weeks. I set the cameras up by her food and water bowls, an area she frequents at various times throughout the day. She wasn’t sure what to think when treats started flying out of some of the smart pet cameras we tested. We tested the accuracy, connection, and reliability of these pet cameras over Wi-Fi and cellular data. We downloaded companion apps, checked in on video streams, and communicated via two-way audio to determine which cameras offer the most useful features for pet owners. What You Should Know About Buying Smart Pet Cameras Features Pet cameras come in all shapes and sizes, but you don’t need to buy the biggest, most expensive model to successfully monitor your pet from anywhere. For the most part, pet cameras function as indoor security cameras, offering clear video, night vision, and loud two-way talk, which is all you need to check in on your furry friends from afar. But what sets pet cams apart from traditional security cameras is that some, including models from Petcube, are equipped with intuitive features like listening for barks and meows or built-in vet chat support. While some indoor cameras can detect animals, you won’t find these in-depth, pet-specific features on standard home security cameras. Interactive pet cameras are more costly but could be worth the investment if you’re away from home frequently. Some cameras can dispense entire meals for your pet multiple times a day, while other models can toss treats on-demand and play laser games with your pet. However, there’s no guarantee your cat will enjoy chasing lasers or that your dog will oblige with a treat-tossing camera. These extras are only worth paying for if you think your pet will enjoy them. Finally, carefully consider the size of the pet camera and where you place it in your home. Most pet cameras are large and take up a lot of space, but there are a couple of smaller models out there that make for easier placement. Additionally, some cameras come with suction bases, while others have magnetic mounts to hold them securely in place. These are important features to consider, especially if you have a hungry pet who may be tempted to knock over the camera and access the extra food inside. Treat Size Matters Cameras that double as feeders aren’t compatible with just any size kibble or treat, so you’ll need to make sure the food fits. Dry food pellets that are too large can get stuck in the camera and cause it to malfunction. Treats and pieces of kibble that are about a half-inch (or smaller) in size should be suitable for most food-dispensing pet cameras. Certain models may have more specific requirements, so make sure to read the details before you buy. Smart Assistant Compatibility Whether you use Alexa, Google Assistant, or Siri, it’s important to make sure the smart pet camera you choose works with your preferred smart assistant. It may seem obvious, but not all pet cameras play nice with all voice assistants (and some don’t work with smart assistants at all). For cameras that support voice assistants, Alexa and Google Assistant are the most popular options, though the functionality is limited. Like many smart home devices, it’s rare to find a pet camera that supports Apple HomeKit. To avoid any surprises, look for a camera that’s compatible with the smart assistant you use the most. Compatibility information can be found on the product’s webpage or the exterior of the product’s packaging. Privacy Even your pet security camera needs security. So, what should you look for? Features like two-factor authentication, end-to-end encryption, and the option for local storage are all things to consider before investing in a smart pet camera setup. Two-factor authentication, which sends a code to your mobile device to verify it’s you, is available on many smart pet cameras and something to activate. That way, if someone tries to hack into your account, you will receive an alert and can quickly take care of the problem.  
Another thing to consider is how your videos are used and stored. Most pet cameras allow you to turn them on and off from the app to control when they’re recording and uploading video to the cloud. Look for end-to-end encryption for storing videos. The encryption offers a layer of protection that can help prevent unwanted eyeballs from viewing your saved and stored videos. Make sure you create a strong password that’s unique to your pet camera’s app. Data breaches feel like the norm as of late, making it all the more important not to reuse passwords across multiple websites and apps. Finally, when using these devices with smart assistants like Alexa, Google, and Siri, you can help protect your privacy by regularly deleting your voice recordings and muting the speaker’s mic when it’s not in use. Looking for more privacy tips? Read our guide to securing your smart home. More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best Dog DNA Kits The Best Dog Beds How to safely own houseplants if you have a pet This is the one product my dog and I can’t live without

As a pet owner, you may wish that you could be there for your four-legged friend at all times. But unless your pet is small enough to fit in a handbag, you probably can’t get away with taking them with you everywhere you go. Sometimes the dog or cat just has to stay home. But thanks to modern technology like smart pet cameras, your pet never has to feel alone.

For the best pet camera, you’ve got to go with the interactive Eufy Pet Dog Camera D605 (available at Amazon). It’s got all the bells and whistles the best pet camera should have like free local storage for video clips, a robust spread of dog-specific smart alerts, and crystal clear video. Eufy’s motion-tracking pet camera keeps your pup in view almost anywhere in the room, and can also toss treats on-demand. Looking for something cheaper? The Petcube Cam (available at Amazon) offers plenty of value for the money with features like bark detection and in-app vet chats. However, there are plenty of great pet cameras we’ve tested for you to check out with pup.

The Eufy Pet Dog Camera D605 (pictured) is one of the best pet cameras you can buy right now.

If you’re looking to treat your dog—and yourself—to a smart pet camera with all the best bells and whistles, look no further than the treat-tossing Eufy Pet Dog Camera D605. Offering a 170-degree wide-angle view with 1080p video resolution, the view from Eufy’s dog camera is impressive both day and night. Unlike most pet cameras, Eufy’s comes with free local storage (up to 16GB), so you don’t have to pay a penny more after purchasing (or worry about uploading videos to the cloud).

The camera also excels at sending timely alerts when your dog comes into view (and automatically begins recording), and has a wide range of motion up to 270-degrees, which did a great job of tracking my pup as she moved around the room.

At the end of each day, the Eufy Pet app uniquely sends a “Doggy Diary” that recaps what your pup has been doing. While this isn’t a necessary feature, it makes it much easier to learn about your dog’s day rather than scrolling back through an entire 24-hours worth of footage. The spread of free smart alerts is robust, too. Not only can it tell you when it sees your dog, but it can also send alerts when your dog goes to the bathroom, licks its paws, or barks.

The treat-tossing portion of the camera has an anti-clog design that can launch tiny dog biscuits, cookies, and other small pieces of food at three different distances. The camera makes a noise when it gears up to launch a treat, which may bother some pups, but my dog did not mind.

One bummer is that the camera does not work with smart assistants like Alexa or Google Assistant. However, Eufy says that plans are in the works for voice support down the road. There is also no option to view the live stream in a web browser like you can with Eufy’s home security cameras. The only way to check in on your pup remotely is by using the Eufy Pet app on your iOS or Android mobile device or tablet, which works well and was quick to load during our testing.

While the Eufy Pet Dog Camera D605 is one of the more expensive cameras in the category, it is worth the money if you want a feature-filled, treat-tossing dog camera that is reliable, accurate, and comes with free local storage.

Motion-tracking   
  
 Tosses treats   
  
 Free alerts and storage   
  
 No smart assistant support

The Petcube Cam is the best affordable smart pet camera you can buy.

For an affordable pet camera that doesn’t skimp on smarts, you’ve got to go with the PetCube Cam. The Petcube Cam packs a lot of useful features into a device that squarely fits in the palm of your hand. It doesn’t come with fancy extras like treat tossing or laser games like some competitors, but it’s got everything you need to successfully check-in with your furry friend from anywhere without spending a lot of money.

As the most affordable pet camera we’ve come across, it’s also the smallest, making it easy to place just about anywhere in your home. It also has a magnetic base, which you can use to hang from existing steel surfaces, or you can use the peel-and-stick tape to secure the mount in place. Many of the other cameras in our guide are large and take up a lot of space, so the small size is appealing whether you live in an apartment or mansion.

Offering 1080p HD resolution, the camera delivers high-quality daytime video, great night vision up to 30 feet away, and 8x digital zoom. The 110-degree viewing angle isn’t the largest available, but it gets the job done just fine. The Petcube Cam’s audio is among the best we’ve tested, allowing us to communicate simultaneously without any static or delays. It’s a snappy little gadget that accurately and quickly sends notifications.

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For a simple, affordable way to keep tabs on your pet from the palm of your hand, the Petcube Cam offers value like no other.

Affordable   
  
 Compact   
  
 Great features   
  
 Narrow viewing angle

The Petcube 2 is an interactive pet camera complete with 1080p video quality and a 160-degree field of view. One of the coolest things about this pet camera is that it tosses treats, giving you a way to feed your cat or dog when you’re not there. It’s also super easy to set up and refill. The Bites 2 is compatible with Alexa (not Google Assistant or Siri), so you can toss the pup a treat with just your voice. But, what sets the second generation of Petcube’s pet cam apart is the integrated Alexa speaker. You can use the Bites 2 just as you’d use an Echo smart speaker. Ask for the weather, check your calendar, play games, set timers… the list is endless. Don’t expect too much of the speaker in terms of music quality, but it’s certainly decent enough for interactions with Alexa.

The app is easy to use and offers an activity timeline of three to 30 days as part of the optional Petcube Care membership, which ranges in price from $4.99 to $14.99 per month. Through the app, owners can also connect directly with a vet if they have pet health questions, which is cool. The first consultation is free, and thereafter, the service is $4.99 per month.

The app also lets you filter the video timeline to show only specific activities like barking or meowing, play sessions, humans coming and going, and more. It ideally sits on a tabletop to offer a wide-angle view of the room, and its minimal design comes in three finishes to blend well with just about any decor.

Petcube automatically starts recording when it detects activity, which is a nice touch for remote management. Those clips are capped at ten seconds of length and only available for four hours, though, unless you subscribe to Petcube Care. If you need a reliable pet camera that’s packed with features, the Petcube 2 is a fantastic selection.

Built-in Alexa   
  
 Tosses treats   
  
 Great video   
  
 Large size

The Petcube Bites 2 Lite is a stripped-back, more affordable version of the Petcube Bites 2. Both cameras are the same size and share features like 160-degree viewing angle, 1080p HD, built-in treat dispenser, and night vision. Both work with Alexa, but the Bites 2 has Alexa built-in. The Lite version only has one mic (instead of four like the Bites 2) and connects over a 2.4GHz connection, whereas the Bites 2 supports dual-band Wi-Fi.

We didn’t notice much difference between the two cameras during use, as Petcube’s performance and smarts are pretty much the same from camera to camera. A monthly Pet Cube care subscription gets you smart alerts for sounds like barks and meows, which were delivered quickly to our devices during testing. The plan also includes video history, web viewing, saving and sharing video clips, and smart filters to prevent unwanted alerts.

Additionally, it holds 1.5 pounds. of dry treats that you can dispense at different distances using the PetCube app. Or, you can also use Alexa voice control to toss treats. If you don’t want Alexa built into your pet camera, but still want the features of the Bites 2, the Bites 2 Lite is a well-working, less expensive alternative.

Works with Alexa   
  
 Tosses treats   
  
 Good video quality   
  
 Large size   
  
 Easy to knock over

Petcube’s Play 2 pet cam borrows its app and aesthetic from the Petcube Bites 2. What sets it apart is a pretty cool feature that allows a pet owner to play Chase the Laser with their pet from anywhere. When we tried it with a cat, we were able to rouse her from a nap and get her interested in the laser, but the cat quickly became intrigued by the not-so-quiet mechanical sound of the laser moving around.

A tap and drag of the finger within the Petcube app is all it takes to initiate a game of laser, but the movement is delayed and a bit jerky. It’s a nice way to play with your pet from anywhere, but only if your cat or dog loves chasing lasers.

The Play 2 has a 160-degree viewing angle, 1080p HD video, night vision, and is built with four mics and a speaker bar. Like other Petcube cameras on our list, you can get access to 24/7, year-round vet assistants in the Petcube app using videos from sources like Petcube cameras. Each recorded clip is 30 seconds long and is stored securely in the cloud using 256-bit AES encryption, according to Petcube.

The Petcube Play 2 is for anyone whose pet is easily bored and needs some engagement throughout the day.

Encrypted storage   
  
 Clear video   
  
 Built-in games   
  
 Laser sound can be loud

The Furbo 360° Dog Camera, like the name states, has 360-degree rotation abilities. The smart pet camera is virtually identical to the original Furbo—all the way down to the bamboo cover and treat-tossing abilities—but it’s mounted on a rotating base that you can turn in a full circle when viewing live video from your phone.

This model also offers automatic motion tracking, so it will keep your dog in frame if they’re moving around while you’re watching the live feed.

Like the original Furbo, we found that this camera offers clear video both during the day and at night. The camera has a wide-angle lens that lets you see 132 degrees, and the unit rotates smoothly when you turn it via the app.

Additionally, the two-way audio works well, allowing you to hear what’s going on in the room and talk to your dogs as needed.

However, we encountered a few issues with the Furbo dog camera that prevented it from ranking higher on our list. First, the app offers free “barking alerts” to let you know if your pet is making a commotion, but we found that any louder-than-average noise triggers an alert.

Things like the door shutting, a squeaky toy, or a loud TV scene all triggered alerts, resulting in a frustrating number of false alarms. Further, despite several attempts, we were unable to connect the Furbo to Alexa, a commonly noted problem among users.

Read our review of the Furbo 360° Dog Camera.

Clear video   
  
 Motion tracking   
  
 Tosses treats   
  
 Poor Alexa connectivity   
  
 Sensitive bark alerts

The Skymee Pet Talk AI II pet camera tosses treats on-demand and allows for the creation of feeding schedules, helpful features for on-the-go pet owners, but the overall performance of this pet cam leaves a lot to be desired.

The daytime video is supposed to be 1080p, but it’s not as clear as other cameras we’ve tested with the same resolution. On the plus side, it touts great features like remote pan/tilt for the camera, which is responsive and works well. The built-in camera also has an impressive 180-degree field of view, one of the largest of any pet camera we’ve tested. You can also set helpful treat-feeding schedules or manually toss your pet a bite-sized snack in the Skymee app.

But the video feed can be slow to load and we experienced a fair amount of in-app buffering during our testing. When speaking from the app to the camera, the audio was delayed and hard to understand, making it some of the worst we’ve tested.

There’s also no cloud storage plan to easily access missed events. Instead, the camera supports SD cards, so you can review video activity at a later time, which isn’t that helpful for remote management unless you’re always watching the live stream.

The bottom line: Skymee’s pet camera has a few great features, but, ultimately, there are better treat-tossing cameras to buy, like our Best Overall pick.

Tosses treats   
  
 Feeding schedules   
  
 180-degree viewing angle   
  
 So-so video quality   
  
 App buffering   
  
 Muffled audio

WOPet is a fine choice if all you want to do is live stream your pet and toss the occasional treat, but that’s really about all the camera can do.

The device claims to work with Amazon Alexa, however, we couldn’t get it to work, and other users noted a similar problem. It doesn’t offer any compatibility with Google Assistant or Apple’s Siri, which leaves you to rely on the WOPet app for total control of the camera.

The app has among the most dated and barebones interfaces of any we’ve tested, but in terms of functionality, it’s fine. It captures details about your pet like age, weight, breed, and activity level. There are features like remote treat tossing and recording and saving videos directly to your phone. Two-way talk is available, but there is a slight delay. The 1080p video looks good during the day and the night vision is equally sharp. We also like how easy it is to dispense a treat with just the tap of a button in the app.

Design-wise, this camera looks unlike anything else in its class. The cylindrical shape makes it easy to place in corners of a room to capture the full view. It also comes with a suction cup base to help prevent curious pets from knocking it over.

Oddly enough, WOPet doesn’t offer cloud storage plans or any way to review video at a later date. There are also no smart alerts. For the price of this camera, you can certainly do better with a smarter, more affordable option like our Best Overall pick.

Tosses treats   
  
 Good video quality   
  
 Easy to use   
  
 Dated app   
  
 No cloud storage

Meet the other tester, Bacon the Bulldog, pictured here during one of several rounds of on-camera appearances.

Hi there, I’m Rachel Murphy, the senior staff writer for Reviewed’s smart home section. My work in this article was built on top of the original piece, which was written and tested by Sarah Kovac, Reviewed’s former smart home editor. I live and work in an actual smart home, where I can test products in real-life scenarios and run into all possible hangups and annoyances (and there are many).

The best smart pet cameras come in all shapes and sizes.

Pet cams might be able to help relieve some of that guilt for pet owners who have to be away from their furry friends. You can check-in, chat with, and toss treats to your dog or cat from anywhere with an internet connection… but will your dog find it calming or creepy? To find out which cameras are worth your time, I enlisted the help of my 12-year-old English bulldog, who begrudgingly put up with my testing for several weeks. I set the cameras up by her food and water bowls, an area she frequents at various times throughout the day. She wasn’t sure what to think when treats started flying out of some of the smart pet cameras we tested.

We tested the accuracy, connection, and reliability of these pet cameras over Wi-Fi and cellular data. We downloaded companion apps, checked in on video streams, and communicated via two-way audio to determine which cameras offer the most useful features for pet owners.

Pet cameras come in all shapes and sizes, but you don’t need to buy the biggest, most expensive model to successfully monitor your pet from anywhere. For the most part, pet cameras function as indoor security cameras, offering clear video, night vision, and loud two-way talk, which is all you need to check in on your furry friends from afar. But what sets pet cams apart from traditional security cameras is that some, including models from Petcube, are equipped with intuitive features like listening for barks and meows or built-in vet chat support. While some indoor cameras can detect animals, you won’t find these in-depth, pet-specific features on standard home security cameras.

Interactive pet cameras are more costly but could be worth the investment if you’re away from home frequently. Some cameras can dispense entire meals for your pet multiple times a day, while other models can toss treats on-demand and play laser games with your pet. However, there’s no guarantee your cat will enjoy chasing lasers or that your dog will oblige with a treat-tossing camera. These extras are only worth paying for if you think your pet will enjoy them.

Finally, carefully consider the size of the pet camera and where you place it in your home. Most pet cameras are large and take up a lot of space, but there are a couple of smaller models out there that make for easier placement. Additionally, some cameras come with suction bases, while others have magnetic mounts to hold them securely in place. These are important features to consider, especially if you have a hungry pet who may be tempted to knock over the camera and access the extra food inside.

Cameras that double as feeders aren’t compatible with just any size kibble or treat, so you’ll need to make sure the food fits. Dry food pellets that are too large can get stuck in the camera and cause it to malfunction. Treats and pieces of kibble that are about a half-inch (or smaller) in size should be suitable for most food-dispensing pet cameras. Certain models may have more specific requirements, so make sure to read the details before you buy.

Whether you use Alexa, Google Assistant, or Siri, it’s important to make sure the smart pet camera you choose works with your preferred smart assistant. It may seem obvious, but not all pet cameras play nice with all voice assistants (and some don’t work with smart assistants at all).

For cameras that support voice assistants, Alexa and Google Assistant are the most popular options, though the functionality is limited. Like many smart home devices, it’s rare to find a pet camera that supports Apple HomeKit. To avoid any surprises, look for a camera that’s compatible with the smart assistant you use the most. Compatibility information can be found on the product’s webpage or the exterior of the product’s packaging.

Even your pet security camera needs security. So, what should you look for? Features like two-factor authentication, end-to-end encryption, and the option for local storage are all things to consider before investing in a smart pet camera setup.

Two-factor authentication, which sends a code to your mobile device to verify it’s you, is available on many smart pet cameras and something to activate. That way, if someone tries to hack into your account, you will receive an alert and can quickly take care of the problem.

Another thing to consider is how your videos are used and stored. Most pet cameras allow you to turn them on and off from the app to control when they’re recording and uploading video to the cloud. Look for end-to-end encryption for storing videos. The encryption offers a layer of protection that can help prevent unwanted eyeballs from viewing your saved and stored videos.

Make sure you create a strong password that’s unique to your pet camera’s app. Data breaches feel like the norm as of late, making it all the more important not to reuse passwords across multiple websites and apps.

Finally, when using these devices with smart assistants like Alexa, Google, and Siri, you can help protect your privacy by regularly deleting your voice recordings and muting the speaker’s mic when it’s not in use.

Looking for more privacy tips? Read our guide to securing your smart home.

Camryn Rabideau  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Camryn Rabideau is a full-time freelance writer and product tester with eight years of experience. She’s been lucky enough to test hundreds of products firsthand, and her specialties include bedding and pet products, which often require help from her two dogs, three cats, and flock of rambunctious chickens.

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Rachel Murphy is Reviewed’s home editor. She holds a journalism degree from the University of Central Florida. Prior to joining the team, she worked as a freelance writer for publications like Insider and Mashable, and as an associate editorial producer for Good Morning America. Aside from smart home tech, her interests include food, travel, parenting, and home renovation. You can usually find her sipping on coffee at any time of the day.

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# The Best Tofu Presses of 2022

## The Tester

Recommendations are independently chosen by Reviewed’s editors. Purchases made through the links below may earn us and our publishing partners a commission.

Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

Tofu pressing doesn't get much easier. Details like adjustable pressing and a removable drip tray with handles took this product to the top ranking.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This sleek-looking press produces tasty, firm tofu—fast. And its design is easy to use and built to last.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This traditional press requires no set up, is dishwasher-safe, and presses tofu quickly. But it requires ongoing attention while pressing.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This model uses tight silicone bands to press tofu. Despite its tight pressure, it produced no cracks. But the quality is likely not long lasting.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This is made up of 6 parts, but only offers 1 pressure level. While it pressed tofu somewhat firmly, it left the block wet and difficult to remove.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Updated October 19, 2022

Whether you’re a full-on vegan or just someone who likes to occasionally eat plant-based meals, it’s likely that you’ve had your fair share of encounters with tofu in the kitchen. Incredibly versatile and rich with protein, tofu has been around for centuries in dishes around the globe. And today, it remains steadfast in its ability to upgrade anything from soups and salads to tacos and creamy sauces. If you often cook with it at home, having a good tofu press on hand is a must. It transforms a wet, spongy block into something much firmer that’s easier to sear and absorb spices. I’ll be the first to admit that I, too, previously practiced the paper towel method, using books (or whatever heavy things I had on hand) as weights to get the water out, and subsequently making a mess on my countertop. But once I started using tofu presses—and realizing how much waste I was generating with my previous method—there was no going back. If you’re new to the world of tofu presses and don’t know where to start, we’re here to help. We’ve rounded up some of the most popular presses out there, made of everything from BPA-free plastic to eco-friendly bamboo to see which performed best. The Noya Tofu Press (available at Amazon) is the best we’ve tested for its ease of use and quick pressing abilities. It doubles as a container for marinating and produced some of the firmest tofu during our tests. If you’re willing to spend a little extra, we recommend the TofuXpress (available at Williams Sonoma) as our best upgrade pick. It has a no-frills structure that’s effective over time, and a clean design that’s nice enough to show off. Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar The Noya Tofu Press was the best press we tested. Best Overall Noya Adjustable Tofu Press Material: BPA-free plastic Dimensions: 7.48 x 5.11 x 6.49 inches Weight: 1.79 pounds Dishwasher-safe? Yes This vibrant, BPA-free press produced some of the firmest tofu during testing, and it includes handy features that made my pressing experience as seamless as possible. Once the tofu is placed in the removable drip tray, simply twist the silicone dial to your desired setting (the inch and centimeter measurements will help guide you to your perfect block), and wait. The excess water drips mess-free into the bottom of the container, and there’s a built-in pour spout at the top to make draining extra easy. Once it’s ready, removing the tofu is also a cinch, thanks to the handles on the removable drip tray (which I found can also double as a cutting surface). No more plopping tofu blocks with lingering water onto your countertop, hoping they don’t break in the process. This press also comes with a marinating lid, so it can double as tupperware while your tofu soaks in your favorite sauce. When I tested this press, I found that it was able to produce firm, dry tofu in just 15 minutes with no cracks. It was also a breeze to clean, since I was able to toss all the parts right in the dishwasher (including the spring, which is made of rust-resistant stainless steel). And aside from helpful instructions, the Noya press also comes with a cheesecloth, which can substitute paper towels for additional drying and other tasks like DIY cheesemaking. If you’re looking for a clever, easy-to-use press, this is a fantastic choice. Pros Presses tofu quickly Easy to clean Doubles as a storage container Cons None that we could find Buy now at Amazon $35.21 from Walmart

ADVERTISEMENT

Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar The TofuXpress was our pick for the best upgrade.

Best Upgrade TofuXpress TX1 Gourmet Food Press Material: Food-grade thermoplastic & stainless steel Dimensions: 5 x 5 x 5 inches Weight: 1.05 pounds Dishwasher-safe? Yes You might be wondering why any tofu press should cost $50—especially when the structure and features are pretty straightforward. But hear us out: For those interested in investing in long-lasting, deeply effective kitchen tools, the TofuXpress is worth it. When I tested it, I found that it resulted in some seriously firm tofu after just 15 minutes. Plus, its easy-to-use structure and accompanying guidebook made it a great choice for tofu newbies and longtime lovers alike. It’s also made from FDA-approved thermoplastic and stainless steel, so it’s built to last and easy to clean. This press only has one press setting, but set-up is minimal and it doesn’t require continuous tightening. So once you lock in the springed lid, you can leave it in the fridge for as long (or little) as you’d like. It’s also unique in that the excess water collects at the top of the container, rather than the bottom; once you’re ready to remove it, just tilt the press over the sink to drain all the water out. The container’s base also doubles as a lid that’s helpful for storing marinated tofu in the fridge. I was only hands-on with this tofu press for a short time, but I was encouraged by several Amazon reviewers who claimed that this product has lasted them years—sometimes close to a decade—without breaking. Pros Quick, firm results Built to last Clever design Cons Expensive Buy now at Amazon

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Other Tofu Presses We Tested Healthy Express Tofu Press Material: BPA-free plastic & stainless steel Dimensions: 10.3 x 6.6 x 5.6 inches Weight: 2.31 pounds Dishwasher-safe? Yes This press has more of a traditional look, with a simple construction of two curved, BPA-free plastic plates and two stainless steel screws. It comes fully assembled in one piece, and the whole thing can easily be tossed in the dishwasher after use. The bottom plate has a helpful outline of where to place your tofu, and the plates are slightly curved to achieve the most successfully pressed block. Be aware that this mechanism requires a bit more babysitting than other models; the instructions recommend tightening the screws evenly three-to-five times while it’s pressing for the best results. And since there’s no drip tray included, you’ll have to tip it over the sink or a bowl while the water drips out. Although this process required a little more time and attention, the results were worth the wait. The tofu was very well pressed and came out with a dense, crispy texture after pan-frying. (Plus: it comes with a complimentary kitchen towel for sustainable drying!) Pros Easy to clean Firm results Cons No drip tray Requires frequent adjusting Buy now at Amazon $19.95 from Walmart

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Tofuture Tofu Press Material: BPA-free plastic Dimensions: 5.5 x 4.7 x 2.8 inches Weight: 3.5 ounces Dishwasher-safe? Yes This little box-like press comes with only three parts, which made set-up easy (even without glancing at the provided directions). The pressing process is unique in this model. Instead of using screws or a spring, there are three hooks that jut out on both sides of the container, where the tight silicone bands latch onto to create pressure. You can decide to press it on the lowest, medium, or highest pressure, depending on how firm you'd like your tofu to be. I found that the lowest pressure option was enough to make a significant difference in just 15 minutes, with a resulting block of tofu that was firm enough to crisp. And even the highest setting didn't create any cracks during testing. So if you're in a pinch, this could be a great choice. The only disadvantage to this press is the quality. As soon as I unboxed it and started to hand wash it, I noticed one of the plastic stoppers on the bottom corner fell off (and, tragically, down the drain) very quickly. One of the handles also came off the hinges a couple of times during use, but that part easily snapped back into place with a little effort. All of this is to say: This press works very well, it just might not last you a lifetime. Pros Presses tofu quickly Easy set-up Dishwasher safe Cons Poor quality Buy now at Amazon $21.50 from Walmart

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TofuBud Tofu Press Material: BPA-free plastic & stainless steel Dimensions: 5.5 x 4.7 x 4.7 inches Weight: 14 ounces Dishwasher-safe? Yes I was excited to try this press, mostly because of its sleek, modern look and fully recyclable plastic makeup. It's made up of six parts (which made clean-up a bit more challenging): A plastic knob, a sliding lid, a metal spring, two plastic plates, and the plastic container. Luckily, everything is dishwasher safe. It technically comes with two pressure levels, but the first applies very little pressure and is meant for silken tofu (which usually doesn't require pressing at all). During testing, I put it on the second level for 15 minutes, and it resulted in a decently firm block—but I did have to pat it dry with a paper towel afterward, since the plastic sheets that the tofu sat between seemed to collect pools of liquid. There is a pour spout built-in, but it didn't work as well as others because the tofu doesn't stay locked into place as it tilts. It was also difficult to remove the slippery block without accidentally breaking it apart. I appreciated the included recipe book, though, which provided lots of appealing ideas that would be great for folks new to the tofu-cooking universe. Pros Produces firm tofu Sleek look Cons Several parts to clean Inefficient pressing Tofu removal was difficult Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Yarkor Tofu Press Material: BPA-free plastic Dimensions: 7.09 x 5.12 x 3.94 inches Weight: 1.04 pounds Dishwasher-safe? Yes This four-piece press is made up of a water collecting tray with two handles, a durable spring, a strainer, and lid. The tofu block is placed between the strainer and lid, and it starts pressing when the lid is snapped into place with the two handles. There's only one pressure setting with this press—and it's high. I actually found it difficult to snap the lid into place since the spring is so strong. I had to press down pretty hard with one hand to get the lid shut, using the other to try to lock the second handle into place. Plus, the spring doesn't stay attached, so it can fall out of the provided placeholder at the bottom of the tray. Once everything is locked in, though, it stays put. And the resulting block I tested was decently firm, surprisingly without any cracks from too much pressure. I have to admit that the product itself doesn't seem very high quality; the tray arrived with a slight bend to it that worsened slightly after a run in the dishwasher. Since the material isn't very sturdy, this one might not last you a lifetime. Pros Quickly pressed firmly with no cracks Easy set-up Cons Only one pressure level Difficult to close Somewhat poor quality Buy now at Amazon $36.01 from Walmart

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EZ Tofu Press Material: BPA-free plastic Dimensions: 9 x 5.25 x 4 inches Weight: 1.1 pounds Dishwasher-safe? Yes Another no-frills option, this tofu press arrives fully assembled in one piece, with two plastic plates connected by two stainless steel screws. These plates are fully straight and not curved, so you won't be able to lean this press over your sink to drain the liquid. (I learned this the hard way after making a mess on my countertop.) Instead, you'll have to balance it vertically over a plate or similar container, which unfortunately means another dish to wash afterward. The instructions that came with this press were a little vague, which was especially troubling in a model like this, where guidance is needed to be sure you're screwing the right amount of pressure without accidentally cracking the tofu. It's also another instance that requires more attention, as you should be tightening the screws every two to four minutes to ensure the right amount of pressure is consistent to achieve results in 15 minutes or less. Unfortunately, the resulting tofu texture wasn't optimal, even after tightening the screws regularly as directed. It's possible that I didn't start at the right pressure point though, since those instructions weren't as clear. Pros Arrives fully assembled Easy to clean Cons Vague instructions Watery results No drip tray Buy now at Amazon $40.33 from Walmart   
  
 Tofudee Tofu Press Material: BPA-free plastic & stainless steel Dimensions: 6.69 x 5.91 x 5.31 inches Weight: 1.7 pounds Dishwasher-safe? Yes This tofu press charmed me upon arrival, with its playful, translucent colorful look. When it came to functionality, though, it didn't deliver as well as the others. After screwing in the top lid (there's only one level offered), I noticed through the clear container that the pressing plate was lopsided, pressing the tofu unevenly. I tried playing with it to even out, but struggled to readjust it and couldn't get it perfectly straight. Once the 15 minutes had passed, I removed the lid and noticed that the block had cracked in several places, and the texture still seemed decently wet. Sauteeing it in a pan with hot oil confirmed my suspicions, as the residual water splashed back at me several times. Pros Attractive look Dishwasher safe Cons Lopsided pressing Cracked the tofu block Ineffective Buy now at Amazon   
  
 ToPress Bamboo Tofu Press Material: Bamboo & stainless steel Dimensions: 3.39 x 1.54 x 0.2 inches Weight: 1.92 pounds Dishwasher-safe? Yes I really wanted to love this eco-friendly, 100% bamboo tofu press, but its functionality disappointed me during testing. The hardware doesn't come attached, so setting everything up felt like an Ikea home project. It took me close to 20 minutes to set it all up, and taking it apart for storage was time-consuming as well. Once it was finally ready to press, I wasn't sure how many times to screw the hardware due to a lack of instructions, so I ended up cracking the tofu block as a result (and somehow getting splashed with the tofu liquid in the process). Even after cracking under pressure, the tofu was not firm to my liking after 15 minutes; it broke apart several times during the cooking process and the resulting taste was watery. As for long-term use, maintaining a wooden tofu press comes with its own set of challenges. You'll have to be sure it dries thoroughly after each wash in order to avoid mold growth. And watch out for splinters; ToPress recommends regularly moisturizing the press with oil to retain moisture and prevent splitting. Pros Eco-friendly materials Cons Tedious set-up Ineffective pressing Difficult to maintain Buy now at Amazon

How We Tested Tofu Presses Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar We tested each tofu press similarly, in order to accurately rank them against each other. The Tester Hi, I’m Monica Petrucci, Reviewed’s kitchen staff writer and a longtime lover of tofu. I used to find myself only indulging in a crispy, well-cooked tofu dish when I found it on restaurant menus, or when I could find the pre-pressed, vacuum-sealed packs of it at the store. It wasn’t until I started testing for this article that it hit me: I was intimated by the pressing process, and it was inhibiting my tofu-cooking potential. Once I learned that tofu pressing didn’t have to involve a messy countertop and a waste of (several) paper towel sheets, the game was officially changed. I started finding plenty of recipes online and was cooking (delicious) tofu dishes several times a week. I then realized that there are likely many other tofu lovers out there who need similar guidance on tofu pressing—the easy way. The Tests Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar Leaving your tofu to press over several hours in the fridge ensures freshness and firmness. Although all of the presses on this list vary greatly in structure, materials, and functionality, I tried my best to keep these tests as similar as possible to see how they stacked up against each other. I first took into account the physical make-up of each press: Is it easy to set up? Does it have multiple pressure levels? Is it dishwasher-safe? Is there a built-in water drainer? Then, I tested each press’s functionality by pressing a block of extra-firm tofu for 15 minutes, checking for any cracks after pressing, and measuring how much the block had changed in size. Then I cut the block into cubes, seasoned it, and seared the tofu in hot oil to see whether the remaining water splashed back at me while sauteing. While it cooked, I monitored whether (and how much) the cubes fell apart while cooking. And, of course, there was the final taste test to see how well the tofu absorbed the spices and whether the texture was dense or still watery. Before and after testing, I washed each press according to the package instructions to see whether any warping, rusting, or other damage occurred. I also took into consideration what materials the press was made of—whether it was built to last or sustainably made.  
What You Should Know About Buying Tofu Presses Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar Using a tofu press results in the most firm blocks for seasoning and cooking. Why Press Tofu? Tofu is a lot like a sponge; it absorbs liquid easily. Typically, blocks of it are sold in plastic containers where they sit in water, so when you remove a block from its packaging, a lot of that water has been sucked inside. A quick paper towel blot will only remove water from the exterior, rather than getting a majority of the liquid squeezed out. Without taking the time to press it, your tofu will be watery, tough to season, and will probably fall apart while cooking. In order to get the best results when you’re cooking with tofu (aside from silken tofu, which isn’t designed to be pressed), it’s best to press as much of that excess water out as possible. This way, your tofu will have a denser, crispier texture and will absorb spices and other flavors while cooking. How Long To Press Tofu Deciding how long to press your tofu all comes down to preference. Ask yourself, How firm do I want my tofu to be? and How much time am I willing to spend? Most tofu presses on the market will provide timing guidelines in their instruction manuals, which can vary depending on the build of the press. But the typical range lies somewhere between 10 and 60 minutes. Of course, you can always press tofu in advance for several hours or even overnight, as long as it’s stored safely in the fridge. (Doing this will obviously provide the firmest results—but how often do we actually think about what we’ll want to eat a day in advance?) During testing, I stuck to a 15-minute standard for all of the tofu presses but noticed that was only adequate for some of them. The best rule of thumb? Trial and error. Follow the guidelines in your press’s instructions, then do some experimenting on your own to discover the firmness level you like best. How To Store Pressed Tofu Once your tofu block has been pressed, you can either choose to store it in the refrigerator or freezer. If it’s going in the fridge, it’ll typically stay fresh for three-to-five days. Once it’s cooked, it may last even longer—up to a week—without going bad. (Just be sure to look for any mold growth, discoloration, or funky smells—common occurrences for any moist foods that have been hanging around.) Freezing tofu is another option for longer-lasting storage. Before freezing, press it as you normally would to get rid of excess moisture. Then cut the block into cubes, and place them in a freezer-safe container for up to six months. When you’re ready to eat it, simply defrost as many cubes as you’d like and get cooking. Pro tip: On top of being extra convenient, freezing tofu can sometimes even result in denser, more flavorful results. More Articles You Might Enjoy

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Whether you’re a full-on vegan or just someone who likes to occasionally eat plant-based meals, it’s likely that you’ve had your fair share of encounters with tofu in the kitchen. Incredibly versatile and rich with protein, tofu has been around for centuries in dishes around the globe. And today, it remains steadfast in its ability to upgrade anything from soups and salads to tacos and creamy sauces.

If you often cook with it at home, having a good tofu press on hand is a must. It transforms a wet, spongy block into something much firmer that’s easier to sear and absorb spices. I’ll be the first to admit that I, too, previously practiced the paper towel method, using books (or whatever heavy things I had on hand) as weights to get the water out, and subsequently making a mess on my countertop. But once I started using tofu presses—and realizing how much waste I was generating with my previous method—there was no going back.

If you’re new to the world of tofu presses and don’t know where to start, we’re here to help. We’ve rounded up some of the most popular presses out there, made of everything from BPA-free plastic to eco-friendly bamboo to see which performed best. The Noya Tofu Press (available at Amazon) is the best we’ve tested for its ease of use and quick pressing abilities. It doubles as a container for marinating and produced some of the firmest tofu during our tests.

If you’re willing to spend a little extra, we recommend the TofuXpress (available at Williams Sonoma) as our best upgrade pick. It has a no-frills structure that’s effective over time, and a clean design that’s nice enough to show off.

The Noya Tofu Press was the best press we tested.

This vibrant, BPA-free press produced some of the firmest tofu during testing, and it includes handy features that made my pressing experience as seamless as possible.

Once the tofu is placed in the removable drip tray, simply twist the silicone dial to your desired setting (the inch and centimeter measurements will help guide you to your perfect block), and wait. The excess water drips mess-free into the bottom of the container, and there’s a built-in pour spout at the top to make draining extra easy.

Once it’s ready, removing the tofu is also a cinch, thanks to the handles on the removable drip tray (which I found can also double as a cutting surface). No more plopping tofu blocks with lingering water onto your countertop, hoping they don’t break in the process. This press also comes with a marinating lid, so it can double as tupperware while your tofu soaks in your favorite sauce.

When I tested this press, I found that it was able to produce firm, dry tofu in just 15 minutes with no cracks. It was also a breeze to clean, since I was able to toss all the parts right in the dishwasher (including the spring, which is made of rust-resistant stainless steel).

And aside from helpful instructions, the Noya press also comes with a cheesecloth, which can substitute paper towels for additional drying and other tasks like DIY cheesemaking.

If you’re looking for a clever, easy-to-use press, this is a fantastic choice.

Presses tofu quickly   
  
 Easy to clean   
  
 Doubles as a storage container   
  
 None that we could find

The TofuXpress was our pick for the best upgrade.

You might be wondering why any tofu press should cost $50—especially when the structure and features are pretty straightforward. But hear us out: For those interested in investing in long-lasting, deeply effective kitchen tools, the TofuXpress is worth it. When I tested it, I found that it resulted in some seriously firm tofu after just 15 minutes. Plus, its easy-to-use structure and accompanying guidebook made it a great choice for tofu newbies and longtime lovers alike. It’s also made from FDA-approved thermoplastic and stainless steel, so it’s built to last and easy to clean.

This press only has one press setting, but set-up is minimal and it doesn’t require continuous tightening. So once you lock in the springed lid, you can leave it in the fridge for as long (or little) as you’d like. It’s also unique in that the excess water collects at the top of the container, rather than the bottom; once you’re ready to remove it, just tilt the press over the sink to drain all the water out. The container’s base also doubles as a lid that’s helpful for storing marinated tofu in the fridge.

I was only hands-on with this tofu press for a short time, but I was encouraged by several Amazon reviewers who claimed that this product has lasted them years—sometimes close to a decade—without breaking.

Quick, firm results   
  
 Built to last   
  
 Clever design   
  
 Expensive

This press has more of a traditional look, with a simple construction of two curved, BPA-free plastic plates and two stainless steel screws. It comes fully assembled in one piece, and the whole thing can easily be tossed in the dishwasher after use.

The bottom plate has a helpful outline of where to place your tofu, and the plates are slightly curved to achieve the most successfully pressed block. Be aware that this mechanism requires a bit more babysitting than other models; the instructions recommend tightening the screws evenly three-to-five times while it’s pressing for the best results. And since there’s no drip tray included, you’ll have to tip it over the sink or a bowl while the water drips out.

Although this process required a little more time and attention, the results were worth the wait. The tofu was very well pressed and came out with a dense, crispy texture after pan-frying. (Plus: it comes with a complimentary kitchen towel for sustainable drying!)

Easy to clean   
  
 Firm results   
  
 No drip tray   
  
 Requires frequent adjusting

This little box-like press comes with only three parts, which made set-up easy (even without glancing at the provided directions). The pressing process is unique in this model. Instead of using screws or a spring, there are three hooks that jut out on both sides of the container, where the tight silicone bands latch onto to create pressure. You can decide to press it on the lowest, medium, or highest pressure, depending on how firm you’d like your tofu to be.

I found that the lowest pressure option was enough to make a significant difference in just 15 minutes, with a resulting block of tofu that was firm enough to crisp. And even the highest setting didn’t create any cracks during testing. So if you’re in a pinch, this could be a great choice.

The only disadvantage to this press is the quality. As soon as I unboxed it and started to hand wash it, I noticed one of the plastic stoppers on the bottom corner fell off (and, tragically, down the drain) very quickly. One of the handles also came off the hinges a couple of times during use, but that part easily snapped back into place with a little effort.

All of this is to say: This press works very well, it just might not last you a lifetime.

Presses tofu quickly   
  
 Easy set-up   
  
 Dishwasher safe   
  
 Poor quality

I was excited to try this press, mostly because of its sleek, modern look and fully recyclable plastic makeup. It’s made up of six parts (which made clean-up a bit more challenging): A plastic knob, a sliding lid, a metal spring, two plastic plates, and the plastic container. Luckily, everything is dishwasher safe.

It technically comes with two pressure levels, but the first applies very little pressure and is meant for silken tofu (which usually doesn’t require pressing at all). During testing, I put it on the second level for 15 minutes, and it resulted in a decently firm block—but I did have to pat it dry with a paper towel afterward, since the plastic sheets that the tofu sat between seemed to collect pools of liquid. There is a pour spout built-in, but it didn’t work as well as others because the tofu doesn’t stay locked into place as it tilts. It was also difficult to remove the slippery block without accidentally breaking it apart.

I appreciated the included recipe book, though, which provided lots of appealing ideas that would be great for folks new to the tofu-cooking universe.

Produces firm tofu   
  
 Sleek look   
  
 Several parts to clean   
  
 Inefficient pressing   
  
 Tofu removal was difficult

This four-piece press is made up of a water collecting tray with two handles, a durable spring, a strainer, and lid. The tofu block is placed between the strainer and lid, and it starts pressing when the lid is snapped into place with the two handles.

There’s only one pressure setting with this press—and it’s high. I actually found it difficult to snap the lid into place since the spring is so strong. I had to press down pretty hard with one hand to get the lid shut, using the other to try to lock the second handle into place. Plus, the spring doesn’t stay attached, so it can fall out of the provided placeholder at the bottom of the tray. Once everything is locked in, though, it stays put. And the resulting block I tested was decently firm, surprisingly without any cracks from too much pressure.

I have to admit that the product itself doesn’t seem very high quality; the tray arrived with a slight bend to it that worsened slightly after a run in the dishwasher. Since the material isn’t very sturdy, this one might not last you a lifetime.

Quickly pressed firmly with no cracks   
  
 Easy set-up   
  
 Only one pressure level   
  
 Difficult to close   
  
 Somewhat poor quality

Another no-frills option, this tofu press arrives fully assembled in one piece, with two plastic plates connected by two stainless steel screws. These plates are fully straight and not curved, so you won’t be able to lean this press over your sink to drain the liquid. (I learned this the hard way after making a mess on my countertop.) Instead, you’ll have to balance it vertically over a plate or similar container, which unfortunately means another dish to wash afterward.

The instructions that came with this press were a little vague, which was especially troubling in a model like this, where guidance is needed to be sure you’re screwing the right amount of pressure without accidentally cracking the tofu. It’s also another instance that requires more attention, as you should be tightening the screws every two to four minutes to ensure the right amount of pressure is consistent to achieve results in 15 minutes or less.

Unfortunately, the resulting tofu texture wasn’t optimal, even after tightening the screws regularly as directed. It’s possible that I didn’t start at the right pressure point though, since those instructions weren’t as clear.

Arrives fully assembled   
  
 Easy to clean   
  
 Vague instructions   
  
 Watery results   
  
 No drip tray

This tofu press charmed me upon arrival, with its playful, translucent colorful look.

When it came to functionality, though, it didn’t deliver as well as the others. After screwing in the top lid (there’s only one level offered), I noticed through the clear container that the pressing plate was lopsided, pressing the tofu unevenly. I tried playing with it to even out, but struggled to readjust it and couldn’t get it perfectly straight.

Once the 15 minutes had passed, I removed the lid and noticed that the block had cracked in several places, and the texture still seemed decently wet. Sauteeing it in a pan with hot oil confirmed my suspicions, as the residual water splashed back at me several times.

Attractive look   
  
 Dishwasher safe   
  
 Lopsided pressing   
  
 Cracked the tofu block   
  
 Ineffective

I really wanted to love this eco-friendly, 100% bamboo tofu press, but its functionality disappointed me during testing. The hardware doesn’t come attached, so setting everything up felt like an Ikea home project. It took me close to 20 minutes to set it all up, and taking it apart for storage was time-consuming as well.

Once it was finally ready to press, I wasn’t sure how many times to screw the hardware due to a lack of instructions, so I ended up cracking the tofu block as a result (and somehow getting splashed with the tofu liquid in the process). Even after cracking under pressure, the tofu was not firm to my liking after 15 minutes; it broke apart several times during the cooking process and the resulting taste was watery.

As for long-term use, maintaining a wooden tofu press comes with its own set of challenges. You’ll have to be sure it dries thoroughly after each wash in order to avoid mold growth. And watch out for splinters; ToPress recommends regularly moisturizing the press with oil to retain moisture and prevent splitting.

Eco-friendly materials   
  
 Tedious set-up   
  
 Ineffective pressing   
  
 Difficult to maintain

We tested each tofu press similarly, in order to accurately rank them against each other.

Hi, I’m Monica Petrucci, Reviewed’s kitchen staff writer and a longtime lover of tofu. I used to find myself only indulging in a crispy, well-cooked tofu dish when I found it on restaurant menus, or when I could find the pre-pressed, vacuum-sealed packs of it at the store. It wasn’t until I started testing for this article that it hit me: I was intimated by the pressing process, and it was inhibiting my tofu-cooking potential.

Once I learned that tofu pressing didn’t have to involve a messy countertop and a waste of (several) paper towel sheets, the game was officially changed. I started finding plenty of recipes online and was cooking (delicious) tofu dishes several times a week.

I then realized that there are likely many other tofu lovers out there who need similar guidance on tofu pressing—the easy way.

Leaving your tofu to press over several hours in the fridge ensures freshness and firmness.

Although all of the presses on this list vary greatly in structure, materials, and functionality, I tried my best to keep these tests as similar as possible to see how they stacked up against each other.

I first took into account the physical make-up of each press: Is it easy to set up? Does it have multiple pressure levels? Is it dishwasher-safe? Is there a built-in water drainer?

Then, I tested each press’s functionality by pressing a block of extra-firm tofu for 15 minutes, checking for any cracks after pressing, and measuring how much the block had changed in size. Then I cut the block into cubes, seasoned it, and seared the tofu in hot oil to see whether the remaining water splashed back at me while sauteing. While it cooked, I monitored whether (and how much) the cubes fell apart while cooking. And, of course, there was the final taste test to see how well the tofu absorbed the spices and whether the texture was dense or still watery.

Before and after testing, I washed each press according to the package instructions to see whether any warping, rusting, or other damage occurred. I also took into consideration what materials the press was made of—whether it was built to last or sustainably made.

Using a tofu press results in the most firm blocks for seasoning and cooking.

Tofu is a lot like a sponge; it absorbs liquid easily. Typically, blocks of it are sold in plastic containers where they sit in water, so when you remove a block from its packaging, a lot of that water has been sucked inside. A quick paper towel blot will only remove water from the exterior, rather than getting a majority of the liquid squeezed out. Without taking the time to press it, your tofu will be watery, tough to season, and will probably fall apart while cooking.

In order to get the best results when you’re cooking with tofu (aside from silken tofu, which isn’t designed to be pressed), it’s best to press as much of that excess water out as possible. This way, your tofu will have a denser, crispier texture and will absorb spices and other flavors while cooking.

Deciding how long to press your tofu all comes down to preference. Ask yourself, How firm do I want my tofu to be? and How much time am I willing to spend?

Most tofu presses on the market will provide timing guidelines in their instruction manuals, which can vary depending on the build of the press. But the typical range lies somewhere between 10 and 60 minutes. Of course, you can always press tofu in advance for several hours or even overnight, as long as it’s stored safely in the fridge. (Doing this will obviously provide the firmest results—but how often do we actually think about what we’ll want to eat a day in advance?)

During testing, I stuck to a 15-minute standard for all of the tofu presses but noticed that was only adequate for some of them. The best rule of thumb? Trial and error. Follow the guidelines in your press’s instructions, then do some experimenting on your own to discover the firmness level you like best.

Once your tofu block has been pressed, you can either choose to store it in the refrigerator or freezer. If it’s going in the fridge, it’ll typically stay fresh for three-to-five days. Once it’s cooked, it may last even longer—up to a week—without going bad. (Just be sure to look for any mold growth, discoloration, or funky smells—common occurrences for any moist foods that have been hanging around.)

Freezing tofu is another option for longer-lasting storage. Before freezing, press it as you normally would to get rid of excess moisture. Then cut the block into cubes, and place them in a freezer-safe container for up to six months. When you’re ready to eat it, simply defrost as many cubes as you’d like and get cooking.

Pro tip: On top of being extra convenient, freezing tofu can sometimes even result in denser, more flavorful results.

Monica Petrucci  
   
  
  
 Senior Staff Writer, Kitchen & Cooking

Monica is Reviewed’s senior Kitchen & Cooking staff writer. A graduate of Emerson College, she’s had her work published in The Boston Globe, Culture Cheese Magazine, Modern Luxury, and more. In her spare time, you can find her making coffee, practicing yoga, or falling down a TikTok rabbit hole.

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# The Best Cordless Leaf Blowers of 2022

## The Testers

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

If you need a cordless blower to access the back corners of your yard, the Ego Power+ LB7654 is your best bet.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Kobalt KHB 3040-06 moved more leaves and debris more quickly than any other cordless blower in our testing.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 Blowing 650 cubic feet of air per minute, this is perfect for most medium to large yards and shares the intuitive design of the Ego Power+ LB7654.  
 Read More  
  
  
  
 This Ryobi model seemed under-powered compared to other corded models, but it blew well on the Turbo setting—the extra-power button.   
 Read More  
  
  
  
 The Greenworks performance was much weaker than most of the other leaf blowers; it couldn’t blow leaves, acorns, and other debris very far.   
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Updated August 3, 2022

Whether you’re dealing with lawn debris, acorns, or a never-ending torrent of falling leaves, a reliable leaf blower is a must-have for a homeowner. A great leaf blower can clean up your yard, deck, and garden areas in less time and with less effort than hand tools like rakes and brooms. We’ve spent hours testing the best leaf blowers on the market, including corded electric models, and found the Ego Power+ LB7654 (available at Amazon for $329.00) is the best cordless blower you can buy. If you hate lugging an extension cord around—or need something that can get to hard-to-reach spaces—this cordless leaf blower can help get the job done with far less fuss. For another great cordless leaf blower that has an even better price, check out the Kobalt KHB 3040-06 (available at Lowe’s), our choice for Best Value.

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We’ve put all the models here through their paces, blowing leaves, pine needles, acorns, and dust off dozens of obstacles. Our top picks do the best job of balancing power, battery life, and weight to deliver the cord-free leaf blower you’ve been looking for. Credit: Reviewed / Kevin Kavanaugh The Ego Power+ LB7654 is the best cordless leaf blower we’ve tested. Best Overall Ego Power+ LB7654 Power: If you need a cordless blower to access the back corners of your yard, the high-powered Ego Power+ LB7654 is your best bet. This blower can move 765 cubic feet of air per minute and you can feel that power as soon as you hit the Thrust button. It has an intuitive design with buttons placed where the hand naturally falls. The speed control button has a tab that makes one-handed operation easy. Most of our tests were conducted on the low setting, as it has plenty of power to accomplish a variety of yard jobs. The Thrust power button proved most effective at clearing out large, embedded piles of leaves, but that same power can also eliminate most of your mulch if you’re not careful. It’s all the power you need to take care of a large yard. Comfort: With the battery attached, the Ego LB7654 is well balanced. The motor is located in the middle of the blower and is well protected from pant legs and windbreakers. The design is streamlined and well thought out. The only drawback to its design is the size of the battery. With the battery attached, the blower weighs in at a hefty 9.6 pounds. There are hooks on the blower for a shoulder strap, but no straps were included. Carrying this blower around the yard could become a chore in itself. Noise: The Ego registered 86 decibels on the lowest setting, so it is at the upper range of noise levels for a yard tool. This machine is perfect for larger yards where there is more room between homes. Battery: At 30 minutes, the Ego LB7654 had the best run-time of the cordless blowers we tested. Pros Powerful Long run time Cons Heavy Loud $329.00 from Amazon $329.00 from Lowe’s $319.00 from Walmart

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Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar The Kobalt is a great cordless leaf blower and an excellent value.

Best Value Kobalt KHB 3040-06 Power: Formerly our top cordless pick, the Kobalt KHB 3040-06 moves leaves and debris more quickly than most other cordless blowers in our testing, blowing out an estimated 480 CFM. It also has a variable-speed trigger and a Turbo button for increasing power to dislodge stubborn wet leaves. And at a fraction of the price as our Best Overall pick, it’s a great budget buy, as well. Comfort: The Kobalt KHB 3040-06 also feels well-balanced and easy to carry, unlike other cordless models which are back-heavy due to battery weight. Noise: Close up, it sounds like a household vacuum, not a gigantic grinding machine, although it isn’t quiet. Kobalt representatives say it has a noise rating of under 65 decibels at 50 feet, which means it meets most leaf blower noise laws. Of course, it’s much noisier for the person operating it, so wear ear protection to prevent hearing loss. Battery: The one drawback to the Kobalt KHB 3040-06 is its relatively short running time. With the blower set on minimum power, the Kobalt ran for 16 minutes, 30 seconds on its lowest setting. If you’re thinking of running your blower continuously for a longer span, consider buying an extra battery. Pros Moves debris quickly Easy to carry Cons Loud Relatively short running time Buy now at Amazon $159.00 from Lowe’s $99.00 from Walmart

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Other Cordless Leaf Blowers We Tested Ego Power+ LB6504 Power: Blowing 650 cubic feet of air per minute, this is perfect for most medium to large yards and shares the intuitive design of the Ego Power+ LB7654. However, this model’s speed control button does not have a tab and we found that controlling the speed took two hands. Most of our tests were conducted on the low setting, as it has plenty of power to accomplish a variety of yard jobs. The Thrust power button proved quite capable at clearing out large, embedded piles of leaves. This model is the same size and weight of the LB7654, and we found this blower to be quite capable even with its lower CFM. Comfort: Like the LB7654, the Ego LB6504 is well balanced. The motor is located in the middle of the blower and is well-protected from pant legs and windbreakers. The Ego design is streamlined and well thought out. Like the LB7654, the only drawback to its design is the size of the battery. With the battery attached, the blower weighs in at a hefty 9.6 pounds. There are hooks on the blower for a shoulder strap, but no straps were included. Noise: The Ego registered 92 decibels on the lowest setting and was the loudest blower we tested. The added noise is one more reason to consider the more powerful and quieter LB7654. Battery: At 24 minutes, the Ego LB6504 had one of the best run-times of the cordless blowers we tested. Pros Can use around landscaping without disturbing it Decent run time Cons Heavy Very loud $249.00 from Amazon $249.00 from Lowe’s $309.00 from Walmart

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Ryobi RY40407BTLVNM Power: This Ryobi model seemed under-powered compared to corded models, despite manufacturer-advertised ratings of 550 CFM. It blew well on the Turbo mode, but it didn’t pick up and move leaves the way the Kobalt model did. Given that the battery lasted less than 20 minutes on the lowest setting, don’t count on using that Turbo setting very much unless you have a second battery ready. Comfort: This Ryobi felt heavy and awkward, thanks largely to a battery that weighs more than 3 pounds and is positioned on top of the leaf blower. It’s also designed with the fan on the back of the leaf blower, behind the handle, where it can suck in clothing. The back fan could become an annoyance or a safety hazard. Noise: The RY40407VNM Whisper model claims to be “the industry’s quietest handheld blower,” producing 59 decibels at 50 feet. It seems to achieve this lower rating via a layer of foam on the interior of the air tube. It’s quieter at a distance, but subjectively, it doesn’t seem much quieter for the operator. Battery: In our testing, the RY40407VNM’s battery lasted for 18 minutes, 20 seconds on the lowest setting. It’s not terrible, but if you have a larger yard, you’ll want to invest in a second battery. Pros Turbo mode is powerful Quiet Cons Heavy and awkward to carry Buy now at Amazon $144.99 from Walmart

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Greenworks Pro BL60L2510 Power: Although the manufacturer rates the Greenworks BL60L2510 as moving 470 CFM, its performance was much weaker than most of the other leaf blowers in our sample. It simply couldn’t blow leaves, acorns, and other debris very far or very fast. In addition, it vibrates worryingly during use. Comfort: At a little over 8 pounds, the Greenworks BL60L2510 wasn’t the lightest blower we tested, but it wasn’t the heaviest either. It was the only cordless blower in our sample that had an extra on/off switch in addition to the speed-adjustment dial, which can be either annoying or reassuring. Noise: The Greenworks BL60L2510 makes a lower-pitched noise than many other nozzles, and it is less annoying than some of the whinier models. Rated at 65 decibels, it is acceptably quiet by most municipal leaf blower sound standards. Battery: The Greenworks BL60L2510 was one of the longest-lasting in our sample, clocking 24 minutes, 40 seconds on the lowest setting. If you want to use a higher setting to blow your leaves more effectively, consider investing in an extra battery. Pros Quiet Long-lasting battery Cons Weak performance Buy now at Lowe's Buy now at Amazon $158.88 from Walmart   
  
 Ryobi RY40480VNM Power: Much like the Ryobi RY404070VNM Whisper model, the 40480VNM seemed under-powered despite an air volume measurement of 535 CFM. The main way the 40480VNM differs from the other Ryobi model is that it’s louder, producing 68 decibels of high-pitched, whiny noise at 50 feet. The Turbo setting enhanced the 40480’s performance, but not to the level of our top three models. Comfort: Both cordless Ryobi models we tested felt heavy and awkward thanks to a top-mounted battery that weighs more than 3 pounds. The battery puts a third of this blower’s weight right below the handle, and boosts the total weight to 9.4 pounds. During testing, the 40480’s rear-mounted fan sucked my clothes against the back of the blower when I held the blower in front of me. No harm was done, but depending on your clothing choices and your arm position, this back fan could be a safety hazard. Noise: The RY 40480VNM has a noise rating of 68 decibels, and produced a loud, high-pitched whine. Battery: The RY40480VNM’s battery lasted a reasonable 21 minutes, 35 seconds on the lowest setting. If you’re planning on using the Turbo setting to dislodge wet leaves or gravel, you should have a second battery ready. Pros Turbo setting enhances performance Solid battery life Cons Loud Heavy Buy now at Amazon Buy now at Home Depot   
  
 Hoover OnePWR BH57205 Power: You won’t have to worry about blowing too many leaves out of your yard with the Hoover BH57205. Although this model lists a respectable 270 CFM and had middle-of-the-road leaf-moving force in our testing, the battery lasted less than 10 minutes before dying out. Comfort: Awkward and strangely heavy for a blower that’s only 6.4 pounds, the Hoover blower is hard to carry comfortably. Fortunately, the battery is weak enough that using the Hoover over a long period really isn’t an issue. Noise: Hoover doesn’t list an official noise rating for the BH57205, but it is very loud—noticeably louder than the other models we tested. You can do better. Battery: On a fully-charged battery, the Hoover gave up the ghost at a mere 8 minutes, 45 seconds. At that rate, you’ll want to get two extra batteries, and maybe an extra charger too. Pros Adequate power Cons Weak battery life Awkward to carry Loud $215.98 from Amazon $189.99 from Wayfair $160.24 from Walmart   
  
 Litheli U1BR21103 Power: The Litheli U1BR21103 delivers 480 cubic feet of air per minute, which could work for most medium to small yards. It is a capable blower, but its poor design prevents it from being a good value or a good choice. The air intake on the Litheli is located on the back side of the blower and no matter how you position your body, the blower will find your pants leg and latch on, making a most distressing sound. This design seriously inhibits the lateral movements needed to move leaves across the yard. Comfort: The Litheli is not a comfortable blower to use. Even though the battery is small and the blower weighs in at only 7.5 pounds, most of the weight is located in the back of the blower. It lacks balance and can be awkward to use effectively. The tube of the blower extends for easier directional jobs, but it lacks attachments for any other applications. This blower would be a good choice for small, quick clean up jobs around the yard. Noise: The Litheli registered 85 decibels on the lowest setting. Battery: The Litheli had a decent run-time of the cordless blowers we tested: 14 minutes, 30 seconds. The battery is quite small, but it did deliver power for its duration. Unlike the Ego blowers, the Litheli’s battery only indicates its present charge if you depress the battery button. Pros Lightweight Extendable tube Cons Poor design Shorter run time $155.99 from Walmart

How We Tested Cordless Leaf Blowers Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar Our leaf blower testing focused on how well each worked, ease of use, battery endurance, and its power and balance. The Testers I’m Meg Muckenhoupt, a garden writer and reviewer. I’ve been wrangling with trees, branches, leaves, and gravel for more than 20 years, and along the way I co-founded a community farm and earned a certificate in field botany. I live under a canopy of oak, pine, maple, and hickory trees, and I’ve used many different techniques for managing the leaf avalanche that engulfs my yard every fall. And I’m Kevin Kavanaugh, a retired public school teacher who has always been intrigued by all things mechanical, be it watches, power equipment, vintage bicycles or classic cars. After I finished testing the best lawn mowers for Reviewed, I went to work leaf blowing to add to Meg’s previous findings. Aided by fellow lawn care enthusiast Ray Lane, I cleared leaves and other debris from my half-acre yard that’s surrounded by trees. The Tests We tested these blowers by moving piles of dry leaves across the yard and clearing the driveway and street of light debris, small sticks and sand. We further tested their power by moving large piles of leaves caught under bushes and woodpiles. We tested cordless leaf blowers’ battery endurance by running a zip-tie around their power buttons with the speed adjustment dial turned to the lowest setting, and timing how long it took for them to run out of power. Measurements varied from 8 minutes, 45 seconds for the Hoover BH57205 to 30 minutes for the Ego Power+ LB7654. We rated how heavy or unwieldy these blowers felt carrying them up and down a 100-foot slope, and whether they felt unbalanced. We also evaluated how easy it was to store them in a tight space, and tried out any special accessories they included. Overall, power and speed settings were highly correlated for these blowers: The blowers that blew leaves away the fastest also blew them across the largest area and did the best job of prying up wet leaves. How Does A Leaf Blower Work? At heart, leaf blowers are giant hair dryers without a heater, fans mounted on an engine with a tube to direct the airflow. The major differences between leaf blowers have to do with three main factors:

The power of the stream of air coming out of the tube, often measured in CFM (cubic feet per minute) How comfortable it is to carry them around How they’re powered—by gas engines, an electric cord, or a rechargeable battery

Cordless Leaf Blower Buyer’s Guide Credit: Reviewed / Jackson Ruckar We tested each cordless leaf blower to see how long the battery lasts on the lowest setting. Cordless leaf blowers are powered by gas or electricity. Gas-powered leaf blowers have several disadvantages—they’re noisy, they produce pollutants, and their maintenance can be difficult, to name a few. Electric leaf blowers, which are powered by a battery, provide more freedom than corded models but are limited by battery capacity. You can read about all of our leaf blower picks in our roundup of the best leaf blowers, but you won’t find gas-powered leaf blowers in either roundup. Among other things, many municipal laws prohibit them. Here are a few things to consider when looking for a cordless leaf blower:

CFM: When shopping for a leaf blower, look at air volume, not airspeed. Air volume (cubic feet per minute, or CFM) tells you how much air is coming out of the blower, or how big a mass of leaves you can blow away. Airspeed (miles per hour) measures how fast the air is going, which tells you how well a blower will dislodge and lift leaves.

Look at CFM to tell if a leaf blower is supposed to clear your entire yard (at least 400 CFM) or just your deck (under 300 CFM). Airspeed is much less important to general performance.

Decibels: Leaf blower noise ratings show how loud the blowers are to someone standing 50 feet away. There are two numbers you should remember: 65 decibels (dB), which is the maximum allowable noise rating for leaf blowers in some municipalities; and 80 dB, the level where hearing loss can occur after extended exposure (two hours or more). Battery: Most battery-powered leaf blowers will only run 15 to 20 minutes under typical conditions, and recharging times can vary depending on the surrounding temperature, how much the battery has run down, and how old the battery is. If you’re choosing a cordless model, check how much an extra battery costs.

Though a powerful leaf blower will make quicker work of your lawn than a weaker one, if your lawn is covered in leaves you likely can’t clear it in less than a half hour. In almost all cases, i we recommend having an external charger and battery, to go with your cordless leaf blower, so consider a model that includes one, or that matches other battery-powered tools you already have. Judging by product listing and reviewers’ comments, most rechargeable leaf blower batteries will take somewhere from 60 to 90 minutes to recharge, so if you just have a single battery you could turn a quick 30-minute job into a 4-hour waiting game. More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best String Trimmers The Best Rakes 10 essential tools to make yardwork easier this fall 15 lawn care mistakes you’re probably making

Whether you’re dealing with lawn debris, acorns, or a never-ending torrent of falling leaves, a reliable leaf blower is a must-have for a homeowner. A great leaf blower can clean up your yard, deck, and garden areas in less time and with less effort than hand tools like rakes and brooms.

We’ve spent hours testing the best leaf blowers on the market, including corded electric models, and found the Ego Power+ LB7654 (available at Amazon for $329.00) is the best cordless blower you can buy. If you hate lugging an extension cord around—or need something that can get to hard-to-reach spaces—this cordless leaf blower can help get the job done with far less fuss.

For another great cordless leaf blower that has an even better price, check out the Kobalt KHB 3040-06 (available at Lowe’s), our choice for Best Value.

We’ve put all the models here through their paces, blowing leaves, pine needles, acorns, and dust off dozens of obstacles. Our top picks do the best job of balancing power, battery life, and weight to deliver the cord-free leaf blower you’ve been looking for.

The Ego Power+ LB7654 is the best cordless leaf blower we’ve tested.

Power: If you need a cordless blower to access the back corners of your yard, the high-powered Ego Power+ LB7654 is your best bet. This blower can move 765 cubic feet of air per minute and you can feel that power as soon as you hit the Thrust button.

It has an intuitive design with buttons placed where the hand naturally falls. The speed control button has a tab that makes one-handed operation easy. Most of our tests were conducted on the low setting, as it has plenty of power to accomplish a variety of yard jobs.

The Thrust power button proved most effective at clearing out large, embedded piles of leaves, but that same power can also eliminate most of your mulch if you’re not careful. It’s all the power you need to take care of a large yard.

Comfort: With the battery attached, the Ego LB7654 is well balanced. The motor is located in the middle of the blower and is well protected from pant legs and windbreakers. The design is streamlined and well thought out.

The only drawback to its design is the size of the battery. With the battery attached, the blower weighs in at a hefty 9.6 pounds. There are hooks on the blower for a shoulder strap, but no straps were included. Carrying this blower around the yard could become a chore in itself.

Noise: The Ego registered 86 decibels on the lowest setting, so it is at the upper range of noise levels for a yard tool. This machine is perfect for larger yards where there is more room between homes.

Battery: At 30 minutes, the Ego LB7654 had the best run-time of the cordless blowers we tested.

Powerful   
  
 Long run time   
  
 Heavy   
  
 Loud

The Kobalt is a great cordless leaf blower and an excellent value.

Power: Formerly our top cordless pick, the Kobalt KHB 3040-06 moves leaves and debris more quickly than most other cordless blowers in our testing, blowing out an estimated 480 CFM. It also has a variable-speed trigger and a Turbo button for increasing power to dislodge stubborn wet leaves. And at a fraction of the price as our Best Overall pick, it’s a great budget buy, as well.

Comfort: The Kobalt KHB 3040-06 also feels well-balanced and easy to carry, unlike other cordless models which are back-heavy due to battery weight.

Noise: Close up, it sounds like a household vacuum, not a gigantic grinding machine, although it isn’t quiet. Kobalt representatives say it has a noise rating of under 65 decibels at 50 feet, which means it meets most leaf blower noise laws. Of course, it’s much noisier for the person operating it, so wear ear protection to prevent hearing loss.

Battery: The one drawback to the Kobalt KHB 3040-06 is its relatively short running time. With the blower set on minimum power, the Kobalt ran for 16 minutes, 30 seconds on its lowest setting. If you’re thinking of running your blower continuously for a longer span, consider buying an extra battery.

Moves debris quickly   
  
 Easy to carry   
  
 Loud   
  
 Relatively short running time

Power: Blowing 650 cubic feet of air per minute, this is perfect for most medium to large yards and shares the intuitive design of the Ego Power+ LB7654. However, this model’s speed control button does not have a tab and we found that controlling the speed took two hands.

Most of our tests were conducted on the low setting, as it has plenty of power to accomplish a variety of yard jobs. The Thrust power button proved quite capable at clearing out large, embedded piles of leaves. This model is the same size and weight of the LB7654, and we found this blower to be quite capable even with its lower CFM.

Comfort: Like the LB7654, the Ego LB6504 is well balanced. The motor is located in the middle of the blower and is well-protected from pant legs and windbreakers. The Ego design is streamlined and well thought out.

Like the LB7654, the only drawback to its design is the size of the battery. With the battery attached, the blower weighs in at a hefty 9.6 pounds. There are hooks on the blower for a shoulder strap, but no straps were included.

Noise: The Ego registered 92 decibels on the lowest setting and was the loudest blower we tested. The added noise is one more reason to consider the more powerful and quieter LB7654.

Battery: At 24 minutes, the Ego LB6504 had one of the best run-times of the cordless blowers we tested.

Can use around landscaping without disturbing it   
  
 Decent run time   
  
 Heavy   
  
 Very loud

Power: This Ryobi model seemed under-powered compared to corded models, despite manufacturer-advertised ratings of 550 CFM. It blew well on the Turbo mode, but it didn’t pick up and move leaves the way the Kobalt model did.

Given that the battery lasted less than 20 minutes on the lowest setting, don’t count on using that Turbo setting very much unless you have a second battery ready.

Comfort: This Ryobi felt heavy and awkward, thanks largely to a battery that weighs more than 3 pounds and is positioned on top of the leaf blower.

It’s also designed with the fan on the back of the leaf blower, behind the handle, where it can suck in clothing. The back fan could become an annoyance or a safety hazard.

Noise: The RY40407VNM Whisper model claims to be “the industry’s quietest handheld blower,” producing 59 decibels at 50 feet. It seems to achieve this lower rating via a layer of foam on the interior of the air tube. It’s quieter at a distance, but subjectively, it doesn’t seem much quieter for the operator.

Battery: In our testing, the RY40407VNM’s battery lasted for 18 minutes, 20 seconds on the lowest setting. It’s not terrible, but if you have a larger yard, you’ll want to invest in a second battery.

Turbo mode is powerful   
  
 Quiet   
  
 Heavy and awkward to carry

Power: Although the manufacturer rates the Greenworks BL60L2510 as moving 470 CFM, its performance was much weaker than most of the other leaf blowers in our sample. It simply couldn’t blow leaves, acorns, and other debris very far or very fast. In addition, it vibrates worryingly during use.

Comfort: At a little over 8 pounds, the Greenworks BL60L2510 wasn’t the lightest blower we tested, but it wasn’t the heaviest either. It was the only cordless blower in our sample that had an extra on/off switch in addition to the speed-adjustment dial, which can be either annoying or reassuring.

Noise: The Greenworks BL60L2510 makes a lower-pitched noise than many other nozzles, and it is less annoying than some of the whinier models. Rated at 65 decibels, it is acceptably quiet by most municipal leaf blower sound standards.

Battery: The Greenworks BL60L2510 was one of the longest-lasting in our sample, clocking 24 minutes, 40 seconds on the lowest setting. If you want to use a higher setting to blow your leaves more effectively, consider investing in an extra battery.

Quiet   
  
 Long-lasting battery   
  
 Weak performance

Power: Much like the Ryobi RY404070VNM Whisper model, the 40480VNM seemed under-powered despite an air volume measurement of 535 CFM. The main way the 40480VNM differs from the other Ryobi model is that it’s louder, producing 68 decibels of high-pitched, whiny noise at 50 feet. The Turbo setting enhanced the 40480’s performance, but not to the level of our top three models.

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During testing, the 40480’s rear-mounted fan sucked my clothes against the back of the blower when I held the blower in front of me. No harm was done, but depending on your clothing choices and your arm position, this back fan could be a safety hazard.

Noise: The RY 40480VNM has a noise rating of 68 decibels, and produced a loud, high-pitched whine.

Battery: The RY40480VNM’s battery lasted a reasonable 21 minutes, 35 seconds on the lowest setting. If you’re planning on using the Turbo setting to dislodge wet leaves or gravel, you should have a second battery ready.

Turbo setting enhances performance   
  
 Solid battery life   
  
 Loud   
  
 Heavy

Power: You won’t have to worry about blowing too many leaves out of your yard with the Hoover BH57205. Although this model lists a respectable 270 CFM and had middle-of-the-road leaf-moving force in our testing, the battery lasted less than 10 minutes before dying out.

Comfort: Awkward and strangely heavy for a blower that’s only 6.4 pounds, the Hoover blower is hard to carry comfortably. Fortunately, the battery is weak enough that using the Hoover over a long period really isn’t an issue.

Noise: Hoover doesn’t list an official noise rating for the BH57205, but it is very loud—noticeably louder than the other models we tested. You can do better.

Battery: On a fully-charged battery, the Hoover gave up the ghost at a mere 8 minutes, 45 seconds. At that rate, you’ll want to get two extra batteries, and maybe an extra charger too.

Adequate power   
  
 Weak battery life   
  
 Awkward to carry   
  
 Loud

Power: The Litheli U1BR21103 delivers 480 cubic feet of air per minute, which could work for most medium to small yards. It is a capable blower, but its poor design prevents it from being a good value or a good choice.

The air intake on the Litheli is located on the back side of the blower and no matter how you position your body, the blower will find your pants leg and latch on, making a most distressing sound. This design seriously inhibits the lateral movements needed to move leaves across the yard.

Comfort: The Litheli is not a comfortable blower to use. Even though the battery is small and the blower weighs in at only 7.5 pounds, most of the weight is located in the back of the blower. It lacks balance and can be awkward to use effectively.

The tube of the blower extends for easier directional jobs, but it lacks attachments for any other applications. This blower would be a good choice for small, quick clean up jobs around the yard.

Noise: The Litheli registered 85 decibels on the lowest setting.

Battery: The Litheli had a decent run-time of the cordless blowers we tested: 14 minutes, 30 seconds. The battery is quite small, but it did deliver power for its duration. Unlike the Ego blowers, the Litheli’s battery only indicates its present charge if you depress the battery button.

Lightweight   
  
 Extendable tube   
  
 Poor design   
  
 Shorter run time

Our leaf blower testing focused on how well each worked, ease of use, battery endurance, and its power and balance.

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TJ Donegan  
   
  
  
 Executive Editor

TJ is the Executive Editor of Reviewed.com. He is a Massachusetts native and has covered electronics, cameras, TVs, smartphones, parenting, and more for Reviewed. He is from the self-styled “Cranberry Capitol of the World,” which is, in fact, a real thing.

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Meg Muckenhoupt  
   
  
  
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Meg Muckenhoupt is an environmental and travel writer. Her book Boston Gardens and Green Spaces (Union Park Press, 2010) is a Boston Globe Local Bestseller. Meg was awarded a certificate in Field Botany by the New England Wild Flower Society and earned degrees from Harvard and Brown University.

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# The Best Tax Software of 2022

## The Tester

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Choose from plenty of easy-to-use products, though you'll need a different tax software if you want to use the IRS Free File program.  
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 It's simple to track your progress. Heads-up: The free version doesn't include state returns.  
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 The platform offers an easy-to-navigate experience, but with fewer bells and whistles compared to its competitors.  
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Updated July 20, 2022

Taxes can be complicated. And with so many changes to federal taxes over the last two years, a tax software that can handle your individual scenario is as important as ever. Luckily, major online providers are on top of updated income brackets and COVID-19 relief programs to help you navigate your 2021 returns. (They can even help you organize tax documents.) You may qualify for free tax filing with some software options, though the level you need depends on your financial details and what each company includes with each level of support. We’ve walked fictional personas through the online filing process of four tax software programs. In our experience, TurboTax (available at Intuit) is easy to use whether you’re new to filing taxes or you’ve done it time and time again.

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Use these hypothetical scenarios to gauge the best option for your specific situation. We looked at topics like special tax credits and deductions for children dependents, self-employment income, student loans, and retirement income. Here is the best tax software we tested, ranked in order:

TurboTax H&R Block TaxAct TaxSlayer

This review is an evaluation of the consumer experience using various online tax prep services. We’re here to share what we learned, but this is in no way a substitute for financial advice. Please consult a financial professional if you have questions about how to file your taxes. Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby TurboTax is easy to navigate no matter your tax situation.

Best Overall Intuit TurboTax TurboTax is a standout among its competitors, especially when it comes to importing information to avoid manual entry. You can upload a PDF of previous year’s taxes to avoid re-entering your personal details. You can also take photos of forms, such as your W-2, to import each line, as well as directly connect to a number of financial institutions for some details, like IRA withdrawals. Saving time makes the process less of a hassle. Beyond that, TurboTax makes the process extremely simple and straightforward, whether it’s your first time submitting taxes on your own or you’re a seasoned pro. Cost: TurboTax’s free version covers simple returns for federal and state taxes. It includes the 1040 form and allows for some credits, including the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit. There’s a couple of changes filers may notice from 2020: The Free Edition now covers student loan interest, though it no longer supports unemployment income. One important note: This unpaid tier is different from the IRS Free File Program, which offersed free software to filers earnings $73,000 or less. TurboTax exited that program this year. There are also multiple paid versions that allow you to access more credits, deductions, and income sources. These prices range from $59 to $119, plus $49 per state return. Customer support and guarantees: The TurboTax Free edition features a searchable FAQ sidebar, but you’ll need to upgrade to a paid version if you want live, personal support. No matter the tier, the program comes with a 100% accurate calculation guarantee: If you owe the IRS or your state penalty or interest because of a TurboTax calculation, it’ll pay you back for the fees and accrued interest. There’s some important details in the fine print, including following “the in-product TurboTax interview guidance” and notifying the company as soon as you learn of the error. How did TurboTax adapt to our personas? Two out of four of our fictional personas fully maximized their taxes using TurboTax’s free edition. Devon Developer was able to deduct student loan interest from his income, which is a new feature to the Free edition this year. Additionally, Ricky Retiree could quickly import his IRA distributions directly from his financial institution. Vanessa and Shawn Dotington were prompted to upgrade to the Deluxe version to claim their child care expenses. Franny Freelancer needed to upgrade to the Self-employed version to maximize her business deductions, including advertising, legal services, and home office expenses. Pros Intuitive for tax novices Options, options, options Comprehensive customer guarantees Cons Exited the IRS Free File program Free version doesn’t include unemployment income Buy now at Intuit Buy now at Amazon

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How We Tested Tax Software The Tester I’m Lauren Ward, a finance writer with nearly a decade of experience covering personal finance, taxes, and other topics on the best ways to manage money. Plus, I’ve handled my own family’s taxes for years, using both online tax software and CPAs, depending on the level of effort I feel like giving from year to year! I’ve handled things like W-2s, self-employment income, and rental property income, giving me a solid foundation for testing multiple tax personas on the most popular tax preparation software out there.  
The Tests Cost is definitely a factor in tax software, but it’s not the only thing to consider when choosing the right one. It’s equally important to have access to all of the credits, deductions, and income reporting you need to maximize that tax refund (or minimize your final bill). We tested four online tax filing software programs for the 2021 tax year: TurboTax, H&R Block, TaxAct, and TaxSlayer. Each performs a little bit differently and has its own pricing structure for various upgrades. We evaluated multiple features, including:

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User experience: How easy is it to navigate the software? Do answers save easily and is there the capability to import information rather than having to enter it manually? Customer support and guarantees: Is it easy to get answers to your tax questions? And how does the software guarantee its results? Adaptability: How detailed can certain types of tax filers get before being prompted to upgrade to a paid version?

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Our Fictional Tax Filers We created four hypothetical tax filers to determine how well each software performs for common tax scenarios.

Devon Developer is a single, recent college graduate earning an average starting salary of $55,000 as an app developer. He has $37,000 in federal student loan debt, but his payments have been deferred since 2020. He also has some private student loan debt, which allows him to deduct interest from his taxable income. Through his employer, Devon has health insurance and a retirement plan, contributing 3% of his salary to a 401(k). Vanessa and Shawn Dotington have two young children. Their son goes to daycare and their daughter who’s in elementary school goes to summer camp while her parents work. Vanessa is a sales manager who earns $85,000 a year while Shawn is a seasoned teacher earning $60,000. They’ve paid off their student loans but have a mortgage. Ricky Retiree is single and fully retired. He turned 72 last year and started taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) on his traditional IRA and 401(k). He’s enrolled in Medicare and receives Social Security benefits. Franny Freelancer is a social media manager working as an independent contractor. Her business operates as a sole proprietorship. Franny gets her health insurance through the marketplace. She is single with no children and doesn’t have a mortgage or student loans.

What to Know About Filing Your Taxes Online What documents do you need to file your taxes online? The “bare minimum” most people need, according to Amy Northard, a CPA and owner of The Accountants For Creatives, are things like W-2s, 1098s, 1099s, and health insurance 1095 forms. You should receive these in your mailbox by late January, although Northard says two forms often don’t get mailed out: student loan interest forms and brokerage account 1099 statements. (The good news: You’ll likely find these by logging into your online accounts.) If that all looks like a jumble of numbers to you, here’s a basic breakdown of these common tax forms:

W-2: Your employer uses this form to report your wages and various taxes withheld from your paycheck throughout the year, and also notes things like your retirement contributions and tips. It mails you and the IRS copies to determine whether you owe additional taxes or should receive a refund. 1095: As a health insurance holder, you’ll receive one (or more) of three forms. These detail the type and length of coverage you received under the plan. 1098: There are a handful of 1098 forms, but the most common involve interest lenders received from loan payments. Specifically, be on the lookout for these if you’ve got student loans or a mortgage. You can also expect a 1098 if you paid college tuition bills during 2021. 1099: There are more than a dozen types of 1099s. Essentially, these account for any income you earned that did not come from your employer. For example, if you worked as a freelancer or independent contractor, you may receive a 1099-NEC from clients. Anyone who received state unemployment benefits can expect a 1099-G to arrive in their mailbox. Money received from pensions, IRAs, and life insurance policies also falls under this category.

Other Tax Software We Tested H&R Block H&R Block is another user-friendly experience with lots of options for importing data rather than entering it manually. Compared to TurboTax, its biggest downside is that it’s difficult to skip around. You must complete one section (such as income) before moving onto the next section (such as credits). If you tend to have all your tax documents on hand before getting started, this won’t be an issue. But if you prefer to plug in details over a couple of sessions, we’d recommend another platform. On the plus side, its free version includes both W-2 income and unemployment, as well as state tax filing. Students can also use this version to file their taxes. It does include the Child Tax Credit, but you’ll need to upgrade to Deluxe if you want to access features like itemizing deductions, deducting HSA contributions, or claiming child care expenses. There are other options as well: Basic covers single or married filers, including those with children. Deluxe includes extra deductions as well as investment income. Premium is required if you’ve earned income from rental property income or 1099s from self-employment and the Premium + Business version is required for business owners. Cost: The upgraded H&R Block versions range between $29.95 and $109.99 for federal taxes. There’s an additional fee of $36.99 for filing state taxes. Customer support and guarantees: In addition to searchable online support, you can upgrade to have a tax professional work on your tax return on your behalf, either virtually or in person. This service starts at $80 for federal taxes. Paid online versions offer live phone or chat support. H&R Block also offers an accuracy guarantee, which covers up to $10,000 of any IRS penalties and interest that resulted from a software error. How did H&R Block adapt to our personas? Devon could complete his return, including his student loan interest deduction, with the free version. Ricky Retiree was able to import his retirement income for free just as he did with TurboTax. The Dotingtons had to upgrade to the Deluxe version to deduct their child care expenses. And similarly, Franny Freelancer needed to upgrade to report her self-employment income and deductions. Pros Sleek interface Tax professionals can file on your behalf Free version includes unemployment income Cons Difficult to skip around Doesn’t participate in the IRS Free File program Buy now at H&R Block

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TaxAct TaxAct’s free software is designed for simple filers (including those with dependents), college students, retirees, and individuals with unemployment income. However, its free tier does not include state tax returns; you’ll need to pay $39.95. TaxAct is on par with some of the bigger names when it comes to importing data from other tax software. You can import previous years’ information from platforms like TurboTax and H&R Block to get a head start. However, TaxAct lacks the ability to connect directly with financial institutions for things such as retirement distributions. Again, this isn't a deal breaker, especially if you prefer to manually enter your information or simply don’t like the idea of a third party connecting to your financial accounts. TaxAct has three upgrades: Deluxe (which adds more tax credit and deduction opportunities), Premier (which includes home sales, investments, and rental property income), and Self Employed (which allows for business income and deductions). Cost: TaxAct’s lower prices may catch your attention, but they’re worth a second glance. While the unpaid version is marketed as “free,” that only applies to federal returns. You’ll need to pay a $39.95 fee to file state taxes. The other three plans cost $24.95, $34.95, and $64.95, respectively. From there, you’ll pay $44.95 per state return. Customer support and guarantees: TaxAct stands out in that all versions now include XpertAssist, although this may not be a permanent promotion. The service gives you live access to a tax expert (“a certified public accountant, an IRS credentialed enrolled agent, an attorney, or another tax specialist”) who will answer your questions. Standard times are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday. But at the end of January, TaxAct announced that XpertAssist will be available seven days a week during tax season, although it said availability may be limited. Additionally, TaxAct has one of the larger accuracy guarantees, which covers up to $100,000 of IRS penalties and interest (H&R Block, for instance, offers up to $10,000 reimbursement). Of course, terms and conditions apply. How did TaxAct adapt to our personas? Ricky Retiree is the only one of our fictional filers who could complete his federal tax return with the free edition of TaxAct. (Again, he’d still have to shell out to file his state return.) Devon Developer had to upgrade to Deluxe to enter his student loan interest, as did the Dotington family to enter their mortgage interest and child care expenses. Franny Freelance needed the Self Employed version to enter her business details. Pros Straightforward navigation Notable accuracy guarantee Cons Limited free forms Free tier doesn't include state returns Buy now at TaxAct

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TaxSlayer You can file a basic 1040 for both federal and state taxes with TaxSlayer at no cost. And if you previously used other software, you can upload a PDF and the system will transfer the information for you. However, TaxSlayer falls short compared to the others in its limited ability to import data. The software has a good user experience for both first-timers and more seasoned tax filers. It can guide you through all of the potential forms, or you can choose Quick File to select the form you already know you need. There’s also an easy walk-through section of COVID-relief programs. If you need an upgrade, there are several options. The Classic version expands access to all credits and deductions. Premium adds extra support, including skip-the-line service for phone and email questions, plus live chat. The Self-Employed program includes business income and expenses. Cost: The Classic plan costs $17.95, Premium costs $37.95, and Self-Employed will set you back $47.95. These prices only reflect the cost of filing your federal tax return. State returns add $36.95 to your total. Customer support and guarantees: Notably, the free version includes phone and email support, but you may need to wait for a response. Live chat is available at the Premium level and above. TaxSlayer also offers a 100% accuracy guarantee and will reimburse any IRS penalty and interest that is due to software errors. The company doesn’t specify a maximum amount. How did TaxSlayer adapt to our personas? The Simply Free edition was ideal for Devon Developer because it includes student loan interest. Ricky Retiree was also able to file using the free version, but had to manually input his retirement income. Vanessa and Shawn Dotington upgraded to Classic to claim their child tax credit and Franny Freelancer, of course, was prompted to upgrade to Self-Employed. Pros Walks tax newbies through forms Unpaid tier includes phone and email support Cons Fewer bells and whistles Cannot directly import details such as retirement distributions Buy now at TaxSlayer

When to Hire a CPA or Tax Pro You should strongly consider hiring a CPA or tax professional in certain situations, especially if you expect to owe taxes. Here are some scenarios in which you may want to outsource your taxes to ensure accurate filing—and piece of mind.

You sold stocks, securities, or bonds: Whenever you sell one of these assets, the IRS considers it a capital asset transaction. The tax rate is different for these types of transactions, and it can be complicated to correctly combine it with your main source of income.  
You’re claiming multiple or shared dependents: Dependents can make taxes complicated (especially with the Child Tax Credit). Unfortunately, it gets even more complicated if there’s a divorce. Even if you provide financial support to someone, that doesn’t necessarily mean you can claim them on your taxes. You want to itemize instead of taking the standard deduction: If you spent more money on deductible expenses than the standard deduction allows, you’ll want to itemize your deductions. It sounds simple, but it can be a lot of paperwork. You own complex investments: Cryptocurrency is now subject to the capital gains tax if you sell it within a given tax year. If you’re not careful, you could pay more than necessary or under-report if you’re not careful. You’re self-employed and want to maximize your deductions: Anyone who is self-employed (meaning business owners, freelancers, and consultants) has to pay self-employment taxes. This is hard enough as it is, and it’s far too easy to pay too much if you don’t know about all of the write-offs and deductions you should be taking advantage of. You’ve sold a major asset, like a large investment or a home: Selling a major asset changes how you pay taxes that year. For instance, you may have to pay capital gains tax. A CPA can help you determine what type tax you’ll need to pay, as well as any deductions you may be able to take to help offset everything.

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Taxes can be complicated. And with so many changes to federal taxes over the last two years, a tax software that can handle your individual scenario is as important as ever. Luckily, major online providers are on top of updated income brackets and COVID-19 relief programs to help you navigate your 2021 returns. (They can even help you organize tax documents.)

You may qualify for free tax filing with some software options, though the level you need depends on your financial details and what each company includes with each level of support.

We’ve walked fictional personas through the online filing process of four tax software programs. In our experience, TurboTax (available at Intuit) is easy to use whether you’re new to filing taxes or you’ve done it time and time again.

Use these hypothetical scenarios to gauge the best option for your specific situation. We looked at topics like special tax credits and deductions for children dependents, self-employment income, student loans, and retirement income.

Here is the best tax software we tested, ranked in order:

This review is an evaluation of the consumer experience using various online tax prep services. We’re here to share what we learned, but this is in no way a substitute for financial advice. Please consult a financial professional if you have questions about how to file your taxes. Credit: Reviewed / Tara Jacoby TurboTax is easy to navigate no matter your tax situation.

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TurboTax is a standout among its competitors, especially when it comes to importing information to avoid manual entry. You can upload a PDF of previous year’s taxes to avoid re-entering your personal details. You can also take photos of forms, such as your W-2, to import each line, as well as directly connect to a number of financial institutions for some details, like IRA withdrawals. Saving time makes the process less of a hassle.

Beyond that, TurboTax makes the process extremely simple and straightforward, whether it’s your first time submitting taxes on your own or you’re a seasoned pro.

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Intuitive for tax novices   
  
 Options, options, options   
  
 Comprehensive customer guarantees   
  
 Exited the IRS Free File program   
  
 Free version doesn't include unemployment income

I’m Lauren Ward, a finance writer with nearly a decade of experience covering personal finance, taxes, and other topics on the best ways to manage money. Plus, I’ve handled my own family’s taxes for years, using both online tax software and CPAs, depending on the level of effort I feel like giving from year to year! I’ve handled things like W-2s, self-employment income, and rental property income, giving me a solid foundation for testing multiple tax personas on the most popular tax preparation software out there.

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User experience: How easy is it to navigate the software? Do answers save easily and is there the capability to import information rather than having to enter it manually?

Customer support and guarantees: Is it easy to get answers to your tax questions? And how does the software guarantee its results?

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Franny Freelancer is a social media manager working as an independent contractor. Her business operates as a sole proprietorship. Franny gets her health insurance through the marketplace. She is single with no children and doesn’t have a mortgage or student loans.

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W-2: Your employer uses this form to report your wages and various taxes withheld from your paycheck throughout the year, and also notes things like your retirement contributions and tips. It mails you and the IRS copies to determine whether you owe additional taxes or should receive a refund.

1095: As a health insurance holder, you’ll receive one (or more) of three forms. These detail the type and length of coverage you received under the plan.

1098: There are a handful of 1098 forms, but the most common involve interest lenders received from loan payments. Specifically, be on the lookout for these if you’ve got student loans or a mortgage. You can also expect a 1098 if you paid college tuition bills during 2021.

1099: There are more than a dozen types of 1099s. Essentially, these account for any income you earned that did not come from your employer. For example, if you worked as a freelancer or independent contractor, you may receive a 1099-NEC from clients. Anyone who received state unemployment benefits can expect a 1099-G to arrive in their mailbox. Money received from pensions, IRAs, and life insurance policies also falls under this category.

H&R Block is another user-friendly experience with lots of options for importing data rather than entering it manually. Compared to TurboTax, its biggest downside is that it’s difficult to skip around. You must complete one section (such as income) before moving onto the next section (such as credits). If you tend to have all your tax documents on hand before getting started, this won’t be an issue. But if you prefer to plug in details over a couple of sessions, we’d recommend another platform.

On the plus side, its free version includes both W-2 income and unemployment, as well as state tax filing. Students can also use this version to file their taxes. It does include the Child Tax Credit, but you’ll need to upgrade to Deluxe if you want to access features like itemizing deductions, deducting HSA contributions, or claiming child care expenses.

There are other options as well: Basic covers single or married filers, including those with children. Deluxe includes extra deductions as well as investment income. Premium is required if you’ve earned income from rental property income or 1099s from self-employment and the Premium + Business version is required for business owners.

Cost: The upgraded H&R Block versions range between $29.95 and $109.99 for federal taxes. There’s an additional fee of $36.99 for filing state taxes.

Customer support and guarantees: In addition to searchable online support, you can upgrade to have a tax professional work on your tax return on your behalf, either virtually or in person. This service starts at $80 for federal taxes. Paid online versions offer live phone or chat support. H&R Block also offers an accuracy guarantee, which covers up to $10,000 of any IRS penalties and interest that resulted from a software error.

How did H&R Block adapt to our personas? Devon could complete his return, including his student loan interest deduction, with the free version. Ricky Retiree was able to import his retirement income for free just as he did with TurboTax. The Dotingtons had to upgrade to the Deluxe version to deduct their child care expenses. And similarly, Franny Freelancer needed to upgrade to report her self-employment income and deductions.

Sleek interface   
  
 Tax professionals can file on your behalf   
  
 Free version includes unemployment income   
  
 Difficult to skip around   
  
 Doesn't participate in the IRS Free File program

TaxAct’s free software is designed for simple filers (including those with dependents), college students, retirees, and individuals with unemployment income. However, its free tier does not include state tax returns; you’ll need to pay $39.95.

TaxAct is on par with some of the bigger names when it comes to importing data from other tax software. You can import previous years’ information from platforms like TurboTax and H&R Block to get a head start. However, TaxAct lacks the ability to connect directly with financial institutions for things such as retirement distributions. Again, this isn’t a deal breaker, especially if you prefer to manually enter your information or simply don’t like the idea of a third party connecting to your financial accounts.

TaxAct has three upgrades: Deluxe (which adds more tax credit and deduction opportunities), Premier (which includes home sales, investments, and rental property income), and Self Employed (which allows for business income and deductions).

Cost: TaxAct’s lower prices may catch your attention, but they’re worth a second glance. While the unpaid version is marketed as “free,” that only applies to federal returns. You’ll need to pay a $39.95 fee to file state taxes. The other three plans cost $24.95, $34.95, and $64.95, respectively. From there, you’ll pay $44.95 per state return.

Customer support and guarantees: TaxAct stands out in that all versions now include XpertAssist, although this may not be a permanent promotion. The service gives you live access to a tax expert (“a certified public accountant, an IRS credentialed enrolled agent, an attorney, or another tax specialist”) who will answer your questions. Standard times are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday. But at the end of January, TaxAct announced that XpertAssist will be available seven days a week during tax season, although it said availability may be limited.

Additionally, TaxAct has one of the larger accuracy guarantees, which covers up to $100,000 of IRS penalties and interest (H&R Block, for instance, offers up to $10,000 reimbursement). Of course, terms and conditions apply.

How did TaxAct adapt to our personas? Ricky Retiree is the only one of our fictional filers who could complete his federal tax return with the free edition of TaxAct. (Again, he’d still have to shell out to file his state return.) Devon Developer had to upgrade to Deluxe to enter his student loan interest, as did the Dotington family to enter their mortgage interest and child care expenses. Franny Freelance needed the Self Employed version to enter her business details.

Straightforward navigation   
  
 Notable accuracy guarantee   
  
 Limited free forms   
  
 Free tier doesn't include state returns

You can file a basic 1040 for both federal and state taxes with TaxSlayer at no cost. And if you previously used other software, you can upload a PDF and the system will transfer the information for you. However, TaxSlayer falls short compared to the others in its limited ability to import data.

The software has a good user experience for both first-timers and more seasoned tax filers. It can guide you through all of the potential forms, or you can choose Quick File to select the form you already know you need. There’s also an easy walk-through section of COVID-relief programs.

If you need an upgrade, there are several options. The Classic version expands access to all credits and deductions. Premium adds extra support, including skip-the-line service for phone and email questions, plus live chat. The Self-Employed program includes business income and expenses.

Cost: The Classic plan costs $17.95, Premium costs $37.95, and Self-Employed will set you back $47.95. These prices only reflect the cost of filing your federal tax return. State returns add $36.95 to your total.

Customer support and guarantees: Notably, the free version includes phone and email support, but you may need to wait for a response. Live chat is available at the Premium level and above. TaxSlayer also offers a 100% accuracy guarantee and will reimburse any IRS penalty and interest that is due to software errors. The company doesn’t specify a maximum amount.

How did TaxSlayer adapt to our personas? The Simply Free edition was ideal for Devon Developer because it includes student loan interest. Ricky Retiree was also able to file using the free version, but had to manually input his retirement income. Vanessa and Shawn Dotington upgraded to Classic to claim their child tax credit and Franny Freelancer, of course, was prompted to upgrade to Self-Employed.

Walks tax newbies through forms   
  
 Unpaid tier includes phone and email support   
  
 Fewer bells and whistles   
  
 Cannot directly import details such as retirement distributions

You should strongly consider hiring a CPA or tax professional in certain situations, especially if you expect to owe taxes. Here are some scenarios in which you may want to outsource your taxes to ensure accurate filing—and piece of mind.

You sold stocks, securities, or bonds: Whenever you sell one of these assets, the IRS considers it a capital asset transaction. The tax rate is different for these types of transactions, and it can be complicated to correctly combine it with your main source of income.

You’re claiming multiple or shared dependents: Dependents can make taxes complicated (especially with the Child Tax Credit). Unfortunately, it gets even more complicated if there’s a divorce. Even if you provide financial support to someone, that doesn’t necessarily mean you can claim them on your taxes.

You want to itemize instead of taking the standard deduction: If you spent more money on deductible expenses than the standard deduction allows, you’ll want to itemize your deductions. It sounds simple, but it can be a lot of paperwork.

You own complex investments: Cryptocurrency is now subject to the capital gains tax if you sell it within a given tax year. If you’re not careful, you could pay more than necessary or under-report if you’re not careful.

You’re self-employed and want to maximize your deductions: Anyone who is self-employed (meaning business owners, freelancers, and consultants) has to pay self-employment taxes. This is hard enough as it is, and it’s far too easy to pay too much if you don’t know about all of the write-offs and deductions you should be taking advantage of.

You’ve sold a major asset, like a large investment or a home: Selling a major asset changes how you pay taxes that year. For instance, you may have to pay capital gains tax. A CPA can help you determine what type tax you’ll need to pay, as well as any deductions you may be able to take to help offset everything.

Lauren Ward  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Lauren is a personal finance writer covering topics like taxes, investing, and real estate. Her work has appeared on Bankrate, Money Under 30, This Old House, and more. She lives with her family in Virginia and loves gardening and playing board games.

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The Potensic T25 is small, and its capabilities are somewhat limited, but you're unlikely to find a better drone in this price range.  
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 Once you get through a potentially tricky setup process, this drone has a 900-foot range, long flight times, and is perfect for aerial photography.  
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 This is a lower-cost photography drone with a quality camera and a number of features to support beginner pilots.  
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 This 4K-equipped photography drone flies easily, with a long runtime and numerous functions to make piloting easier.  
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 This low-cost, yet effective, photography drone features a 2K high-def camera and numerous automated flight modes for easy flying.  
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Updated August 31, 2022

When it comes to drones—whether it’s a matter of flight time or features—you really get what you pay for. Since we’ve already given you our top picks for drones under $200, we thought we’d up the ante and recommend some great products from the next tier of drones. If you’re looking to buy a drone for under $500, they’re really in a class of their own. They have stable GPS, nice cameras, and typically include at least a 2-axis gimbal. They’ll also stop and hover when you release the sticks, to the point where you could go get a drink and come back and know exactly where your drone is. They’re that good. While most drones in this price range are quite good, there are certain features that set some of them apart. From rock-solid flying to 1080 video camera, the DJI Spark (available at Amazon) is our top pick. While this drone has a lot to offer, if it’s not your cup of tea, worry not. With price points and features in mind, there’s a drone for every type of flyer on this list.

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Potensic T25 The Potensic T25 is a fairly affordable drone. What sets it apart from other drones is the GPS and gimbal. When you cross into the above $200 territory, you’re going to start seeing gimbals and GPS on just about every drone. The T25 has both. That said, there is a very good reason why the Potensic is in the sub-$200 range. It’s very small compared to its siblings in this price range (about half the size) and it doesn’t fly for as long as the others. It has an app with some follow me functionality, but it doesn't work super well. The camera does manage 1080p resolution, but it relies heavily on automatic settings to adjust for things like exposure and focus. It’s passable, at best. But there’s still a lot of value in this little drone and that's why it’s on this list. For the budget-conscious consumer who wants to dip a toe in the drone waters, this is a really decent option. It won’t go much further than 300 feet without losing signal in FPV mode, though. Speaking of FPV mode, the camera on this drone is capable of tilting downward so you can see what is below you. This isn’t a gimbal because it doesn’t help you maintain the horizon when in flight, but it does allow you a wide field of vision while in the air. GPS is also fairly accurate. You can release the sticks on this drone and it will hover where you left it until you start flying again. It is capable of moving with some amount of precision, maneuvering through the obstacle course with only the occasional hiccup. When you consider the other options on this list and then consider that this costs half of the next cheapest drone, that’s hard to ignore. If you’re looking for the best bang for your buck kind of drone, this one is right up there. It’s not a great drone, to be sure, but it is a good drone at a great price. Pros The camera can tilt downward Fairly accurate GPS Hovers in place without wandering Cons Very small frame 300-foot limit Buy now at Amazon

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Parrot Bebop 2 The Parrot Bebop is a great little machine in its own right for a very different reason. The best thing about it is that you can micromanage the heck out of it. From flight speed to camera settings, everything is user-configurable from the get-go. This can lead to an initially frustrating experience, but in the long-term, you can fly this drone exactly how you want to. The camera is a 1080p sensor with 2 axis gimbal. That means the camera is housed in the body of the drone, which gives it some form of protection. HD video and still capture are both easy with the app interface and the app itself allows you to control everything about the drone: ascent speed, descent speed, horizontal flight speed, and rotation speed. Additionally, you can change camera settings, using the remote control to control ISO and aperture. It's a great drone for aerial photography. The controller is far and away from the largest on this list, sporting a large dome-like protrusion on the front of it, presumably for antennas or storage for a small puppy. Your phone connects to the controller with a cable that you provide. This is somewhat of a double-edged sword, as wired connections are faster and smoother than WiFi so streaming FPV video is theoretically less prone to stutters. In practice, it wasn’t all that noticeable. Also, plugging the phone into the controller causes the controller to charge the phone, which drains the battery on the controller. Speaking of which, the drone and controller charge had proprietary connectors. The package comes with one wall plug, but there are two different cables that plug into it (one at a time). The net result is that you can only charge the controller or the drone, but not both at the same time. The controller is also the only other controller that we needed to charge over our review period, as all the others used a single charge over three weeks. The range of the Bebop maxes out at just over 900 feet in my WiFi saturated neighborhood before the video feed started to go. Another quirk with this drone, when landing, it drops very quickly to the ground, often bouncing when it makes a touchdown. It’s a very no-nonsense landing. The app lets you fly using FPV and allows you to control the different aspects of the drone, but there is a premium app that gives you further control and access to follow-me modes. If you want to be the master of your “dromain” (ha), the Bebop is a very capable little drone that’s a little heftier than others. It also comes with two batteries in the box for a total of about thirty-five to forty-five minutes of flight time. That’s pretty powerful, but not quite enough to put it at the top of the list. Pros Highly configurable 1080p camera with a two-axis gimbal 30 to 45 minutes of flight time Cons Can't charge the drone and remote simultaneously Tricky to set up Buy now at Amazon

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Holy Stone HS100 The Holy Stone RC drone is a lower-cost, quality option great for drone-photography beginners. This drone includes a number of features to make flying easier, including a large body and powerful motors for stability, altitude hold, headless mode, and one-key takeoff and landing. The 2K Wi-Fi camera offers a 120-degree field of view, a selfie-and-follow mode, and live video streaming to your phone—in addition to recording and capturing stills. Run the drone from an app on your phone, the included transmitter, or a combination of the two. With an 18-minute flight time, protected by an auto-return feature when the battery gets low, this drone will let you capture stunning aerial photography anywhere you go. Pros In-flight stability Auto-return feature Cons Short flight time Occasional quality issues Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Ruko F11 Pro The Ruko F11 Pro Photography Drone delivers professional quality in an easy-to-fly package. The camera features 4K stills and 2.9K high-def video, with a 120-degree field of view and a 90-degree vertical adjustment on the fly. Multiple flight modes enable both beginners and more experienced pilots to get the most out of this drone. The auto return, follow mode, tap to fly, and point-of-interest features give you all the flexibility you need to enjoy the landscape yourself while still capturing every moment. And a 30-minute flight time allows plenty of time to get the footage you need. At just over a pound, this drone is lightweight and portable enough to take with you wherever you go. Pros High-quality 4K camera Numerous flight modes 30-minute flight time Cons Occasional controller issues Buy now at Amazon $464.67 from Walmart   
  
 Deerc D50 For an easy entry into drone photography, the DEERC drone is a low-cost, decent-quality option. The 2K ultra-HD camera shoots stills, video, and transmits real-time images to your phone. The controls are simple and varied—set a flight path with waypoints, control it by tipping your phone with gravity control, and give commands to the drone with voice and hand-gesture control functions. The 12-to-15-minute flight time is fine for most hobbyists, as is the short 327-foot transmission range. Pros Simple, user-friendly flight modes Cons Short flight time Short-range transmitter Buy now at Amazon

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What You Should Know About Drones Under $500 Credit: Reviewed / Adam Doud  
When it comes to drones, there are certain tiers at which the bar gets significantly raised. That’s because when you move into the $200 to $500 range, you get into a much better class of drone. They have reliable GPS, a 4k camera, and typically include at least a 2-axis gimbal. They will also stop and hover when you release the sticks on the controller. With this kind of machine, you’ve really exited the “toy class” of drone. It’s a little like Double-A baseball in that it may not be quite good enough for “the show” but you’re not exactly playing in the beer leagues either. Further, there’s a huge difference in what you’ll find above $500 as well, but we’ll save that for a different article. Mostly what you’ll find in this class is power, build quality, maneuverability, and camera. The motors are going to be directly driven rather than geared. What that means is the shaft to which the blades are attached connects directly to the motor instead of using a gear mechanism. The main difference is that these motors are going to be more powerful, with more torque, and less prone to breakage. In toy drones, plastic gears often die before the motors or the blades.

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Because of that, you’ll get more power and maneuverability and better control over the aircraft. In other words, you can nudge right up to a wall or fence and be sure you won’t pile into it. Additional sensors in this class like the aforementioned GPS also help considerably. Some even have additional sensors, like collision sensors (but this isn’t too common among $500 drones). The cameras in this class will take footage that you’ll actually want to show off to people. For the most part, drone cameras are similar to the ones in smartphones. In this class, you’ll be getting a better class of camera. Maybe not as good as the Google Pixel 3 or Samsung Galaxy Note, but these cameras get the job done. As in most things in photography, your available light will make or break you. Finally, these drones are just built better, as there are fewer corners cut. Some of the drones in the sub-$200 range are plastic frames with a thin candy shell over them. Some drones will even break apart on their first landing. You won’t find that here. Drones in the $200 to $500 class are sturdier than most but make no mistake, they’re still breakable. Most drones over a grand will get you 4K video capture and superb build quality. More Articles You Might Enjoy

The Best Drones Under $200 5 beginner-friendly camera drones that make learning to fly easy

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But there’s still a lot of value in this little drone and that’s why it’s on this list. For the budget-conscious consumer who wants to dip a toe in the drone waters, this is a really decent option. It won’t go much further than 300 feet without losing signal in FPV mode, though.

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Highly configurable   
  
 1080p camera with a two-axis gimbal   
  
 30 to 45 minutes of flight time   
  
 Can't charge the drone and remote simultaneously   
  
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The Holy Stone RC drone is a lower-cost, quality option great for drone-photography beginners. This drone includes a number of features to make flying easier, including a large body and powerful motors for stability, altitude hold, headless mode, and one-key takeoff and landing. The 2K Wi-Fi camera offers a 120-degree field of view, a selfie-and-follow mode, and live video streaming to your phone—in addition to recording and capturing stills. Run the drone from an app on your phone, the included transmitter, or a combination of the two. With an 18-minute flight time, protected by an auto-return feature when the battery gets low, this drone will let you capture stunning aerial photography anywhere you go.

In-flight stability   
  
 Auto-return feature   
  
 Short flight time   
  
 Occasional quality issues

The Ruko F11 Pro Photography Drone delivers professional quality in an easy-to-fly package. The camera features 4K stills and 2.9K high-def video, with a 120-degree field of view and a 90-degree vertical adjustment on the fly. Multiple flight modes enable both beginners and more experienced pilots to get the most out of this drone. The auto return, follow mode, tap to fly, and point-of-interest features give you all the flexibility you need to enjoy the landscape yourself while still capturing every moment. And a 30-minute flight time allows plenty of time to get the footage you need. At just over a pound, this drone is lightweight and portable enough to take with you wherever you go.

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Adam Doud  
   
  
  
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Jean Levasseur  
   
  
  
 Contributor

Jean Levasseur became a professional writer over a decade-long career in marketing, public relations, and technical writing. After leaving that career to stay home to care for his twin boys, Jean has continued to write in a variety of freelance roles, as well as teaching academic writing at a local university. When he’s not reviewing tools or chasing toddlers around the house, he’s also an avid fiction writer and a growing woodworker.

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# The Best Cast Iron Cookware of 2022

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Reviewed’s mission is to help you buy the best stuff and get the most out of what you already own. Our team of product experts thoroughly vet every product we recommend to help you cut through the clutter and find what you need.

This 12.5-inch cast iron skillet distributes heat evenly to help you cook any meal to perfection. It comes pre-seasoned for added convenience.  
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 Whatever cooking you need to do, this 16.75-inch reversible grill-and-griddle combo ought to make the job a lot easier—on any heated surface.  
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 From the durable construction to the slick design, these dual-handle pans are an incredible investment. Just know that they don’t come pre-seasoned.  
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 This versatile cookware offers superior heat retention, makes for an attractive conversation piece, and can handle just about any meal plan.  
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Updated October 19, 2022

Just the thought of cast iron cookware seems to ignite the senses. The name itself calls to mind the warmth of a savory, delicious, comforting meal. If you’ve recently begun your cast-iron journey, or have no idea what we’re talking about, you’ve come to the right place. The first thing to know is we’re talking about one pan that can essentially do it all—from the ideal cook to the tastiest seasoning. Whether you’re cooking for yourself or a family of ten, good cast iron cookware is the staple we all need. This heavy-duty kitchen essential, also referred to as a cast iron pan or cast iron skillet, offers an ideal way to cook all your favorite foods on any cooking surface. From your stove top to your oven, to your outdoor grill, to your campfire—this cast iron cookware taking the world by storm can handle any high temperature, and gives your meals the flavor they deserve. Plus, they last a really long time. Just be sure you never throw it in the dishwasher. While some cookware comes with a pre-existing layer of seasoning, both for flavor and for creating a non-stick surface, you can also choose to season the pan on your own with flaxseed oil, vegetable oil, or another oil of your choosing.

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We could go on about our love of cast iron forever, but let’s get to it. Here’s some of the best cast iron cookware you can get online now.

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Utopia Kitchen Pre-Seasoned Cast Iron Skillet If you’re a home cook looking to level up your culinary skills, this high-quality cast iron skillet will help you do just that. Utopia Kitchen’s cast iron skillet is pre-seasoned, with an approachable size of 12.5 inches, making it an easy-to-use staple for your kitchen. One of the best features of any cast iron pan is their ability to evenly distribute heat. This means that whether you’re sautéing, grilling, simmering, or baking, everything will get cooked to perfection. Bring excellence to your appetizers, main courses, and desserts with this magnificent cast iron skillet. Did we mention it costs under $30? Pros Pre-seasoned Extra affordable Convenient size Cons Reviews mention its thinness Buy now at Amazon   
  
 Lodge Cast Iron Double Play Reversible Grill and Griddle Making pancakes for the family? Are burgers on the Sunday football menu? Going camping and the campfire is your stove? Regardless of why you need lots of space and even heat distribution, this cast iron griddle’s got you covered. The Lodge pre-seasoned cast iron reversible grill is multi-functional, straightforward, and easy to clean. Its rectangular shape is 16.75 inches long, allowing it to fit across two stove-top burners. It can also be used in the oven, on the grill, or over a campfire. Whether you’re grilling, searing, frying, or broiling, this reversible Lodge grill-and-griddle combo will be your favorite cooking buddy. And you don’t even need to prep it before use. Pros Durable Versatile Cons Slightly heavy No drainage for grease $29.97 from Amazon

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Lodge Cast Iron Dual Handle Pans Nowadays, many things just aren’t built to last. The same cannot be said for cast iron pans like this one. The 12-inch Lodge Cast Iron Dual Handle Pan is unruly and tough, with plenty of surface space for cooking as well as an ergonomic dual-handle design, making it usable on the stove top, in the oven, on the grill, or over a cozy campfire. Many reviewers have also mentioned that the pan’s unique, sleek handles actually help it take up less space on the stove top and the dining table. While this specific cast iron pan doesn’t come pre-seasoned, you may end up loving that. Find an oil that works for your tastebuds and prepare to have your mind blown. Cooking will never be the same. Plus, the more you use your favorite cast iron cookware, the better your cooked food tastes. Pros Extremely durable Easy to clean Takes up minimal storage space Cons Not pre-seasoned $24.90 from Amazon   
  
 Lodge Enameled Cast Iron Dutch Oven While the Lodge Enameled Cast Iron Dutch Oven looks different than you might expect, it’s a remarkable piece of kitchenware, and we had to share it with you. With impeccable looks and effortless function working hand in hand, this cast iron dutch oven is something special. The Lodge cast iron dutch oven can be used on your stove top for sautéing, simmering, and frying; or in your oven for broiling, baking, roasting, or braising. And it retains high heat up to 500 degrees Fahrenheit. Lodge promises your favorite meals will always have an even cook and that its smooth glass surface won’t react to your ingredients. This classic kitchen staple is great for not only preparing but also serving memorable meals for you and your loved ones. Everyone at your holiday dinner will be asking you where you bought it. Pros Multi-functional Many color options available Easy to clean Cons Higher price point Reviews mention enamel chipping $79.90 from Amazon

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Utopia Kitchen 3-Piece Pre-Seasoned Cast Iron Skillet Set Who wants one great pan when you can have three? The Utopia Kitchen Pre-Seasoned Cast Iron Skillet 3-Piece Set is one of those offers you can’t refuse. With three ideal-sized skillets ranging from six to 10 inches, all factory seasoned, non-stick, and extremely versatile, they’re the perfect purchase for upgrading your cookware. Plus, the whole set is under $40. These Utopia Kitchen Cast Iron Skillets put both design and function at the forefront, leaving so much to be talked about. The gorgeous shine of the cast iron gives an effortless, sleek look, while the glossy, seasoned surface of the pan itself provides unparalleled heat retention and evenness, allowing for every meal to be cooked to utter perfection. Use these pans on your stove top, in your oven, on your grill, or even on your campfire for memorable, tasty appetizers, meals, or desserts. Pros Pre-seasoned Extra affordable Made to last Cons Reviewers mention having to oil often Buy now at Amazon

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How to Clean Cast Iron Cookware One of the most interesting things about cast iron griddles, skillets, and pans is the cleaning process. Let’s get one thing clear right away—no dishwasher! Ever! To properly clean your cast iron, first allow it to cool after use. Next, wipe away any leftover food particles. You can use a paper towel or a plastic food scraper for this. For any food or grease that’s still hanging around, gently clean the skillet or pan with a non-abrasive sponge, warm water, and the tiniest bit of dish soap. Wipe the entire surface, rinse with hot water, and dry immediately. Lastly, season if needed. The cleaning process for cast iron cookware is simple and easy, and, if done right, will keep your pan rust-free and hanging around for a very long time.

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How to Season Cast Iron Cookware Seasoning is the fun part, and there are so many options. First, heat your oven to 500 degrees Fahrenheit. While you wait for it to heat up, use a paper towel to spread a thin layer of oil across the surface of your pan. Next, put your skillet, griddle, or pan into the oven and bake it for one hour. Be sure to put a pan underneath the cast iron to catch any oil that drips down. Some great options for oils include:

Flaxseed oil Vegetable oil Canola oil Safflower oil Sunflower oil Lard

How Do You Remove Rust from Cast Iron Cookware While cast iron does rust easily when not properly cared for, rust is not the death of your cookware. First, use a non-metallic scraper or stiff-bristled nylon brush to scrape away as much loose rust as possible. Next, make a rust-removing mix and apply it to all rusty areas. A great recipe for this is a mixture of 1 tablespoon lemon juice and one cup of baking soda. Let this sit for 24 hours or until it has cut through all the rust. Remove it with a soft-bristled brush, rinse with hot water, and dry thoroughly. Bam! Brand-new cast iron cookware. How to Use a Cast Iron Skillet, Pan, or Griddle Cast iron skillets, griddles, pots, and pans are pretty straightforward pieces of cookware that produce amazing results. Slowly preheat your cookware on the stove top to medium heat, add a small amount of oil, add your cook, and get to cooking! For cooking in the oven, follow the same rules and then transfer to the oven. Proper preheating is the best way to get an even cook with delicious results.

Just the thought of cast iron cookware seems to ignite the senses. The name itself calls to mind the warmth of a savory, delicious, comforting meal. If you’ve recently begun your cast-iron journey, or have no idea what we’re talking about, you’ve come to the right place. The first thing to know is we’re talking about one pan that can essentially do it all—from the ideal cook to the tastiest seasoning.

Whether you’re cooking for yourself or a family of ten, good cast iron cookware is the staple we all need. This heavy-duty kitchen essential, also referred to as a cast iron pan or cast iron skillet, offers an ideal way to cook all your favorite foods on any cooking surface. From your stove top to your oven, to your outdoor grill, to your campfire—this cast iron cookware taking the world by storm can handle any high temperature, and gives your meals the flavor they deserve.

Plus, they last a really long time. Just be sure you never throw it in the dishwasher. While some cookware comes with a pre-existing layer of seasoning, both for flavor and for creating a non-stick surface, you can also choose to season the pan on your own with flaxseed oil, vegetable oil, or another oil of your choosing.

We could go on about our love of cast iron forever, but let’s get to it. Here’s some of the best cast iron cookware you can get online now.

The recommendations in this guide are based on thorough product and market research by our team of expert product reviewers. The picks are based on examining user reviews, product specifications, and, in some limited cases, our experience with the specific products named.

If you’re a home cook looking to level up your culinary skills, this high-quality cast iron skillet will help you do just that. Utopia Kitchen’s cast iron skillet is pre-seasoned, with an approachable size of 12.5 inches, making it an easy-to-use staple for your kitchen.

One of the best features of any cast iron pan is their ability to evenly distribute heat. This means that whether you’re sautéing, grilling, simmering, or baking, everything will get cooked to perfection. Bring excellence to your appetizers, main courses, and desserts with this magnificent cast iron skillet. Did we mention it costs under $30?

Pre-seasoned   
  
 Extra affordable   
  
 Convenient size   
  
 Reviews mention its thinness

Making pancakes for the family? Are burgers on the Sunday football menu? Going camping and the campfire is your stove? Regardless of why you need lots of space and even heat distribution, this cast iron griddle’s got you covered.

The Lodge pre-seasoned cast iron reversible grill is multi-functional, straightforward, and easy to clean. Its rectangular shape is 16.75 inches long, allowing it to fit across two stove-top burners. It can also be used in the oven, on the grill, or over a campfire.

Whether you’re grilling, searing, frying, or broiling, this reversible Lodge grill-and-griddle combo will be your favorite cooking buddy. And you don’t even need to prep it before use.

Durable   
  
 Versatile   
  
 Slightly heavy   
  
 No drainage for grease

Nowadays, many things just aren’t built to last. The same cannot be said for cast iron pans like this one. The 12-inch Lodge Cast Iron Dual Handle Pan is unruly and tough, with plenty of surface space for cooking as well as an ergonomic dual-handle design, making it usable on the stove top, in the oven, on the grill, or over a cozy campfire.

Many reviewers have also mentioned that the pan’s unique, sleek handles actually help it take up less space on the stove top and the dining table.

While this specific cast iron pan doesn’t come pre-seasoned, you may end up loving that. Find an oil that works for your tastebuds and prepare to have your mind blown. Cooking will never be the same. Plus, the more you use your favorite cast iron cookware, the better your cooked food tastes.

Extremely durable   
  
 Easy to clean   
  
 Takes up minimal storage space   
  
 Not pre-seasoned

While the Lodge Enameled Cast Iron Dutch Oven looks different than you might expect, it’s a remarkable piece of kitchenware, and we had to share it with you. With impeccable looks and effortless function working hand in hand, this cast iron dutch oven is something special. The Lodge cast iron dutch oven can be used on your stove top for sautéing, simmering, and frying; or in your oven for broiling, baking, roasting, or braising. And it retains high heat up to 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

Lodge promises your favorite meals will always have an even cook and that its smooth glass surface won’t react to your ingredients. This classic kitchen staple is great for not only preparing but also serving memorable meals for you and your loved ones. Everyone at your holiday dinner will be asking you where you bought it.

Multi-functional   
  
 Many color options available   
  
 Easy to clean   
  
 Higher price point   
  
 Reviews mention enamel chipping

Who wants one great pan when you can have three? The Utopia Kitchen Pre-Seasoned Cast Iron Skillet 3-Piece Set is one of those offers you can’t refuse.

With three ideal-sized skillets ranging from six to 10 inches, all factory seasoned, non-stick, and extremely versatile, they’re the perfect purchase for upgrading your cookware. Plus, the whole set is under $40.

These Utopia Kitchen Cast Iron Skillets put both design and function at the forefront, leaving so much to be talked about. The gorgeous shine of the cast iron gives an effortless, sleek look, while the glossy, seasoned surface of the pan itself provides unparalleled heat retention and evenness, allowing for every meal to be cooked to utter perfection.

Use these pans on your stove top, in your oven, on your grill, or even on your campfire for memorable, tasty appetizers, meals, or desserts.

Pre-seasoned   
  
 Extra affordable   
  
 Made to last   
  
 Reviewers mention having to oil often

One of the most interesting things about cast iron griddles, skillets, and pans is the cleaning process. Let’s get one thing clear right away—no dishwasher! Ever!

To properly clean your cast iron, first allow it to cool after use. Next, wipe away any leftover food particles. You can use a paper towel or a plastic food scraper for this. For any food or grease that’s still hanging around, gently clean the skillet or pan with a non-abrasive sponge, warm water, and the tiniest bit of dish soap.

Wipe the entire surface, rinse with hot water, and dry immediately. Lastly, season if needed. The cleaning process for cast iron cookware is simple and easy, and, if done right, will keep your pan rust-free and hanging around for a very long time.

Seasoning is the fun part, and there are so many options. First, heat your oven to 500 degrees Fahrenheit. While you wait for it to heat up, use a paper towel to spread a thin layer of oil across the surface of your pan.

Next, put your skillet, griddle, or pan into the oven and bake it for one hour. Be sure to put a pan underneath the cast iron to catch any oil that drips down.

Some great options for oils include:

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