


MONEY-SAVING WASHING MACHINES

Budget Best Buys plus our top-scoring built-in and freestanding machines

 Which? members have told us they plan to spend £380 on average on their next washing machine, so we've rounded up our best models for this price.

And if you're prepared to pay more, our table, p43, also show top-scoring freestanding and built-in machines irrespective of price.

Many cheaper Best Buys clean as well as more expensive models. Our cheapest Best Buy, the £290 Beko WME7247W, right, washes just as well as the Best Buy Bosch WAS28460GB Logixx, which costs £590 at John Lewis. The Bosch is £700 in Currys, but was on sale for £590 as we went to press.

All Best Buys are reliable. We judge this by their score in our latest annual reliability survey – a brand with poor reliability can't be a Best Buy. More than 5,000 Which? members told us about their washing machines in latest survey – we have ratings for 12 brands (p18).

Features?

Some budget Best Buys don't have extras you normally get on more expensive models. For example, the Hotpoint WML 560G lacks a delay start, found on other models, which means you can delay the start of a wash for up to 24 hours. See 'What you get for more than £400', p42.

Getting the best deal

The machine's price isn't the full story. To find a good deal including delivery, installation and removing your old model, we looked at what high street shops offer ('Shops that deliver the best deal', right). All prices given for Best Buys are high street prices prior to the 4 January VAT rise from 17.5% to 20%, which some shops will pass on to customers.

Visit www.which.co.uk/washing to find reviews for more than 215 machines.



OUR CHEAPEST BEST BUY

BEKO WME7247W £290

WHICH? TEST SCORE 71%

WHICH? RELIABILITY RATING ★★★

PROS Test results are impressive with this cheap freestanding Best Buy washer. Cleaning is outstanding on the easy-care wash and great on cottons.

Rinsing is effective on both main programs and there's an extra rinse option for anyone worried about sensitive skin. Great washing is

accompanied by a decent range of programs and features. These include a darkcare wash which, it is claimed, will help prevent darks from fading.

CONS Water consumption on the easy-care wash program is a little higher than average.

WHICH TARGET ONLINE PRICE £250

CHEAPEST HIGH STREET STORES

Argos and Comet

ALSO AVAILABLE Online

Best built-in

Our highest scoring Best Buy built-in washer, the Bosch WIS28440GB Logixx, scored 76% in our tests and is available from Currys and John Lewis for £650.

Colour your washer

Would you like to match your washing machine to your kitchen's colour? You can filter washing machine models by their colour at www.which.co.uk/washing

Washing detergent

We've tested 22 laundry detergents including powders and tablets, and found seven Best Buys. To see which came top in our tests, read our full article on p44.



INDESIT PWE8148 £400

WHICH? TEST SCORE 72%

WHICH? RELIABILITY RATING ★★★

PROS The cotton program on this reasonably priced freestanding machine leaves laundry spotless. Cleaning isn't quite as good in easy-care mode, but it's still satisfactory, and rinsing is excellent on this program. The spin removes plenty of water so clothes shouldn't take too long to dry once you take them out of the machine. A digital display shows the wash time that is remaining and there is a 24-hour time delay.

CONS Despite excellent rinsing on easy-care, it gets an average rating overall due to poor rinsing results on the cotton program. You'd benefit from the extra rinse here.

CHEAPEST HIGH STREET STORE Argos

ALSO AVAILABLE Online, Currys, Comet



INDESIT PWC8128 £370

WHICH? TEST SCORE 71%

WHICH? RELIABILITY RATING ★★★

PROS You'll get plenty of washing cleaned in a single load with this washer's big 8kg drum. Cleaning is brilliant on cottons and decent on the easy-care wash. A quick easy-care program takes just over an hour. The machine is very water efficient so it's a good choice if you're on a water meter. It has a nine-hour delayed-start option, and you'll find all the usual washing programs, including non-iron, handwash and woollens.

CONS The biggest drawback on this machine is its poor cotton rinsing – you'll need to use the extra rinse option. We've heard quieter spins, too.

CHEAPEST HIGH STREET STORE Argos

ALSO AVAILABLE Online, Comet



BEKO WM7335W £300

WHICH? TEST SCORE 70%

WHICH? RELIABILITY RATING ★★★

PROS Impressive cleaning, and effective rinsing and spinning make this a good all-rounder. The Beko leaves easy-care clothes spotless and is great at cleaning cotton loads. Easy-care garments are drier than cottons coming out of the wash, but laundry will dry quickly whichever program you use. The Beko scores well for energy efficiency and it uses little water on both the main programs. It's easy to load, unload and add powder to.

CONS The spin was noisier than average in our tests, so it may not suit you if you are looking for a particularly quiet machine.

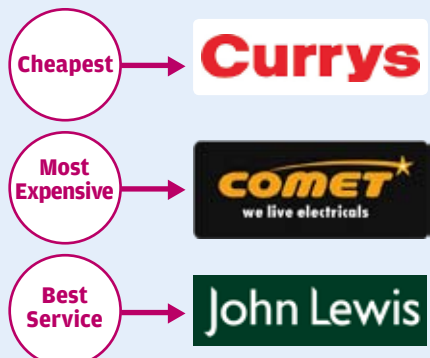
CHEAPEST HIGH STREET STORE Currys

ALSO AVAILABLE Online

Shops that deliver the best deal

We searched Argos, Comet, Currys and John Lewis online last October for the best deals to get a washing machine delivered and installed, and the old one removed and recycled. The Hotpoint WML 560G Best Buy cost between £370 and £390 in all stores in October. The cheapest deal with delivery, installation and removal was Currys (£385), the most expensive was Comet for £420. Although Currys was cheapest, it didn't do

well in our online shops customer satisfaction survey, so you may prefer to pay a bit more. Argos charged £410, John Lewis, £403. The latter was rated excellent for customer service. John Lewis doesn't let you book installation of a machine online (it plans to introduce this in March), but in the meantime you can arrange it by calling a store. Call its customer helpline 0845 604 9049 for the number for your nearest store.





TEST LAB WASHING

BUDGET BEST BUY WASHING MACHINES AND WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY



HOTPOINT WML 560G £370

WHICH? TEST SCORE 70%

WHICH? RELIABILITY RATING ★★★

PROS Available in white and graphite, this 6kg Best Buy freestanding Hotpoint does all the essentials really well. Cleaning is outstanding on the main cotton program which is quick compared with similar-sized machines we've tested – taking less than two hours to complete a full load.

The easy-care program cleans well and takes one hour 16 minutes – about average for a machine of this size. Rinsing and spinning results are consistently good no matter which program you use.

CONS It lacks a delay-start function so you can't load a wash and then postpone it to a time that suits you, and the spin is noisy.

CHEAPEST HIGH STREET STORE John Lewis

ALSO AVAILABLE Argos, Currys, Comet



JOHN LEWIS JLWM1407 £400

WHICH? TEST SCORE 70%

WHICH? RELIABILITY RATING ★★★★★

PROS This own-brand John Lewis machine is another good value Best Buy. Cleaning is excellent on the easy-care wash and cotton cleaning is great. If you're on a water meter this machine is ideal as its water consumption is frugal, no matter which program you use. Rinsing is adequate and there's an extra rinse option if you're worried about detergent remaining in clothes.

There's an LED display panel that shows time remaining on your wash and a 19-hour time delay function as well.

CONS This model is rather noisy during the wash cycle, although it's not too loud when spinning.

CHEAPEST HIGH STREET STORE John Lewis

ALSO AVAILABLE Online



BEKO WM6123W £240

WHICH? TEST SCORE 68%

WHICH? RELIABILITY RATING ★★★

PROS This 6kg capacity freestanding washer is keenly priced and just misses out on being a Best Buy. It's worth considering if you're on a tight budget and are prepared to forgo a few features found on pricier machines.

Cleaning results are great for both cottons and easy-care programs. Rinsing is excellent on cottons and decent for easy-care laundry. The spin removes plenty of water, and energy and water efficiency are impressive, especially when using the cotton program.

It comes in silver, too.

CONS Easy-care program takes 45 minutes longer than the average 6kg model. It lacks features like a delayed start and variable spin.

CHEAPEST HIGH STREET STORE Argos

ALSO AVAILABLE Online and Comet

WHAT YOU GET FOR MORE THAN £400

Our top-rated model, the Miele W5740 79%, gets five stars for cleaning on both main programs and Miele is the only washing machine brand with excellent reliability. But at £950, it isn't cheap. So what can you expect from a top-end washer? You'll get greater program choice (some Miele's have soft toy, pillow and curtain programs), extras like large LCD displays, one-touch control panels, and larger drums. Some more expensive models have lower running

costs. Some models costing more than £400 have a longer warranty, and a more sophisticated design. LG's direct drive motor, found on the Best Buy LG F1480FD 71% (£600), is designed to increase efficiency, reduce noise and has a 10-year warranty. Bosch's Logixx models, like the Best Buy WAS28460GB 72% (£590), have 'varioperfect' technology to save time and energy, and eco silent panels to reduce noise and vibration.



From left to right: The Miele W5740, LG F1480FD and Bosch Logixx WAS28460GB

MACHINES

IF YOU CHOOSE TO PAY A BIT EXTRA

How we test

We test how well each model cleans stains including grease, olive oil, ink and make-up. We assess rinsing and spinning on main programs, and water and energy use.

Washer repairs

If your washer has a problem, you can use our repair tool to diagnose the problem and find if you can fix it yourself or need to call a repairer. See www.which.co.uk/washerrepairs

	SPECIFICATION	WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE											SCORE (%)	
		CAPACITY (KG)	TIME-STANDARD COTTON	TIME-EASY CARE	ENERGY USE	WATER USE	COTTON WASH	EASY CARE WASH	RINSING	SPINNING	NOISE	RELIABILITY		BRAND
FREESTANDING														
1	MIELE W5740	950	7	2h 10m	1h 30m	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	79
2	HOTPOINT WMF 760 Aquarius+	450	7	2h 21m	1h 14m	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	73
3	BOSCH WAS28460GB	590	8	2h 29m	1h 40m	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	72
4	HOTPOINT AQLF9F49U	450	9	3h 22m	1h 12m	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	72
5	INDESIT PWE8148	400	8	3h 2m	1h 7m	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	72
6	BEKO WME7247W	290	7	2h 13m	1h 32m	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	71
7	HOTPOINT AQ9F49U	575	9	3h 11m	1h 13m	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	71
8	INDESIT PWC8128	370	8	2h 55m	1h 5m	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	71
9	JOHN LEWIS JLWM1604	500	7	2h 12m	1h 23m	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	71
10	LG F1480FD	600	9	3h 56m	2h 2m	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	71
11	BEKO WM7335W	300	7	2h 10m	1h 38m	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★	★★★	70
12	HOTPOINT WML 560G	370	6	1h 51m	1h 16m	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	70
13	JOHN LEWIS JLWM1407	400	7	2h 8m	1h 22m	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★	★★★★	70
14	BEKO WME8227S	330	8	2h 17m	1h 31m	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	69
15	SAMSUNG WF8804RPZ	500	8	2h 7m	1h 22m	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★	69
16	WHIRLPOOL AWO/D6727	350	7	2h 7m	1h 22m	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★	★★★	69
17	BEKO WM6123W	240	6	2h 15m	2h 5m	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	68
18	BOSCH WAE24469GB	400	7	2h 36m	1h 35m	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★	68
19	INDESIT IWB5123	260	5	2h 22m	1h 17m	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★	★★★	66
BUILT-IN														
1	BOSCH WIS28440GB Logixx	650	7	2h 22m	1h 23m	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	76
2	ZANUSSI ZWI2125	600	6	1h 59m	1h 20m	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★	74
3	BOSCH WIS24140GB	780	7	2h 13m	1h 15m	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	73
4	AEG-ELECTROLUX L63742VI	650	6	2h 15m	1h 26m	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	72
5	ZANUSSI ZWH1125	550	6	2h 8m	1h 29m	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★	71
6	ELECTROLUX EWG14440W	550	5	1h 57m	1h 25m	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	n/a	69
7	INDESIT IWME126	350	6	3h 18m	1h 16m	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★	★★★	66

TEST RATINGS FOR MORE THAN 215 TESTED WASHING MACHINES CAN BE ACCESSED ON OUR MEMBERS' WEBSITE AT www.which.co.uk/washing

Using the table

Specification

Price For Best Buys, we give the cheapest widely available high street price. We give the most common online price for models we couldn't find at major high street shops. Prices for other models are a guide.

Test performance

Energy/water use Amount used per kg of washing on 40°C cotton and easy care. **Cotton wash** Cleaning rating for standard 40°C wash. **Easy care wash** Cleaning for synthetic clothes. **Cotton/Easy care time**

Program times we measured rather than claimed in manual. **Spinning** Dryness of load after the final spin. **Brand reliability** Best Buys have at least average reliability in our survey. n/a means we didn't have enough data to judge reliability.

Score

Score ignores price and is based on:
 Washing **55%**
 Water/energy use **20%**
 Convenience **10%**
 Spin dry **10%**
 Noise **5%**