

BEST BUY ICE CREAM MAKERS

We pick the best and easiest ice cream makers for a refreshing homemade treat to cool your lazy, hot summer

Most premium ice cream costs well over £3 for 500ml in the shops, but making the same amount of vanilla in an ice cream maker at home costs about half that price.

That means our cheapest Lakeland Best Buy ice cream maker will have paid for itself after 25 uses. But making ice cream isn't just about saving cash. There's the satisfaction of creating your own flavour combinations, too. We made chef Heston Blumenthal's bacon and egg flavour – and, yes, some of the tasters even came back for seconds!

Less hassle, more ice cream

Our lab test has found that there's not much difference in the quality of ice cream produced by the different makers, but some are a hassle to use. Our Best Buys opposite will enhance your summer, not add to your time in the kitchen. To find out how easy ice cream makers are to master, we gave one to two families who had never used one before (see 'Families' verdict', on p34). One family was so impressed that they didn't want to give it back.

Homemade vs branded

We also taste tested some homemade ice cream against the Best Buy Green & Black's Organic Vanilla (see p70). Although about two thirds preferred the shop-bought version, many found the homemade one creamier.



WANT MORE COOLING SUMMER OPTIONS? We've more test results for ice cream makers online as well as a range of jug blenders, smoothie makers and juicers for making frozen smoothies and cocktails. Go to www.which.co.uk/kitchenappliances

which? MONEY SAVER Making your own vanilla ice cream using organic ingredients in a Best Buy ice cream maker costs between £2.06 and £2.50 for 500ml. That works out, on average, to be £1.76 cheaper than the Best Buy Green & Black's Organic Vanilla which costs £4.10 for 500ml.

EXPERT VIEW THE BIG FREEZE



Many ice cream makers have a removable bowl which needs 24 hours of pre-freezing before use – so it's worth considering bowl size before you buy one of these, as it can vary. However, if you have a small freezer, you needn't rule out an ice cream maker. I was worried that the bowl wouldn't fit in my freezer drawer (which is quite small), but it fitted perfectly well, with room to spare and you can even use the bowl to store things in.

LISA GALLIERS
WHICH? EXPERT
homeeditor@which.co.uk

25
THE NUMBER OF TIMES YOU'D HAVE TO USE THE LAKELAND BEST BUY BEFORE IT PAID FOR ITSELF



£1.76
AVERAGE SAVING BY MAKING ORGANIC VANILLA ICE CREAM (500ML) INSTEAD OF BUYING GREEN & BLACK'S

How we test

We make two recipes to see how well ice cream makers cope with churning and incorporating additional ingredients, such as raisins. We soak them in rum to see the effects on the ice cream.

Sorbets and frozen yogurts

If you're after a lighter treat, or want to try our vanilla ice cream recipe, check out our FAQs page at www.which.co.uk/icecreammakers, where you'll find our favourite recipes.



CUISINART ICE-CREAM DUO, ICE40 £100

WHICH? TEST SCORE 72%

PROS Twin bowls allow two different flavours to be made at once, with great results. It's easy to set up and use, too.

CONS Its larger size makes it harder to store than others.

FULL REVIEW www.which.co.uk/icecreammakers

WHICH.CO.UK TARGET ONLINE PRICE £97

CHEAPEST HIGH STREET STORE John Lewis

ALSO AVAILABLE AT Independents, Amazon



GINO D'ACAMPO EK0526 £60

WHICH? TEST SCORE 71%

PROS This maker churns great ice cream quickly and easily. It's not too noisy and it's simple to set up, too.

CONS We found an error in the instruction booklet regarding the freezing temperature (it should read -18°C).

FULL REVIEW www.which.co.uk/icecreammakers

WHICH.CO.UK TARGET ONLINE PRICE £60

CHEAPEST HIGH STREET STORE Robert Dyas

ALSO AVAILABLE AT Independents



LAKELAND MY KITCHEN 13649 £40

WHICH? TEST SCORE 68%

PROS This great-value maker churns good ice cream quickly and quietly. It's easy to remove and it comes with a scoop.

CONS It has a small filler-hole which can make it messy when adding the ingredients. It only comes with three recipes.

FULL REVIEW www.which.co.uk/icecreammakers

WHICH.CO.UK TARGET ONLINE PRICE £40

CHEAPEST HIGH STREET STORE Lakeland

ALSO AVAILABLE AT Exclusive to Lakeland

Q&A FOR PERFECT ICE CREAM

Do I have to chill my mixture?

If heating a mixture (for custard-based recipes) it needs cooling and chilling before pouring into the maker – even if it has a built-in freezer.

Do all recipes need ingredients to be heated?

No, there are many 'cold' recipes. For best results, chill ingredients in the fridge first.

How long does it take?

Churning takes between 10-40 minutes, depending on the machine and room

temperature. The mixture then needs freezing for an hour or two (depending on the model – see instructions).

How can I tell when it's properly churned?

The mixture increases in volume and gets thicker, resembling 'soft-scoop'. The paddle turns the opposite way when it gets too thick.

What can I make apart from ice cream?

There are lots of options – frozen yogurt, sorbet or low-fat ice cream.

TEST LAB ICE CREAMMAKERS

BEST BUYS FROM £40 TO 100 – CUISINART GETS TOP TEST SCORES BUT LAKELAND IS BEST FOR VALUE

Families verdict: We asked two families to try two Magimix ice cream makers

THE CARTER FAMILY

The Carters tried out the Magimix Gelato Chef 2200 (£250), which has a built-in freezer, so there's no need to pre-freeze a bowl. The Carters said the ice cream maker was a 'real hit'. They found

it easy to use, and thought the quantity made (about 800ml) was perfect for a family of five. Mum Lesley said: 'It's excellent. We want to keep it; we've had so much fun and saved ourselves a fortune, too'

THE ARKELL FAMILY

The Arkells tried out the Magimix Le Glacier 1.1 (£40) model, which has a removable bowl that needs pre-freezing. Mum Jo said: 'The ice cream is delicious – it's as tasty as the

shop-bought stuff.' On the downside, the machine was slightly too small for a family of six, but they all enjoyed making ice cream and didn't find it too complicated as the instructions were clear.



	SPECIFICATION					WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE						SCORE (%)
	PRICE (£)	BUILT-IN FREEZER WEIGHT (KG)	FREEZER SIZE (H X D X W) (CM)	CAPACITY (LITRE)	FREEZER SPACE (H X D X W) (CM)	TIME	QUALITY OF ICE CREAM	NOISE	SETTING UP	UNLOADING ICE CREAM	EASE OF USE	
1 CUISINART ICE CREAM DUO ICE40	100	5.4	27x25x42	13x16	2.0 ^a	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★	72
2 GINO D'ACAMPO EK0526	60	2.5	24x23x20	16x18	1.4	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	71
3 LAKELAND MY KITCHEN 13649	40	2.5	27x21x23	16x23	0.75	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	68
4 CUISINART DELUXE ICE30	70	4.8	30x24x23	17x20	1.5	★★★	★★★★★	★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	66
5 MAGIMIX LE GLACIER 1.1	40	2.7	23x20x20	14x20	1.1	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	66
6 MAGIMIX LE GLACIER 1.5	70	3.1	26x20x20	18x19	1.5	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	65
7 MAGIMIX GELATO CHEF 2200	250	10.0	✓ 30x25x35	n/a	1.5	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	64
8 KENWOOD IM200	35	2.8	25x20x20	15x20	1.1	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	62
9 PROLECTRIX ICE CREAM MAKER	40	2.0	21x19x18	13x20	1.0	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★	★★★	★★★	55
10 CUISINART PROFESSIONAL ICE50	245	12.7	✓ 27x36x26	n/a	1.5	★★★★	★★★★	★★	★★★	★	★★★	52

^a one litre per bowl

Using the table

Specification

Price For Best Buys we give the lowest high street price. If we can't find a model there, we give an online price. Prices for others are a guide.
Freezer space Bowl height and diameter in cm.

Test performance

Time How long it takes to make ice cream, including churning and freezing time.

Quality The appearance, texture, taste and overall satisfaction with the ice cream; ★★★★★ means it's well churned, evenly frozen and looks appetising. **Noise** How noisy it is; ★★★ means a whirring noise; ★ means voices need to be raised. **Setting up** How easy the ice cream maker is to put together; ★★★★★ means it's simple; ★★★★★ means gentle force is needed to

assemble it correctly. **Unloading** How easy it is to remove the ice cream from the bowl; ★★★★★ means it's easy; ★★★ means most of it's easy to remove but the bowl may be a bit small or the paddle may get in the way. **Ease of use** Overall ease of use, taking into account instructions, using the appliance, how easy it is to take apart and to clean all the parts.

Score

Ignores price and is based on:
Ease of use
Quality of ice cream
Noise
Time to make ice cream

45%
25%
15%
15%

For more, see www.which.co.uk/icecreammakers

PHOTOGRAPHY BY: TERI PENNINGLEY