

# Looking for the **Safest Cars** or **Expert Health Advice?**



**Get independent, unbiased information  
you can trust from Consumer Reports**

These special publications can be found at newsstands nationwide  
or online at [cr.org/books](https://www.consumerreports.org/books)





# Kitchen

## Planning & Buying Guide™

**669**  
PRODUCT  
REVIEWS

# MODERN STYLE

**+ TOP PERFORMANCE**

Refrigerators  
Ranges  
Dishwashers  
Countertops  
& more

**EXCLUSIVE  
RELIABILITY  
RATINGS**  
Brands That Last

**FRESH,  
FUN COLOR**  
For Tile, Cabinets,  
and Appliances

JULY 2020 CR.ORG

\$12.99US \$13.99CAN 07>

0 73361 08262 6

Please display until July 6, 2020

# CONTENTS





P. 68



P. 62

### 3 Get Inspired

Excited to transform your kitchen? Take a look at these fresh, livable trends that feel bright and inviting, and get ready for entertaining.

### 8 What We're Testing in Our Labs...

Here's a look at the top-rated countertop appliances from our latest lab tests, including air fryers, blenders, coffee makers, food processors, multi-cookers, slow-cookers, and toaster ovens.



P. 8

### APPLIANCES

#### 12 Playing It Cool

Top-freezer or side-by-side? French-door or bottom-freezer? Use our expert buying advice and ratings to find a refrigerator that you'll love.

#### 24 Range Finder

Insights from our test labs will help you shop smarter for a range—and know which features you really need.

#### 34 Top Choices

Electric or gas cooktop? Our tests reveal great options for either fuel type. Find the best one for your space right here.

#### 42 Hot Topics

Wall ovens add crowd-friendly convenience and design flexibility—but they can be pricey. Here's what you need to understand before you buy.

#### 46 The Fast Lane

You get more than just reheating power from today's microwaves. But can they really grill or brown? Our test results show you which features are for real and which are just hype.

#### 54 Clean Plate Club

Our top dishwasher picks do it all, offering cleaner dishes and quieter operation using less energy and water.

### DESIGN ELEMENTS

#### 62 Planning Kitchen Storage

The right cabinets can have a big impact on how your kitchen looks and functions. Our buying advice will help you make a wise choice.

#### 68 Counter Intelligence

Our tough tests reveal which countertop materials—from quartz to bamboo—can stand

up to everyday use and abuse. Plus, the messes that stain the worst.

#### 74 Getting Underfoot

Love hardwood—or tile? Let our ratings help you choose the best flooring for your design style and lifestyle.

### SHOPPING ADVICE

#### 80 Where to Shop and Save

Our survey reveals the online and walk-in stores with the best selection, service, and prices on appliances. And: Money-saving shopping tips from CR members.

#### 84 Resources

#### ON THE COVER

Photographer: Jennifer Hughes. Designer: Bria Hammel Interiors, [bria Hammelinteriors.com](http://bria Hammelinteriors.com)



## Style and Performance

Planning a kitchen update is exciting ... and sometimes frustrating. You have so many dreams for the look of your new space—a big center island! stone counters! cement tile!—and also the reality of function to contend with. Fitting everything you want into the workspace you need isn't always simple.

Good news: CR is here to help. Our team of home pros—editors, engineers, and market analysts—has taken a hard look at the style, performance, features, reliability, and value of hundreds of appliances and products, to help you make balanced decisions every step of the way.

When you're ready to shop, just turn to the Buying Guide on page 11. You'll find exclusive ratings and reviews based on our in-house

tests and on our surveys of CR members' experiences with the products in their homes. You can trust our advice because we're nonprofit and independent: We buy all the products we test, and we accept no ads.

So relax and enjoy the remodeling process: Getting a kitchen that looks great and works hard just got a whole lot easier.

—The Editors of  
Consumer Reports

**RATINGS** Overall Scores are based on a scale of 0 to 100. We rate products using these symbols:

⬇️ POOR   
 ⬇️ FAIR   
 1 GOOD  
⬆️ VERY GOOD   
 ⬆️ EXCELLENT

# Kitchen

## Planning & Buying Guide™

**President and CEO** Marta L. Tellado

**Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer** Leonora Wiener  
**Vice President, Chief Content Officer** Gwendolyn Bounds

**Editor in Chief, Consumer Reports Magazine** Diane Salvatore  
**Deputy Editor, Special Interest Publications** Amanda Lecky

**Design Director** Matthew Lenning    **Creative Director, Brand** Young Kim  
**Associate Design Director** Sheri Geller

**Art Directors** Tammy Morton Fernandez, Lisa Slater, Tracy Stora  
**Photo Editors** Emilie Harjes, Karen Shinbaum

**Senior Director, Content Development** Glenn Derene

**Deputy Directors, Content Development** Christopher Kirkpatrick, Ellen Kunes

**Associate Directors, Content Development** Scott Billings, Althea Chang

**Senior Director, Content Impact & Corporate Outreach** Jen Shecter

**Special Projects** Joel Keehn, Director; Margot Gilman, Associate Director; Lisa L. Gill, Rachel Rabkin Peachman, Deputies; Ryan Felton, Donna Rosato, Writers

**Editorial Director, Digital** Erle Norton

**Senior Director, Product Testing** Maria Rerecich

**HOME & APPLIANCE:** Eric Hagerman, Content Lead *Editors/Writers:*

Daisy Chan, Mary Farrell, Paul Hope, Kimberly Janeway, Sara Morrow, Haniya Rae, Perry Santanachote, Daniel Wroclawski *Product Testing:* John Galeotafiore, Emilio Gonzalez, James Nanni, Testing Leads; Peter Anzalone, John Banta, Susan Booth, Tara Casaregola, Lawrence Ciufu, Enrique de Paz, Bernard Deitrick, Cindy Fisher, Rich Handel, Misha Kollontai, Ginny Lui, Joan Muratore, Joseph Pacella, Christopher Regan, Frank Spinelli, Dave Trezza, Michael Visconti

**Chief Scientific Officer** James H. Dickerson

**Food Safety** James E. Rogers, Director; Sana Mujahid; Tunde Akinleye, Amy Keating, Ellen Klosz, Charlotte Vallaey

**Product Safety** Don Huber, Director

**Content Operations** Robert Kanell, Director

**Premedia** William Breglio, Associate Director; Eugene Chin, William Hunt, Anthony Terzo

**Production** Nancy Crowfoot, Associate Director; Eric W. Norlander, Manager; Letitia Hughes, Terri Kazin, Aileen McCluskey

**Copy Editing** Leslie Monthan, Copy Chief; Noreen Browne, Alison France, Wendy Greenfield

**Fact Checking & Research** David Schipper, Associate Director; Tracy Anderman, Sarah Goralski, Christine Gordon, Karen Jacob, Jamison Pfeifer

**Photography** John Powers, John Walsh

**Imaging** Francisco Collado, Mark Linder

**Chief Research Officer** Kristen Purcell

**Consumer Engagement Testing** Charu Ahuja, Director; Samuel Chapman, Linda Greene, Dana Keester

**Statistics & Data Science** Michael Saccucci, Director; Andrew Cohen, Kristen Dorrell, Dina Haner, Keith Newsom-Stewart

**Survey Research** Karen Jaffe, Simon Slater, Associate Directors; Dave Gopoian, Kendra Johnson, Debra Kalensky, Martin Lachter, Jane Manweiler, John McCowen, Adam Troy, Tess Yanisch

**Consumer Insight** Monica Liriano, Associate Director; Joey Edwards, Selina Tedesco, Teneisha Thomas, Frank Yang

**Marketing** Dawn Nelson, Senior Director; Patricia McSorley, Newsstand

**Procurement Operations** Steven Schiavone, Associate Director

**Administration** Decarris Bryant, Dawn Yancy Elleby

**VICE PRESIDENTS:** **Chief Communications Officer** Matt Anchin;

**Financial Planning & Analysis** JoAnne Boyd; **Chief Digital Officer** Jason Fox;

**Advocacy** David Friedman; **Chief Intelligence Officer** Esther Han;

**General Counsel** Michael Hubner; **Development** Geoffrey MacDougall;

**Research, Testing & Insights** Liam McCormack; **Business Strategy &**

**Planning** Betsy Parker; **Chief Human Resources Officer** Rafael Pérez;

**Chief Marketing Officer** Lauren Stanich; **Chief Social Impact Officer**

Shar Taylor; **SVP, Chief Financial Officer** Eric Wayne

**CR**™ Copyright © 2020 Consumer Reports, Yonkers, New York 10703. Published by Consumer Reports, Yonkers, New York 10703. All rights reserved, including the right of reproduction in whole or in part in any form. ISSN: 2572-3855  
 Manufactured in the United States of America.

### CONNECT WITH US

**FACEBOOK**  
 fb.com/consumerreports  
 fb.com/SomosCR

**TWITTER**  
 @consumerreports  
 @SomosCR

**YOUTUBE**  
 /consumerreports

**PINTEREST**  
 /consumerreports

**INSTAGRAM**  
 @consumerreports

**LINKEDIN**  
 /company/  
 consumer-reports



# Get Inspired

DRAMATIC SURFACES, COLORFUL FINISHES, EASY PERSONALIZATION, AND MORE. OUR FAVORITE NEW KITCHEN DESIGN TRENDS COULD BE JUST THE UPDATES YOU NEED.

## DARK AND HANDSOME

White marble counters will always have classic appeal. But look out for bolder alternatives: deep, rich tones, such as sea green, black, and brown. Among the introductions at the recent Kitchen & Bath Industry Show: Cosentino's Dekton Avantgarde collection, including Laurent (shown here), and a range of rich black quartz patterns from Caesarstone.

## Get Inspired



### CABINETS GET THE BLUES ...

... and greens. After years of white cabinets and more white cabinets (with the occasional gray finish thrown in), **color is coming back** to the kitchen. So far, the most widely used colors seem to be deep and muted shades of blue and green, from navy and indigo to hunter and sage. Designers are embracing these shades in a big way, taking them beyond the base cabinets

onto the walls, sometimes mixing in wood (see the facing page) or white. To be sure, **blue and green are trending** beyond the kitchen: The Pantone Color Institute—known for its color matching system and forecasting work—chose a brilliant blue as the 2020 Color of the Year, describing Classic Blue as at once “solid and dependable” and “evocative of the vast and infinite evening sky.” Sherwin-Williams went with a slightly more subdued shade of blue—Naval SW 6244—for its color of the year. And Behr paint settled on a tranquil green called Back to Nature, S340-4.



PHOTOS, FROM LEFT: JESSICA  
KETTLE; HULYA KOLABAS



## PERFECT FIT APPLIANCES

As average house sizes fall—and more than 45 million Americans report living alone—the interest in **smaller-scale appliances** has grown. Accordingly, manufacturers are expanding their offerings. Bosch, for example, has tripled the number of 18-inch-wide dishwashers it sells in the U.S. since 2015. And you'll find plenty of **high-end features** packed into those smaller packages. The Haier HCR2250AGS 24-inch freestanding gas range

(right) has pro-style continuous cast-iron grates, convection cooking mode, and halogen lighting. And Whirlpool's Small Spaces Kitchen Suite (below), which features a 24-inch-wide refrigerator, an 18-inch dishwasher, and more, comes in a trendy dark finish—and accepts cabinet panels, for an integrated look.







**CUSTOM  
OPTIONS  
FOR  
EVERYONE**

You're used to personalizing the ingredients for your fast-casual burritos and chopped salads—and it's getting easier to personalize the kitchen. **Appliances** now come in many colorful and metallic finishes, including Saffron

from True Refrigeration (above) and matte white from Café (far right). Dacor (not shown) will go so far as matching its appliances to any color you choose. **Sinks** offer modular accessories, such as cutting boards and dish drainers. **Faucets** are onboard, too, offering smart technology that lets you order up a perfectly measured amount of water via a voice assistant, or providing multiple types of water from a single spout (right).



**Sip Selector**  
Turn the knob on the Grohe Blue Chilled & Sparkling faucet for regular or filtered, flat or sparkling.



PHOTO, TOP RIGHT: ADAM KANE MACCHIA



## WELCOME BACK, WOOD

Don't worry: The return of wood cabinet finishes does not mean the orangey oak or purply cherries of decades past. Today's wood finishes are anything but harsh or garish. **Natural finishes** (left) mix well with white, for a bright, clean effect. **Deep, rich finishes** (on the facing page) can create a bold midcentury look. **Gray or whitewashed finishes** (not shown) work with a range of design styles, including coastal, Scandinavian, and industrial.



## COCKTAIL PARTY

If you relish a craft cocktail or a glass of wine, there's a beverage-friendly appliance for you. Some **new refrigerators** have sections for beverages built right in (so no need for a second wine fridge) and several new models make more ice, faster—or produce specialized ice. The Bosch 800 Series Refreshment Center

fridge (not shown) has a glass-front drawer between the fresh food and freezer sections that holds up to 17 wine bottles. And LG has introduced the InstaView Refrigerator With Craft Ice (top right), which makes clear 2-inch ice spheres, designed to melt more slowly than regular cubes—a plus when chilling spirits. The **Plum wine appliance** (bottom right) will keep two bottles fresh for 90 days, dispensing one glass at a time, so you can enjoy your investment at your own pace, without worrying about waste.



# What We're Testing in Our Labs ...

In our 63 labs, we continually review and rate products. Here, our latest countertop appliance picks.

## Air Fryers

**WE TESTED:** 25

**WE TEST FOR:** The legibility and clarity of markings and controls, noise, ease of cleaning, measured fryer basket volume, and temperature performance.

**ABOUT THE SCORES:**

Median: 67  
Range: 75-47

### Top Performer

NuWave 6-Qt 37001  
\$130

**75**  
OVERALL SCORE



### Quiet and Roomy

GoWISE GW22731  
\$70

**73**  
OVERALL SCORE



### Convenient Presets

Ninja AF100  
\$100

**71**  
OVERALL SCORE



## Blenders

**WE TESTED:** 72

**WE TEST FOR:** Ability to make icy drinks, convenience, how well the blender purées vegetables into soup, ice crushing performance, noise, and durability.

**ABOUT THE SCORES:**

Median: 67  
Range: 88-26

### Best All-Around

Vitamix Professional Series 750  
\$650

**88**  
OVERALL SCORE



### Sharp Deal

Ninja Professional NJ600  
\$100

**81**  
OVERALL SCORE



### Icy Drink Whiz

Breville The Q BBL820SHY1BUS1  
\$350

**79**  
OVERALL SCORE



## Drip Coffee Makers

**WE TESTED:** 120

**WE TEST FOR:** Brew performance, convenience of operation, carafe handling, and how long it takes to brew a pot of coffee in its regular cycle.

**ABOUT THE SCORES:**

Median: 67  
Range: 85-34

### Excellent Overall

Cuisinart PerfecTemp 14 Cup Programmable DCC-3200  
\$100

**85**  
OVERALL SCORE



### Great Value

Hamilton Beach 12-cup Programmable 49465R  
\$25

**82**  
OVERALL SCORE



### Fast With a Thermal Carafe

Mr. Coffee Optimal Brew BVMC-PSTX95  
\$80

**78**  
OVERALL SCORE



## Food Processors

**WE TESTED:** 35

**WE TEST FOR:** Capacity, weight, noise, and its proficiency at chopping, slicing, shredding, puréeing, and grating.

**ABOUT THE SCORES:**

**MEDIAN:** 56

**RANGE:** 81-35

### Peak Processor

Breville Sous Chef  
BFP800XL/A  
\$400

**81**

OVERALL  
SCORE



### Large Capacity

Cuisinart Custom 14  
DFP-14BCNY  
\$180

**71**

OVERALL  
SCORE



### Bargain Buy

Hamilton Beach 8-Cup  
Stack & Snap 70820  
\$100

**67**

OVERALL  
SCORE



## Multi-Cookers

**WE TESTED:** 14

**WE TEST FOR:** Pressure cooking results; slow cooking performance; quality of rice cooking, steaming, and sautéing results; convenience of use; capacity.

**ABOUT THE SCORES:**

Median: 75

Range: 82-60

### Pressure-Cooking Pick

Zavor LUX LCD : ZSELL02  
\$160

**82**

OVERALL  
SCORE



### Outstanding Rice Cooker

Breville Fast Slow Pro  
6 qt. BPR700BSS  
\$250

**81**

OVERALL  
SCORE



### No Pressure-Cooking Mode

DeLonghi Livenza  
All-in-One Programmable  
CKM1641D  
\$180

**78**

OVERALL  
SCORE



## Slow Cookers

**WE TESTED:** 17

**WE TEST FOR:** Convenience of use; results cooking beef stew on high setting for 5 hours and on low setting for 8 hours.

**ABOUT THE SCORES:**

Median: 71

Range: 87-54

### Marvelous Meal-Maker

Hamilton Beach Temp  
Tracker 33866 6 Qt.  
\$70

**87**

OVERALL  
SCORE



### Nonstick Space-Saver

Calphalon Digital Saute  
SCCLD1 (5.3 qt.)  
\$100

**78**

OVERALL  
SCORE



### Crowd-Cooking Champ

Elite Platinum MST-900D  
(8.5 qt.)  
\$69

**72**

OVERALL  
SCORE



## Toaster Ovens

**WE TESTED:** 48

**WE TEST FOR:** How well the oven reheats and bakes; ability to produce a range of light to dark toast; full-batch and single-slice toasting; cleaning ease; ease of use.

**ABOUT THE SCORES:**

Median: 58

Range: 78-31

### Hottest Option

Breville BOV650XL  
\$180

**78**

OVERALL  
SCORE



### Has a Convection Mode

KitchenAid Digital  
Convection Countertop  
KCO273SS  
\$250

**73**

OVERALL  
SCORE



### Large Oven, Nice Price

Black+Decker 8-Slice Digital  
Extra Wide TO3290XSD  
\$100

**72**

OVERALL  
SCORE



# BUYING GUIDE



## APPLIANCES

- 12 Refrigerators
- 24 Ranges
- 34 Cooktops
- 42 Wall Ovens
- 46 Microwaves
- 54 Dishwashers

## DESIGN ELEMENTS

- 62 Cabinets
- 68 Counters
- 74 Flooring

## SHOPPING ADVICE

- 80 Best Appliance Stores
- 84 Resources



PHOTO: ANNIE SCHLECHTER

# By the Numbers

Each year, Consumer Reports spends \$27 million testing, rating, and reviewing products in our 63 state-of-the-art labs.

**5.4 million**

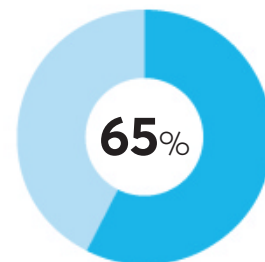
How many temperature readings we take when evaluating each refrigerator in our tests.

**28 hours**

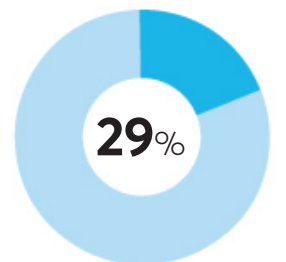
How long we spend working with each dishwasher in our ratings.

### What's the most popular kitchen style?

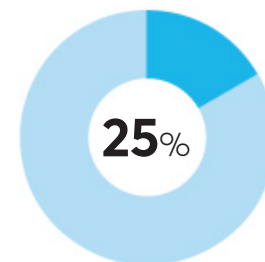
These are the looks that designers specified most often in the last year.



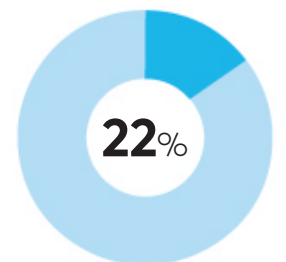
TRANSITIONAL



TRADITIONAL



CONTEMPORARY



FARMHOUSE

Source: NKBA 2019 Design Trends Survey of 583 NKBA kitchen and bath professionals.





## Refrigerators

# Playing It Cool

WITH MORE CONFIGURATIONS AND OPTIONS THAN EVER, TODAY'S FRIDGES ARE MADE TO SUIT YOUR FOOD-STORAGE STYLE. HERE'S HOW TO MAKE SENSE OF ALL THE CHOICES TO FIND THE BEST FIT FOR YOUR FAMILY.

Today's refrigerator features go far beyond simply providing a glass of ice water without having to open the door. With custom panels, you can get a built-in that matches your kitchen cabinets exactly. And forget about four doors—some models have five. Our fridge-by-fridge guide helps you choose the right type for your family, demystifies claimed vs. usable storage space, and helps you find the quietest models so that you—and your groceries—can chill out.



## Refrigerators

### ● SMART SHOPPING

Think about the size and type that will work best for you. Focus on interior storage features, too.

#### SIZE

Refrigerator configurations come in a range of sizes and capacities. Always measure where you plan to put the fridge before you shop. And check that any model you consider can fit through doorways. Allow room for the refrigerator's doors to swing open and for a 1-inch clearance around sides and back for adequate airflow.

#### STYLE

There's a refrigerator configuration to suit every household. French-door models are exploding in popularity. Some consumers prefer the convenience of bottom-freezers, which put fresh food at eye level. But top-freezers and side-by-sides can make more efficient use of space in a smaller kitchen. Here's what you need to know to make the best choice.

#### CAPACITY

Most manufacturers recommend 19 to 22 cubic feet for a refrigerator that serves a family of four. But if you do a big weekly shopping trip or buy in bulk, you may need

more—up to 30 to 33 cubic feet. Our tests have found that the amount of usable storage capacity is often less than the amount claimed. Check our refrigerator ratings for more information.



### ● FOCUS ON FEATURES

Models at all prices are increasingly tricked out with a wide range of features. French-door styles usually have the most.

Of course, you'll pay top dollar for some of these features. Here's a look at the ones we think add the most convenience.

#### THROUGH-THE-DOOR ICE AND WATER DISPENSER

This is one of the conveniences most requested by consumers. But beware: Our surveys have found that it's the most problematic feature. Energy costs are higher, too, and in side-by-sides you lose space in the freezer.

#### DOOR-IN-DOOR STORAGE ACCESS

You can grab favorite items without opening the entire door, which can reduce energy use.

#### FRESHNESS FEATURES

Dual evaporators help maintain higher humidity levels in the refrigerated areas and prevent freezer odors from migrating.

Air purifiers eliminate bacteria and mold spores, and vacuum-sealed crisper drawers may keep food fresher longer.

#### TEMPERATURE CONTROLS

You decide how cold your fridge is in certain areas. For example, set a drawer to be cooler than



PHOTO, RIGHT: JANE BEILES

the rest of the fridge to store meat, fish, and cold cuts.

### BETTER SHELVES AND DRAWERS

You can rearrange split shelves to different heights independently and adjust doors to fit taller items. But if your door has deep storage bins meant for eggs,

milk, or butter, be aware that these items will stay fresher on internal shelves, where the temperatures are cooler. Elevator shelves crank up and down without needing to be unloaded. Shelf snuggers attach to racks to secure bottles and jars. Pullout shelves and bins make access to stored items easier.

## ● ON THE MARKET

Here's a look at the different configurations you'll find. See our full refrigerator ratings to find out how models in different sizes and styles performed in our tests.

### TOP-FREEZER

These traditional refrigerators are good for a lot of storage in a fairly tight spot. They tend to offer the most space for their size (widths vary from 28 to 33 inches). Manufacturers claim capacities of up to 23 cubic feet, but our tests have found that average usable capacity is about 17 percent less. Allow for a wide swing of the doors, and get used to crouching down to reach lower shelves and drawers.

### BOTTOM-FREEZER

These range from 24 to 36 inches wide, and claimed capacities approach 30 cubic feet, though average usable space is less than that of comparable top-freezers (and top-freezers cost less). Instead of the freezer (which you use less) being at eye level, the refrigerator shelves are easily scannable. Just get used to bending to rifle through frozen goods.

### FRENCH-DOOR

It has two narrow doors on top and a freezer below. Sometimes there's one drawer (or more) in between. Widths range from 30 to 36 inches. Claimed capacities go up to 34 cubic feet, though the average usable space is much less, at about 17 cubic feet. The

space-saving small-swing doors have the added value of letting you open only half of the fridge when stashing smaller items.

### SIDE-BY-SIDE

The fridge is on one side and the freezer on the other, and these models usually have through-the-door ice and water dispensers. Widths are typically 33 to 36 inches, and capacity is claimed to be up to 30 cubic feet (but only about 70 percent is usable). Narrow doors are a plus for small kitchens, but they don't open wide enough for, say, a pizza box. And tall, narrow compartments make items at the back hard to find. Overall, they're not as energy- or space-efficient as other types.

### BUILT-IN

Pricy and made to fit almost flush with cabinets and counters, these sleek beauties come in bottom-freezer, side-by-side, and French-door styles. They're usually wide (30 to 48 inches) with a capacity of up to 27 cubic feet (of which only about 70 percent is usable). Look for optional front panels to match your kitchen cabinets.

Or get the look for a little less with freestanding counter-depth versions. Another built-in option: an all-refrigerator column model, as narrow as 18 inches, to make the most of a kitchen nook.

# Recommended Products

Most models we tested chill and freeze adequately and include pullout shelves or bins, split shelves, spill guards, and roomy storage on the door. Top-scoring models usually deliver more consistent temperatures. Once you know how much space you have, particularly the width, look at our recommended models to find ones that fit your needs. Fridges that have higher energy-efficiency scores use less electricity for their capacity. And if your household isn't large, remember that a smaller conventional refrigerator is likely to use less electricity overall than a larger model.

## TOP-FREEZER



**FRIGIDAIRE GALLERY  
FGTR2037TF**  
70Hx30Wx33D  
\$880

81

A top model in our ratings, this fridge is very good overall. Thermostat control, temperature uniformity, and energy efficiency are rated Excellent, and noise performance earns a Good. But it fared poorly in our ease-of-use tests. [frigidaire.com](http://frigidaire.com)



**LG LTCS20220S**  
66Hx30Wx33D  
\$700

81

Excellent scores for energy efficiency and noise performance and a Very Good score for thermostat control lift this fridge to the top of our ratings. It earns a Good rating for temperature uniformity. The trade-offs are crisper and ice-making performance, both rated Poor. [lg.com](http://lg.com)



**BLOMBERG BRFT1522SS**  
68Hx28Wx26D  
\$1,150

79

Our top 28-inch-wide model, this is a very good refrigerator that's rated Excellent for thermostat control and Very Good for temperature uniformity and energy efficiency. It's also quiet. But ice making and crisper performance are rated Poor. [blomberg.com](http://blomberg.com)

## BOTTOM-FREEZER



**KENMORE ELITE 79043**  
70Hx33Wx33D  
\$950

92

Superb temperature performance and exceptional energy efficiency and noise performance help this model, at 17.1 cubic feet (usable), earn a top spot on our recommended list. Other pluses include digital controls, spillproof shelves, and an open-door alarm. [kenmore.com](http://kenmore.com)



**LG LDCS24223S**  
69Hx33Wx33D  
\$1,000

89

This model has 17.1 cubic feet of total usable capacity. It earns an Excellent score for temperature performance, energy efficiency, and noise performance. Convenience features include digital controls, spillproof shelves, and an open-door alarm. [lg.com](http://lg.com)



**AMANA ABB1924BRM**  
66Hx30Wx31D  
\$1,350

79

This bottom-freezer refrigerator is rated Excellent for thermostat control, temperature uniformity, and crisper performance, and Very Good for energy efficiency. Noise and ice-making performance are rated Good. It has spillproof shelves and digital controls. [amana.com](http://amana.com)

### THREE-DOOR FRENCH-DOOR



**LG LFXS32766S**  
69Hx36Wx34D  
\$3,510

87

It's quiet, energy-efficient, and temperature-accurate. It offers 20.9 cubic feet of usable capacity, special adjustable shelves, split and pullout shelves, an ice and water dispenser, a temperature-controlled meat/deli bin, gallon storage on the door, and touchpad controls. [lg.com](http://lg.com)



**LG LRFDS3006S**  
71Hx36Wx34D  
\$2,700

84

With 20.5 cubic feet of usable capacity, this excellent performer is fit for a family. Among its features are dual evaporators, an open-door alarm, spillproof shelves, and digital controls. [lg.com](http://lg.com)



**GE GFD28GSLSS**  
70Hx36Wx33D  
\$2,000

82

This model earns a score of Excellent for thermostat control and temperature uniformity, and has 19.8 cubic feet of usable capacity. Energy efficiency and noise are rated Good. It features dual evaporators, spillproof shelves, an external water dispenser, and digital controls. [ge.com](http://ge.com)



**KENMORE ELITE 72483**  
69Hx36Wx36D  
\$1,890

83

This exceptionally quiet 36-inch-wide four-door French-door model delivers superb temperature control. It has 15.4 cubic feet of usable capacity in the fridge, an external ice and water dispenser, digital controls, and many other convenient features. [kenmore.com](http://kenmore.com)

### SIDE-BY-SIDE



**GE PROFILE PSS28KSHSS**  
70Hx36Wx33D  
\$2,150

79

Our top side-by-side model has 17 cubic feet of usable capacity and offers outstanding thermostat control. Temperature uniformity and energy efficiency are rated Very Good. It's extremely quiet and offers excellent ice making. [ge.com](http://ge.com)



**LG LSXS26366S**  
69Hx36Wx34D  
\$1,300

78

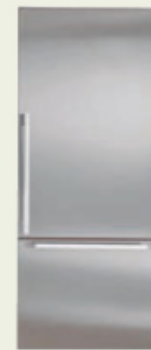
This fridge has a door-within-a-door design, so you can access a portion of the fresh-food section without opening the entire door. Thermostat control is rated Excellent; temperature uniformity and energy efficiency are rated Very Good. There's 20.7 cubic feet of usable space. [lg.com](http://lg.com)



**KENMORE ELITE 51863**  
70Hx36Wx30D  
\$2,200

74

Another door-within-a-door model, this Kenmore combines superb thermostat control and quietness with temperature uniformity and energy efficiency rated Very Good. But its crisper performance is rated Poor. It offers 16.2 cubic feet of usable capacity. [kenmore.com](http://kenmore.com)



**MIELE MASTERCOOL KF1903SF**  
83Hx36Wx25D  
\$9,100

87

Our top built-in model is impressive, with thermostat control and temperature uniformity rated Excellent and exceptionally quiet operation. Energy efficiency is rated Good. It has dual evaporators, dual compressors, digital controls, and spillproof shelves. [mieleusa.com](http://mieleusa.com)











Ratings > Refrigerators

Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Survey Results		Test Results					Features								
			Predicted reliability	Owner satisfaction	Thermostat control	Temperature uniformity	Energy efficiency	Noise	Ease of use	Cabinet-depth model	Exterior height (in.)	Exterior width (in.)	Exterior depth (in.)	Total usable capacity (cu. ft.)	Energy cost/yr. (\$)	Stainless/SS-look option	Energy Star	Icemaker
<b>FRENCH-DOORS (31-33 INCH WIDTHS)</b> <i>Continued</i>																		
KitchenAid KRFF300ESS	74	\$1,905	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓		69	33	32	15.2	59			
GE GWE19JSLSS	68	\$1,500	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓	•	70	33	28	12.2	71			
Samsung RF20HFENBSR	67	\$1,390	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑		71	33	31	14.8	80			
Samsung RF25HMEDBSR <sup>□</sup>	65	\$1,700	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑		69	33	34	16.6	89			Ext.
Whirlpool WRF532SMHZ	64	\$2,020	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓		69	33	32	15.2	59			
<b>FRENCH-DOORS (30 INCH AND NARROWER WIDTHS)</b>																		
\$ LG LFC22770ST	83	\$1,620	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓		68	30	33	15.4	76			
✓ Kenmore 71323	80	\$1,500	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑		68	30	33	15.3	76			Ext.
✓ LG LFC22520S	79	\$1,000	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓		68	30	33	14.8	76			
✓ GE GNE21FSKSS	77	\$1,555	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓		70	30	35	13.7	74			
Samsung RF220NCTASR	61	\$1,000	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓		67	30	34	16	81			
<b>SIDE-BY-SIDES (34 INCH AND WIDER WIDTHS)</b>																		
✓ GE Profile PSS28KSHSS	79	\$2,150	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑		70	36	33	17	95			Ext.
\$ LG LSXS26366	78	\$1,300	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑		69	36	34	20.7	92			Ext.
✓ GE Profile PSE25KSHSS	76	\$2,000	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑		70	36	33	16.1	83			Ext.
\$ LG LSXS26326S	75	\$1,200	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑		69	36	34	20.6	92			Ext.
✓ LG LSXC22486S	75	\$1,800	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	•	70	36	30	16.2	78			Ext.
✓ Kenmore 51763	74	\$2,160	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑		69	36	34	18.7	79			Ext.
✓ Kenmore Elite 51863	74	\$2,200	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	•	70	36	30	16.2	78			Ext.
\$ Kenmore 51783	73	\$1,300	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	•	69	36	29	14.6	84			Ext.
Whirlpool WRS586FIEM	71	\$1,635	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑		69	36	33	18.9	83			Ext.
Whirlpool WRS588FIHZ	71	\$1,360	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑		69	36	33	20.5	96			Ext.
GE Profile PZS22MSKSS	70	\$2,800	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑	•	70	36	29	13.8	86			Ext.
Kenmore Elite 51773	69	\$1,600	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑		69	36	34	21.8	95			Ext.
Frigidaire FFSS2625TS	69	\$1,290	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓		70	36	32	17.4	91			Ext.
Whirlpool WRS571CIDM	69	\$1,255	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑	•	69	36	28	14.6	84			Ext.
Daewoo FRS-Y22D2T	69	\$750	–	–	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓		70	36	28	14.9	83			Ext.
GE GZS22IYNFS	69	\$1,350	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	•	70	36	28	14.5	86			Ext.
Frigidaire FGSS2635TF	69	\$1,100	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑		70	36	34	18.5	91			Ext.
GE GSS25GSHSS	68	\$995	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑		70	36	33	16.3	91			Ext.
LG LSXS26386S	67	\$1,800	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑		70	36	34	20.3	84			Ext.
Kenmore 51335	67	\$1,100	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓		70	36	32	10.8	90			Ext.
KitchenAid KRSC503ESS	67	\$3,000	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	•	71	36	28	16.2	88			
GE GSS25LSLSS	66	\$1,000	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑		70	36	34	17.3	91			
Whirlpool WRS325SDHZ	66	\$1,100	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓		69	36	33	15.1	90			Ext.
Frigidaire FGSC2335TF	66	\$1,100	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	•	70	36	29	16	87			Ext.
Whirlpool WRS325FDAM	66	\$950	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓		69	36	33	15.1	90			Ext.
Kenmore 51115	65	\$2,400	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓		69	36	33	15.1	90			Ext.

Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Survey Results		Test Results					Features								
			Predicted reliability	Owner satisfaction	Thermostat control	Temperature uniformity	Energy efficiency	Noise	Ease of use	Cabinet-depth model	Exterior height (in.)	Exterior width (in.)	Exterior depth (in.)	Total usable capacity (cu. ft.)	Energy cost/yr. (\$)	Stainless/SS-look option	Energy Star	Icemaker
<b>SIDE-BY-SIDES (34 INCH AND WIDER WIDTHS) <i>Continued</i></b>																		
Maytag MSC21C6MFZ	63	\$1,620	↓	⬇	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑	●	69	36	28	14.1	84	●	●	Ext.
KitchenAid KRSF505ESS	62	\$2,295	↓	⬇	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	●	69	36	34	18.7	79	●	●	Ext.
Whirlpool WRS555SIHZ	62	\$1,100	↓	⬇	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	●	70	36	32	17.7	90	●	●	Ext.
GE GSS25IYNFS	61	\$1,100	↓	⬇	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	●	70	36	32	17	91	●	●	Ext.
<b>SIDE-BY-SIDES (31-33 INCH WIDTHS)</b>																		
GE GSS23HSHSS	71	\$1,650	↓	⬇	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	●	70	33	33	15.2	87	●	●	Ext.
Kenmore Elite 51823	68	\$1,300	↓	⬇	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓	●	66	33	32	17.1	78	●	●	Ext.
Whirlpool WRS321SDHZ	66	\$1,000	↓	⬇	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓	●	67	33	32	12.7	85	●	●	Ext.
Amana ASI2175GRS	65	\$1,095	↓	⬇	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓	●	67	33	32	12.7	85	●	●	Ext.
Frigidaire FFHS2322MW	63	\$945	↓	⬇	↑	↓	↑	↓	↓	●	70	33	32	15.7	87	●	●	Ext.
Whirlpool WRS331SDHM	62	\$1,280	↓	⬇	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓	●	67	33	32	13.7	78	●	●	Ext.
<b>BUILT-INS</b>																		
Miele MasterCool KF1903SF	87	\$9,100	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	●	83	36	25	14.1	74	●	●	●
Thermador Freedom Collection Professional Series T36BT920NS	85	\$9,300	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	●	84	36	25	13.3	75	●	●	●
Thermador Freedom Collection T36IT901NP	84	\$8,000	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	●	84	36	25	12.7	75	●	●	●
Dacor Modernist DRF427500AP	82	\$10,500	—	—	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓	●	85	42	25	16.6	81	●	●	Int.
Jenn-Air JF42NFXDE	81	\$9,400	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓	●	83	42	26	17	82	●	●	●
Dacor Modernist DRF367500AP	81	\$8,200	—	—	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	●	84	36	24	14.6	71	●	●	Int.
Jenn-Air JB36NFXRE	80	\$7,400	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	●	83	36	26	14.9	77	●	●	●
KitchenAid KBFN502ESS	78	\$9,700	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓	●	83	42	26	17	82	●	●	●
KitchenAid KBBR306ESS	77	\$6,745	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	●	83	36	26	14.9	77	●	●	●
Miele PerfectCool KFNF9955IDE	76	\$7,000	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	●	80	36	24	13.6	72	●	●	●
Miele KFN9855IDE	74	\$5,500	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	●	80	36	25	13.7	55	●	●	●
GE Monogram ZIPP360NHSS	73	\$8,700	↓	⬇	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	●	84	36	26	14	85	●	●	●
KitchenAid KBFN406ESS	72	\$7,960	↓	⬇	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓	●	83	36	26	14.5	85	●	●	●
Blomberg BRFB1920SS	71	\$6,900	—	—	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	●	84	30	25	12.8	72	●	●	●
GE Café CSB42WP2NS1	70	\$7,200	↓	⬇	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	●	84	42	26	19.5	99	●	●	●
Fisher & Paykel RS36W80J	66	\$6,000	—	—	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	●	80	36	24	12.1	69	●	●	●

> All-Access and Digital members can find the latest, complete ratings at [CR.org/refrigerators](https://www.cro.org/refrigerators).

**HOW WE TEST:** Temperature uniformity is the ability to mitigate warm and cold spots in the fridge and freezer compartments. **Thermostat control** assesses the ability to reach and maintain a set temperature despite changes in room temperature. **Energy**

**efficiency** indicates energy consumption based on usable storage space and the national average electricity cost. **Noise** reflects quietness of operation based on noise-meter readings and a panel of listeners. **Ease of use** assesses layout and features. **Price** is approximate retail.

**Overall Score** combines test results with survey data for predicted reliability and owner satisfaction. **Predicted reliability** estimates the likelihood that newly purchased models from a given brand will develop problems or break within the first five years. **Owner satisfaction**

reflects the proportion of CR members who are extremely likely to recommend the refrigerator they bought. In cases where we have insufficient survey data to provide a brand-level rating, indicated by a gray dash (—), we assume the model has average reliability and satisfaction.





Ranges

# Range Finder

ONE OVEN OR TWO? FOUR BURNERS, FIVE, OR MORE? THIS DO-IT-ALL APPLIANCE COMES IN SIZES AND STYLES TO FIT YOUR COOKING NEEDS—AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEND A FORTUNE TO GET GREAT PERFORMANCE AND CONVENIENT FEATURES.

The range is the workhorse of the kitchen, and if it's stylish, it's probably the centerpiece, too. Electric smoothtop ranges remain the best sellers, but you have more options than ever, including double-oven models for the multitasker in all of us. Electric induction ranges are coming down in price, and for gas models we've found that you can get good looks and top performance without forking over a fortune on a pro-style model. Read on to learn how.

## Ranges



### ● SMART SHOPPING

Remodeling or starting from scratch? Cooking for a crowd or just for two—or one? These topics and others will help you decide what you need in a new range.

#### **TYPE**

Freestanding ranges are the most widely sold and easiest to install. The oven control panel is usually on the back panel, above the cooktop surface. But manufacturers of many new models have moved the oven controls to the front and eliminated

the back panel; these models offer the same ease of installation. For an even more custom built-in look, there are slide-in models where the cooktop rests on the counter on either side.

#### **SIZE**

Most electric and gas ranges are 30 inches wide, which is the size we buy and test. Pro-style ranges usually span 36 inches or more; we test 30-inch and 36-inch models. They're big on style but aren't the

best-performing ranges we've tested. Even regular ranges now have beefy knobs, rugged grates, stainless trim, and more style for a lot less money.

#### **CAPACITY**

A roomy oven comes in handy when baking or entertaining. We measure oven space you can actually use, so check the capacity scores in our range ratings. The smallest ovens in our tests are a little more than 2 cubic feet; the largest are nearly 4 cubic feet.





## ● FOCUS ON FEATURES

Here's a look at some of the perks found on the newest models.

### **CONTROL LOCKOUT**

It lets you disable the oven controls. We recommend it if the electronic-oven control panel is at the front of the range rather than on the back panel, especially if small children are in the house.

### **DOUBLE OVENS**

Two separate ovens let you, say, roast a turkey in one while baking pies in the other, and at different temperatures. Some ranges pair a smaller top oven with a larger oven below; others have two same-sized ovens. Keep in mind that there's no storage drawer, and usually the convection feature is in the bottom oven.

### **EXPANDABLE ELEMENTS, A BRIDGE, AND OVAL BURNERS**

On gas cooktops, oval burners accommodate griddles and elongated pans. Certain electric rangetops have an elongated bridge element that spans two burners to fit a griddle or other odd-shaped cookware. Most electric radiant and induction smooth-tops have an expandable burner that lets you choose the size that best matches the pot's diameter.

### **HOT-SURFACE WARNING LIGHTS**

These lights warn you when an element is still hot, and they're especially useful on electric radiant smooth-tops. Some ranges have a warning light for each burner; others have one.

### **CONVECTION**

Many mid- and higher-priced ranges use one fan or more to circulate hot air in the oven. Some ovens, usually electric models, have an additional convection heating element. Convection typically reduces cooking time, especially for large roasts.

### **VARIABLE BROIL**

Most electric and gas ovens have this feature. Variable broil provides adjustable settings for foods that need slower or faster cooking.

### **TIME/DELAYED START**

This lets you set a time for the electric or gas oven to start and stop cooking. But this feature is not essential; it mainly buys you pre-heating time, and most foods shouldn't stay in a cold oven for long.



GE PROFILE

### ● ON THE MARKET

There are three types of ranges: electric, gas, and dual-fuel, which pairs a gas cooktop with an electric oven. Both gas and electric have their advantages.

#### **ELECTRIC SMOOTHTOP**

Ranges with electric radiant smoothtops are the popular pick. All the models in our tests have at least one high-power burner. Most have expandable dual or triple elements that let you switch from a large, high-power element to

a small, lower-power element within it. Certain ranges have a warming element in the center to keep side dishes warm.

There's a lot of residual heat, so when reducing the temperature it can take a few minutes to really settle at the lower setting.

#### **ELECTRIC INDUCTION**

Electric ranges with an induction cooktop use magnetic coils below a ceramic glass surface to quickly generate heat directly to the pan, offering

precise simmering and control. You'll find these models in our ratings of electric ranges.

Magnetic cookware is needed for induction to work. If a magnet strongly sticks to the bottom of a pot, it will work with an induction cooktop. Certain stainless steel cookware is induction-capable.

#### **GAS**

The capacity of a burner is measured in British thermal units (Btu) per hour. Most ranges have four surface burners in

three sizes: one or two medium-power burners (about 9,000 Btu), a small burner (about 5,000 Btu), and one or two large ones (about 12,000 Btu or more). Some have a fifth burner instead of a center section. Response time is quick, especially when compared with a radiant smoothtop. And with most gas burners, you can strike a match to light them when the power is out.

#### TIP

Induction ranges require magnetic cookware to work. Some stainless steel cookware is induction-capable, but (as for any smoothtop range) make sure the pot or pan has a flat bottom.

# Recommended Products

The recommended ranges will bring a large pot of water to a fast boil, hold a big batch of sauce or chili at a low simmer, and deliver dozens of cookies that are evenly baked and browned. They all do at least an okay job broiling, and many are excellent—nice if you enjoy a good steak or burger. The ovens are large, and self-cleaning is good or better. CR Best Buys are recommended ranges that combine impressive performance and value, and at least good reliability.

## ELECTRIC SMOOTHTOP



SMOOTHTOP, SINGLE OVEN (30-INCH)

**GE PROFILE**  
**PB911SJSS**  
\$1,085

87

This top-rated freestanding range has four cooktop elements; two are high-power. It excels at fast cooktop heat and simmering. Baking and broiling are very good. Oven capacity is large, and it has a convection feature. Self-cleaning is excellent.  
*ge.com*



SMOOTHTOP, DOUBLE OVEN (30-INCH)

**SAMSUNG**  
**NE58F9710WS**  
\$1,800

81

This model looks like a single-oven range, but has a slide-in partition that converts the cavity from a single oven to two cavities with separate temperature controls. It excels at simmering, broiling, and self-cleaning, and impressed in high-heat cooktop burner cooking and baking.  
*samsung.com*

## ELECTRIC INDUCTION



INDUCTION (30-INCH)

**GE PROFILE**  
**PHS930SLSS**  
\$2,709

86

Overall, this range is excellent, offering superb fast cooktop heat from its highest-power burner and steady simmering. Baking and broiling are very good. The large oven has a convection mode, and the self-cleaning cycle is excellent.  
*ge.com*

## GAS



GAS, SINGLE OVEN (30-INCH)

**SAMSUNG**  
**NX58H9500WS**  
\$1,400

79

This slide-in gas range earns Very Good scores almost across the board. Simmering is superb. It has five cooktop burners; two are high-power. The oven has five rack positions and a warming drawer below.  
*samsung.com*



DUAL-FUEL, SINGLE OVEN (30-INCH)

**LG**  
**LSD4913ST**  
\$1,400

75

Very Good baking and Excellent broiling scores, plus a large oven capacity, help to put this model near the top of our ratings. But it is only fair at self-cleaning, and its large burner struggled to keep tomato sauce at a low simmer. It has five cooktop burners, continuous grates, and convection oven mode.  
*lg.com*



DUAL-FUEL DOUBLE OVEN (30-INCH)

**LG SIGNATURE**  
**LUTD4919SN**  
\$3,000

84

Top-rated, this front-control double-oven range has five surface burners, two that are high-power. Cooktop high and baking are very good; simmering, broiling, and self-cleaning are excellent.  
*lg.com*



GAS, PRO-STYLE (30-INCH)

**MONOGRAM**  
**ZGP304NRSS**  
\$4,500

70

This range outperforms most others of its type. It has a large oven and excels at simmering. Cooktop high, baking, broiling, and self-cleaning are all good. Predicted reliability is very good and owner satisfaction is excellent.  
*monogram.com*



Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Survey Results		Test Results						Features					
			Predicted reliability	Owner satisfaction	Cooktop high	Cooktop low	Baking	Broiling	Oven capacity	Self-cleaning	High-power burners	Medium-power burners	Low-power burners	Convection mode	Slide-in	Stainless steel available
<b>ELECTRIC SMOOTHTOP, SINGLE OVEN (30-INCH)</b>																
✓ GE Profile PB911SJSS	87	\$1,209	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
Ⓢ LG LRE3193ST	84	\$1,000	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	NA	2	0	2	•	•	
✓ LG LSE4613ST	82	\$1,200	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	2	0	2	•	•	
✓ Kenmore Pro 92583	82	\$2,475	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	2	1	1	•	•	
Samsung NE58F9500SS	80	\$1,100	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
GE JS760SLSS	80	\$1,000	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
GE JB655SKSS	78	\$550	↑	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
LG LRE3194BD	78	\$750	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	2	0	2	•	•	
Whirlpool WEE510S0FS	78	\$800	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
LG LRE3060ST	77	\$600	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	NA	2	0	2	•	•	
Samsung NE59N6650SS	75	\$1,000	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
Frigidaire Gallery GCRE302LAF	75	\$599	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
Samsung NE59J7630SS	75	\$750	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
GE Adora JB755BJTS	75	\$1,043	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
Samsung NE59M4320SS	74	\$550	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
Frigidaire Gallery FGEH3047VF	73	\$1,000	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
Café CES700P2MS1	72	\$2,299	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓	1	2	1	•	•	
GE JS645SLSS	71	\$800	↑	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
Frigidaire FFEF3054TS	70	\$720	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
Frigidaire FFEH3054US	69	\$750	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
Frigidaire FFEH3051VS	69	\$700	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑	NA	2	0	2	•	•	
Electrolux EI30EF45QS	68	\$2,240	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
Whirlpool WFE515S0ES	68	\$515	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
GE JBS60RKSS	67	\$460	↑	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑	NA	1	1	2	•	•	
Kenmore Elite 95223	65	\$1,600	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	2	0	2	•	•	
Kenmore 95123	64	\$1,100	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↓	2	0	2	•	•	
Samsung NE59M4310SS	64	\$480	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
KitchenAid KFEG500ESS	62	\$900	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓	2	0	2	•	•	
Whirlpool WFE775H0HZ	61	\$925	↑	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	2	0	2	•	•	
GE JB645RKSS	61	\$480	↑	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	
Whirlpool WFE320M0EW	60	\$450	↑	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	NA	2	0	2	•	•	
KitchenAid KSEB900ESS	60	\$2,100	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↓	2	0	2	•	•	
Whirlpool WFE975H0HV	59	\$1,100	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	2	0	2	•	•	
Whirlpool WEE745H0FS	58	\$1,000	↑	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	2	0	2	•	•	
Frigidaire FFEF3052TS	56	\$675	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓	NA	2	0	2	•	•	
Whirlpool WEE750H0HZ	56	\$1,200	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	2	0	2	•	•	
Whirlpool WFE520S0FS	54	\$895	↑	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓	2	0	2	•	•	
Whirlpool WFE550S0HZ	51	\$650	↑	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•	

Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Survey Results		Test Results						Features					
			Predicted reliability	Owner satisfaction	Cooktop high	Cooktop low	Baking	Broiling	Oven capacity	Self-cleaning	High-power burners	Medium-power burners	Low-power burners	Convection mode	Slide-in	Stainless steel available
<b>ELECTRIC SMOOTHTOP, SINGLE OVEN (30-INCH)</b> <i>Continued</i>																
Whirlpool WFE525S0HZ	48	\$765									2	0	2			
Maytag MER6600FZ	47	\$600									2	0	2			
Amana AER6303MF	45	\$450								NA	0	2	2			
<b>ELECTRIC SMOOTHTOP, DOUBLE OVEN (30-INCH)</b>																
Samsung NE58F9710WS	81	\$1,800									1	2	1			
LG LDE4415ST	80	\$1,620									2	0	2			
GE JB860SJSS	79	\$1,000									2	0	2			
LG LTE4815ST	79	\$1,600									2	0	2			
Samsung NE59J7850WS	78	\$1,100									1	2	1			
Ikea Betrodd 602.885.60 [IES900DS]	74	\$1,099	-	-							2	0	2			
Maytag MET8800FZ	74	\$1,525									1	2	1			
<b>ELECTRIC INDUCTION</b>																
GE Profile PHS930SLSS	86	\$2,709									3	1	0			
Kenmore Elite 95073	84	\$1,525									2	1	1			
LG LSE4617ST	82	\$2,500									2	2	0			
Frigidaire Gallery FGIF3036TF	81	\$1,035									4	0	0			
Samsung NE58K9560WS/AA	79	\$2,200									1	3	0			
Frigidaire FFIF3054TS	78	\$925									4	0	0			
KitchenAid KFID500ESS	72	\$2,160									2	2	0			
<b>GAS AND DUAL-FUEL, SINGLE OVEN (30-INCH)</b>																
Samsung NX58H9500WS	79	\$1,400									2	2	1			
Samsung NX58H5600SS	76	\$600									2	2	1			
Samsung NX58K3310SS	75	\$720								NA	2	2	1			
LG LSD4913ST	75	\$1,400									2	2	1			
Samsung NX58M9420SS	74	\$1,200									2	2	1			
LG LRG4113ST	74	\$1,170									2	2	1			
Samsung Chef Collection NX58M9960PS/AA	74	\$4,000									3	0	1			
Samsung NX58M6630SS	74	\$1,200									2	2	1			
GE JGS760SELSS	73	\$2,000									2	2	1			
GE Profile PGS930SELSS	73	\$2,699									2	2	1			
LG LRG3193ST	72	\$775								NA	2	2	1			
LG LSG4513ST	70	\$1,300									2	2	1			
LG LRG3061ST	70	\$810								NA	2	2	1			
GE JGB700SEJSS	70	\$650									2	2	1			
Café CGS700M2NS5	68	\$3,299									3	2	1			
GE JGB660SEJSS	68	\$600									2	2	1			
Frigidaire FFGF3054TS	68	\$675									2	2	1			
Bosch HDI8054U	67	\$2,700									2	1	2			

Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Survey Results		Test Results						Features					
			Predicted reliability	Owner satisfaction	Cooktop high	Cooktop low	Baking	Broiling	Oven capacity	Self-cleaning	High-power burners	Medium-power burners	Low-power burners	Convection mode	Slide-in	Stainless steel available
<b>GAS AND DUAL-FUEL, SINGLE OVEN (30-INCH)</b> <i>Continued</i>																
GE JGBS66EEKES	67	\$650	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	NA	2	2	1			
GE JGBS62REKSS	67	\$680	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	NA	2	1	1			•
GE JGSS66EELES	66	\$1,610	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	NA	2	2	1			
Samsung NX58R4311SS	65	\$550	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1			•
GE JGBS30REKSS	64	\$530	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	NA	1	2	1			•
Frigidaire FFGH3054US	64	\$1,200	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1			•
GE JGBS60DEKWW	64	\$430	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	NA	1	2	1			•
Frigidaire FFGH3051VS	64	\$800	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	NA	2	2	1			•
Frigidaire Gallery FGGF3047TF	62	\$680	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1	•		•
Frigidaire FGGH3047VF	62	\$1,100	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1	•		•
GE JGB635REKSS	61	\$785	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	1	2	1			•
Kenmore 74433	59	\$1,000	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1			•
Kenmore 74423	57	\$590	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	NA	2	2	1			
KitchenAid KSGG700ESS	57	\$1,600	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1	•		•
Kenmore 75123	57	\$1,900	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1	•		•
Jenn-Air JGS1450FP	55	\$2,700	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1	•		•
Frigidaire FFGF3052TS	55	\$730	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	NA	2	2	1			•
KitchenAid KFGG500ESS	53	\$990	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1	•		•
Kenmore Elite 42783	50	\$4,000	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	1	1	•		•
Whirlpool WFG525S0HS	50	\$900	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1			
Whirlpool WEG745H0FS	50	\$1,900	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1	•		•
Frigidaire Professional FPGH3077RF	49	\$2,849	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	3	1	1	•		•
Whirlpool WFG975H0HZ	47	\$1,100	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1	•		•
Whirlpool WEG750H0HZ	47	\$1,300	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1	•		•
Whirlpool WFG540H0ES	47	\$950	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1	•		•
Kenmore 32673 Slide-in	47	\$2,150	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1	•	•	•
Whirlpool WFG550S0HZ	47	\$750	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1	•		•
Electrolux EI30GF45QS	47	\$2,515	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1	•		•
Kenmore Pro 72583	45	\$2,245	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	3	1	1	•		•
Frigidaire FFGF3012TW	43	\$490	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	NA	0	4	0			
Maytag MGR6600FZ	43	\$650	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	2	1			•
Kenmore 75113	43	\$950	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	1	1			•
Amana AGR6603SF	41	\$750	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	1	2	1			
Whirlpool WFG505M0BS	40	\$500	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	NA	2	2	1			•
Whirlpool WEG515S0FS	37	\$900	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	2	1	1			•
Thor Kitchen LRG3001U	36	\$1,545	—	—	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	NA	1	2	2	•		•
Amana AGR5330BAS	35	\$450	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	NA	0	3	1			•

Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Survey Results		Test Results						Features					
			Predicted reliability	Owner satisfaction	Cooktop high	Cooktop low	Baking	Broiling	Oven capacity	Self-cleaning	High-power burners	Medium-power burners	Low-power burners	Convection mode	Slide-in	Stainless steel available
<b>GAS AND DUAL-FUEL, DOUBLE OVEN (30-INCH)</b>																
✓ LG Signature LUTD4919SN	84	\$3,000	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	2	2	1	•	•	
✓ Samsung NY58J9850WS	81	\$2,725	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	2	2	1	•	•	
✓ Café C2S950P2MS1	76	\$3,599	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	3	2	1	•	•	
✓ LG LDG4315ST	76	\$1,710	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	2	2	1	•	•	
✓ GE Profile PGS960SELSS	72	\$3,199	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↓	2	2	1	•	•	
✓ Samsung NX58M6850SG	71	\$1,150	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	2	2	1	•	•	
GE JGB860SEJSS	63	\$1,300	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓	2	2	1	•	•	
KitchenAid KFGD500ESS	59	\$1,600	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	1	2	2	•	•	
Whirlpool WGG745S0FS	58	\$1,100	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	1	2	2	•	•	
GE Profile PGB960SEJSS	49	\$2,199	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓	2	2	1	•	•	
<b>PRO-STYLE GAS AND DUAL-FUEL (36-INCH)</b>																
✓ Monogram ZDP364NDPSS Dual-fuel	77	\$7,290	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	4	0	0	•	•	
✓ Samsung NY36R9966PS Dual fuel	74	\$7,470	—	—	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	6	0	0	•	•	
Thermador PRG366JG	68	\$7,700	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓	6	0	0	•	•	
Kucht Pro Style KRG3618U	65	\$3,130	—	—	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓	NA	6	0	0	•	•	
Wolf GR366	61	\$6,475	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	NA	5	1	0	•	•	
Viking VGR5366BSS	58	\$6,850	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	NA	6	0	0	•	•	
Haier HCR6250AGS	43	\$2,065	—	—	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓	NA	1	3	1	•	•	
BlueStar RCS36SBSS	41	\$4,495	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	NA	5	0	1	•	•	
Smeg C36GGXU	34	\$3,000	—	—	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	NA	1	1	4	•	•	
<b>PRO-STYLE GAS AND DUAL-FUEL (30-INCH)</b>																
✓ Monogram ZGP304NRSS	70	\$4,500	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	1	3	0	•	•	
✓ KitchenAid KDRS407VSS Dual-fuel	70	\$4,400	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑	3	0	1	•	•	
Wolf DF304 Dual-fuel	65	\$7,250	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓	3	1	0	•	•	
Miele HR1124	60	\$5,599	—	—	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	4	0	0	•	•	
Thermador PRG304GH	59	\$4,000	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓	NA	4	0	0	•	•	
Jenn-Air JGRP430WP	56	\$3,100	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	3	0	1	•	•	
Wolf GR304	55	\$4,650	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	NA	3	1	0	•	•	
Smeg C30GGXUI	46	\$1,799	—	—	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓	NA	1	4	0	•	•	
NXR Professional Pro3051	45	\$1,899	—	—	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓	NA	4	0	0	•	•	
Fisher & Paykel OR30SCG4X1	28	\$3,899	—	—	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓	NA	2	2	0	•	•	

**HOW WE TEST:** **Cooktop high** is a measure of how quickly the highest-power burner brings a large pot of water to a near-boil. **Cooktop low** indicates how steadily a low-power burner maintains low heat and whether the highest-power burner, set to low, maintains a simmer. **Baking** is a rating of how evenly the oven bakes cakes and

cookies on multiple racks. **Broiling** is a measurement of how well the upper element or burner browns a full tray of hamburger patties, and how even it is. **Oven capacity** is a measure of usable space in the cavity. (For double-oven ranges, the rating covers both ovens.) **Self-cleaning** evaluates the oven's ability to clean itself of a lab-calibrated

mixture of sticky foods, including pie filling, lard, eggs, and tapioca. **Overall Score** combines test results with survey data for predicted reliability and owner satisfaction. **Predicted reliability** estimates the likelihood that newly purchased models from a given brand will develop problems or break within the first five years. **Owner satisfaction**

reflects the proportion of CR members who are extremely likely to recommend the range they bought. In cases where we have insufficient survey data to provide a brand-level rating, indicated by a gray dash (—), we assume the model has average reliability and satisfaction.





# Top Choices

OUR TOUGH TESTS REVEAL WHICH COOKTOPS BOIL FAST AND SIMMER SLOW—AND MORE. USE THIS GUIDE TO CHOOSE A MODEL WITH THE RIGHT MIX OF FEATURES, PERFORMANCE, AND RELIABILITY.

Installing a separate cooktop and wall oven offers a few advantages over a range. For starters, you can mount the oven higher up in wall cabinets so that you don't have to bend to pull out a large pan or a hot tray of cookies. You also gain some flexibility with your kitchen's layout. If you're adding the appliances as part of a remodel, you can install a cooktop in an island instead of against a wall. Use our buying advice and ratings to find a cooktop with the best performance, features, and price for you.

## Cooktops

### ● SMART SHOPPING

To choose the right cooktop for your kitchen, take both your space and your cooking style into account.

#### SIZE

Most cooktops are 30 or 36 inches wide, so that's what we test. But you'll find cooktops ranging from 21 to 48 inches. Some have five or even six burners, but that doesn't mean you'll have room to use them all at once.

#### FUEL

Both electric and gas cooktops are capable of delivering a fine performance. But you may find it easier to judge heat by the appearance of a gas flame. And when you turn a knob from high to medium on a gas model, the pot and the food in it experience that change almost immediately.

Electric elements tend to heat faster and maintain low heat better than gas burners. Electric induction cooktops use an electromagnetic field to directly heat pans, offering quick response and control. In our tests, no other technology was faster than the fastest induction elements, but we're talking 1 to 3 minutes faster to bring a large pot of water to a near-boil.

#### FEATURES

A high-power cooktop element or burner will heat large pots and pans more quickly. Touch-sensitive controls on smoothtops are sleek, but some are less intuitive than old-school knobs. Manufacturers tout the high Btu of burners, but we've found that they don't always deliver faster heating.



### ● FOCUS ON FEATURES

These are the key details to consider when shopping for a new cooktop.

#### HOT-SURFACE WARNING LIGHTS

They're an important safety feature because the cooktop surface can remain hot long after an element has been

turned off. Many smoothtops have at least one warning light. Ideally, each element should have a separate warning light.

#### EXPANDABLE ELEMENTS, A BRIDGE, AND OVAL BURNERS

On gas cooktops, oval burners accommodate

griddles and elongated pans. Most smoothtops have an expandable burner that lets you choose the size that best matches a pot's diameter. Some cooktops have an elongated bridge element that spans two burners to accommodate rectangular or odd-

shaped cookware, such as a griddle. (In some, one knob or touch control operates both.)

#### CONTROLS

On cooktops, the controls take up space on the surface and can limit the area that cookware can cover. Electric models with touch-sensitive controls provide a flat, easy-to-clean surface, but they can be finicky.

#### TIP

Consider the mix of elements or burners. High-power and "simmer" burners sound sexy, but medium-power burners are the most versatile.

## Keep It Clean

Smoothtop cooktops are easy to clean if you follow some simple precautions. Wipe up sugary spills quickly so that they won't cause permanent damage as they cool. Wipe wet spills with a sponge, soft cloth, or paper towel. Don't use scouring sponges, which can scratch the surface. Remove heavy, burned-on residue with a glass scraper made for this purpose or a razor blade (very carefully). Polish regularly with a cooktop cleanser such as Cerama Bryte or Magic Glass Cooktop Cleaner, which worked well in our tests. Move cookware across the surface gently to avoid scratching.



## ON THE MARKET

Choose from electric smoothtops, electric induction smoothtops, or gas. You'll find that each has advantages.

### SMOOTHTOP

Electric radiant smoothtops are a popular pick. All of the models we tested have at least one high-power burner.

Most have expandable dual or triple elements that let you switch from a large, high-power element to a small, low-power element within it.

There's a lot of residual heat, so when reducing the heat it can take a few minutes to settle at the lower setting. Smoothtops make it

easy to clean up spills but require a special cleaner, and dropped pots and sugary spills can damage them.

### INDUCTION

Electric induction cooktops use magnetic coils below the ceramic glass surface to quickly generate heat directly

in a pan, offering precise simmering and control. You'll see these models in our ratings of electric cooktops.

Magnetic cookware is needed for induction to work. If a magnet sticks strongly to the bottom of a pot, it will work with an induction cooktop. Some stainless steel pots and pans are induction-capable, and some aren't.

### GAS

If you prefer cooking with gas, we get it. The flame makes it easier

to judge the heat and to quickly move from a high setting to a low one.

Response time is particularly quick, especially when compared with a smoothtop. When you adjust the knob on a gas cooktop, the level of the flame will change immediately—and you'll have a visual cue that the heat is on, and how high.

And with most gas burners, you can strike a match to light them when your power is out. Dinner by candlelight. Not so bad!



# Recommended Products

We test a cooktop's speed and simmering capabilities, and you'll find dozens of electric smoothtops and induction cooktops in our ratings. Recommended cooktops are top scorers and don't get dinged for brand-reliability ratings based on our survey of thousands of members. CR Best Buys are recommended cooktops that combine impressive performance and value.

## ELECTRIC INDUCTION



30-INCH INDUCTION

**SAMSUNG**  
**NZ30K7880UG/AA**  
\$2,000

96

Induction has the performance edge for electric cooktops. This model doesn't scrimp on power; it has three high-power elements and delivered excellent results in our high-heat cooking test. It has touch controls, plus a magnetic knob to use if you prefer knob controls. [samsung.com](http://samsung.com)



30-INCH INDUCTION

**FRIGIDAIRE**  
**FFIC3026TB**  
\$700

92

This induction cooktop delivers excellent performance at both high- and low-heat cooking. It has four elements, including two high-power—but only one large element that accommodates larger cookware. It has touch controls. [frigidaire.com](http://frigidaire.com)



36-INCH INDUCTION

**BOSCH BENCHMARK SERIES**  
**NITP668SUC**  
\$2,900

97

Excellent all-around performance makes this our top-rated 36-inch induction cooktop. It has five elements, all of which are high-power, plus flexible cooking zones for different-sized cookware. The elements can be set to turn off with a countdown timer. [bosch-home.com](http://bosch-home.com)

## GAS



30-INCH GAS

**SAMSUNG**  
**NA30N7755TS**  
\$1,200

93

This top pick provides superb simmering and very good high-heat performance. One of its five burners is high-power. It comes with a griddle pan and is WiFi-enabled for use with Samsung's "Smart Home" app. [samsung.com](http://samsung.com)

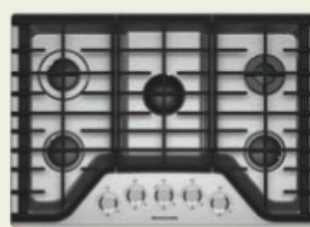


30-INCH GAS

**MONOGRAM**  
**ZGU30RSLSS**  
\$1,730

84

Overall, this cooktop is excellent, providing very good high-heat performance and excellent simmering. It has five burners, including two high-power, and continuous grates. [ge.com](http://ge.com)

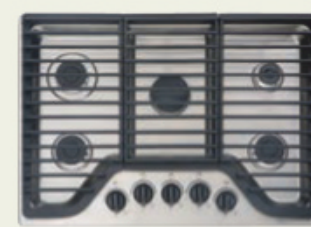


30-INCH GAS

**KITCHENAID**  
**KCGS350ESS**  
\$1,080

79

This excellent 30-inch gas cooktop has five burners, including one high-power, and continuous grates. It isn't the fastest of this group, but simmering is superb. It has a stainless steel surface and a hefty pro-style look. [kitchenaid.com](http://kitchenaid.com)



30-INCH GAS

**IKEA FRAMTID**  
**602.887.01 [ICS655DS]**  
\$530

79

Made by Whirlpool for Ikea, this cooktop excels at low-heat cooking, easily keeping tomato sauce at a simmer, and its high-heat performance is just good. It has five burners, including one that's high-power. [ikea.com](http://ikea.com)

## ELECTRIC SMOOTHTOP



30-INCH SMOOTHTOP

**GE**  
**JP5030SJSS**  
\$900

93

This top performer boasts fast heating and precise simmering. It has four elements; one is high-power and one is expandable. Touch controls provide a sleek look and make cleanup easier.  
[ge.com](http://ge.com)



30-INCH SMOOTHTOP

**SAMSUNG**  
**NZ30K7570RG/AA**  
\$1,250

90

Fast heating and precise simmering put this model ahead of the pack. It has five elements; one is high-power and a bridge element is helpful for large pans. High- and low-heat performance are excellent.  
[samsung.com](http://samsung.com)



36-INCH SMOOTHTOP

**CAFÉ**  
**CEP9036N**  
\$1,300

92

Superb all-around performance help send this 36-inch smoothtop to the front of the pack. It has five elements, including two that are high-power. The left-side elements can combine to use a single control for heating griddles and large pans.  
[cafeappliances.com](http://cafeappliances.com)



36-INCH SMOOTHTOP

**SAMSUNG**  
**NZ36K7570RG/AA**  
\$1,400

90

This smoothtop cooktop excels at simmering and delivering fast heat. It has five elements, including one that's high-power, and a bridge element for larger pans. It's WiFi-enabled for use with Samsung's Smart Home app.  
[samsung.com](http://samsung.com)



36-INCH GAS

**SAMSUNG**  
**NA36N7755TS**  
\$1,300

93

Overall, this cooktop is excellent, providing very good high-heat performance and excellent simmering. It has five burners, including two high-power, and comes with a griddle pan and a wok ring.  
[samsung.com](http://samsung.com)

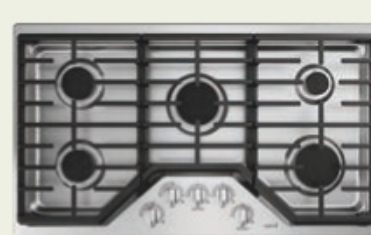


36-INCH GAS

**KENMORE**  
**32713**  
\$1,605

77

A solid overall performer, this 36-inch cooktop is excellent at simmering and very good at high-heat cooking. It has five burners, two of which are high-power, and continuous grates, which make it easier to move cookware across the surface.  
[kenmore.com](http://kenmore.com)



36-INCH GAS

**CAFÉ**  
**CGP70362NS1**  
\$1,330

76

Excellent simmering and very good high-heat performance help this 36-inch cooktop stand out in our tests. It has five burners, two of which are high-power. The front and rear left burners can work together for use with a griddle pan—and it comes with a griddle pan.  
[cafeappliances.com](http://cafeappliances.com)



36-INCH GAS

**VIKING**  
**VGSU53616BSS**  
\$2,320

75

It just missed our list of recommended models, but this very good 36-inch cooktop has six burners, three of which are high-power. High-heat performance is rated Very Good and low-heat is Excellent. The burners reignite automatically, and the continuous grates mean it's easy to reposition cookware.  
[vikingrange.com](http://vikingrange.com)

Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Survey Results		Test Results		Features				
			Predicted reliability	Owner satisfaction	High heat	Low heat	High-power elements	Medium-power elements	Low-power elements	Expandable elements	Touch controls
<b>30-INCH SMOOTHTOPS</b>											
✓ GE JP5030SJSS	93	\$900	↑	↓	↑↑	↑↑	1	0	3	•	•
✓ GE Profile PP9030SJSS	93	\$1,350	↑	↓	↑↑	↑↑	2	2	1	•	•
✓ KitchenAid KECC604BBL	91	\$900	↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	2	0	2	•	•
✓ Samsung NZ30K7570RG/AA	90	\$1,250	↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	1	3	1	•	•
✓ Bosch NET8068SUC	90	\$1,035	↓	↑	↑	↑	1	2	1	•	•
✓ KitchenAid KCED600GSS	90	\$1,620	↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	2	0	2	•	•
✓ Kenmore Turbo-boil 45313	89	\$1,385	↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	2	0	3	•	•
Ⓢ GE JP3030SJSS	86	\$650	↑	↓	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•
✓ Whirlpool G7CE3034XP	85	\$700	↓	↓	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•
Ⓢ Frigidaire FFEC3024LB	83	\$400	↓	↓	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•
Maytag MEC8830HB	79	\$765	↓	↓	↑	↑	1	2	1	•	•
Jenn-Air JEC4430BS	76	\$1,600	↓↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	2	0	2	•	•
GE JP3530SJSS	73	\$880	↑	↓	↑	↑	2	1	1	•	•
Amana AEC6540KFB	66	\$500	↓	↓	↑	↓	1	1	2	•	•
Whirlpool WCE55US0HB	65	\$650	↓	↓	↑	↓	1	1	2	•	•
<b>36-INCH SMOOTHTOPS</b>											
✓ Café CEP9036N	92	\$1,300	↑	↓	↑↑	↑↑	2	2	1	•	•
✓ Samsung NZ36K7570RG/AA	90	\$1,400	↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	2	2	1	•	•
✓ LG LCE3610SB	90	\$1,000	↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	2	1	1	•	•
✓ GE JP5036DJBB	85	\$900	↑	↓	↑	↑	2	1	2	•	•
✓ Bosch Benchmark Series NETP668SUC	85	\$1,350	↓	↑	↑	↑	1	3	1	•	•
Whirlpool WCE55US6HB	79	\$630	↓	↓	↑	↑	2	0	2	•	•
Jenn-Air JED4536GS	78	\$2,200	↓↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	2	1	2	•	•
GE PP7036SJSS	65	\$1,170	↑	↓	↑	↓	2	2	1	•	•
<b>30-INCH INDUCTION COOKTOPS</b>											
✓ Samsung NZ30K7880UG/AA	96	\$2,000	↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	3	1	0	•	•
✓ Kenmore 43820	95	\$1,820	↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	3	1	0	•	•
✓ Kenmore 43800	94	\$1,450	↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	3	1	0	•	•
Ⓢ Frigidaire FFIC3026TB	92	\$700	↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	2	2	0	•	•
✓ Whirlpool GCI3061XB	92	\$1,350	↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	2	0	2	•	•
Dacor Modernist DTI30M977BB	87	\$3,230	–	–	↑↑	↑↑	3	1	0	•	•
Viking MVIC 6304BBG	80	\$2,750	↓↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	3	1	0	•	•
<b>36-INCH INDUCTION COOKTOPS</b>											
✓ Bosch Benchmark Series NITP668SUC	97	\$2,900	↓	↑	↑↑	↑↑	5	0	0	•	•
✓ KitchenAid KICU569XBL	96	\$1,900	↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	5	0	0	•	•
✓ Samsung NZ36K7880UG	94	\$2,250	↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	4	1	0	•	•
✓ Frigidaire FPIC3677RF	93	\$1,750	↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	4	1	0	•	•
Ⓢ Frigidaire FFIC3626TB	92	\$950	↓	↓	↑↑	↑↑	3	2	0	•	•
Wolf CI365T/S	86	\$2,670	↓	↑	↑↑	↑↑	3	2	0	•	•
Thermador CIT36XKB*	84	\$5,300	↓	↑	↑↑	↑↑	2	1	1	•	•
Jenn-Air JIC4536XS	74	\$2,100	↓↓	↓	↑	↑	5	0	0	•	•

\*A unique model with a full cooking surface rather than individual elements. In practical use, with four pots it allows for two large, high-power cooking areas and two medium- or low-power areas.

Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Survey Results		Test Results		Features				
			Predicted reliability	Owner satisfaction	High heat	Low heat	High-power burners	Medium-power burners	Low-power burners	Stainless steel	Continuous grates
<b>30-INCH GAS COOKTOPS</b>											
Samsung NA30N775TS	93	\$1,200					2	2	1	•	•
Samsung NA30N6555TS	92	\$1,260					2	2	1	•	•
Monogram ZGU30RSLSS	84	\$1,730					2	3	0	•	•
KitchenAid KCGS350ESS	79	\$1,080					1	3	1	•	•
Ikea Framtid 602.887.01 [ICS655DS]	79	\$530	—	—			1	3	1	•	•
GE Profile PGP7030SLSS	77	\$1,170					2	2	1	•	•
Bosch 800 Series NGM8056UC	76	\$1,000					1	2	2	•	•
Café CGP70302NS1	76	\$1,230					2	2	1	•	•
GE JGP5030SLSS	72	\$900					2	2	1	•	•
Café CGP9530SLSS	72	\$1,380					2	2	1	•	•
Frigidaire FFGC3026SS	70	\$500					2	1	1	•	•
GE JGP3530SLSS	66	\$880					2	1	1	•	•
Kenmore 32683	61	\$1,200					2	2	1	•	•
KitchenAid KCGS950ESS	55	\$1,440					1	3	1	•	•
Electrolux EW30GC60PS	54	\$1,300					2	2	1	•	•
KitchenAid KCGD500GSS	42	\$1,800					2	1	1	•	•
Whirlpool WCG77US0HS	38	\$700					1	3	1	•	•
Maytag MGC7430DS	37	\$700					2	1	1	•	•
<b>36-INCH GAS COOKTOPS</b>											
Samsung NA36N7755TS	93	\$1,300					2	2	1	•	•
Thermador SGSX365FS	81	\$1,900					3	2	0	•	•
Kenmore 32713	77	\$1,605					2	2	1	•	•
Café CGP70362NS1	76	\$1,330					2	2	1	•	•
Viking VG5U53616BSS	75	\$2,320					3	2	1	•	•
GE Profile PGP9036SLSS	74	\$1,400					2	2	1	•	•
Café CGP9536SLSS	72	\$1,630					2	2	1	•	•
Frigidaire Gallery FGGC3645QS	70	\$800					2	2	1	•	•
Wolf CG365P/S	67	\$2,000					2	3	0	•	•
Frigidaire Professional FPGC3677RS	62	\$1,100					2	2	1	•	•
Maytag MGC9536DS	60	\$900					2	2	1	•	•
Jenn-Air JGC3536GS	52	\$1,600					4	0	1	•	•
Miele KM3474GSS	52	\$1,750					3	2	0	•	•
KitchenAid KCGS556ESS	48	\$1,260					1	2	2	•	•
LG LCG3611ST	47	\$1,080					2	2	1	•	•
<b>36-INCH GAS RANGETOP</b>											
Kenmore Pro Slide-in 34913	49	\$2,215					3	2	1	•	•

All-Access and Digital members can find the latest, complete ratings and buying advice at [CR.org/cooktops](https://www.consumerreports.org/cooktops).

**HOW WE TEST:** To test **High heat**, we time how long the highest-power burner takes to bring a large pot of water to a near-boil. For **Low heat**, we note how well the lowest-power burner keeps a low temperature, as for melting

chocolate, and how well the highest-power burner, set on low, holds tomato sauce below a boil. **Price** is approximate retail. **Overall Score** combines test results with survey data for predicted reliability and owner satisfaction.

**Predicted reliability** estimates the likelihood that newly purchased models from a given brand will develop problems or break within the first five years. **Owner satisfaction** reflects the proportion of CR members who

are extremely likely to recommend the cooktop they bought. In cases where we have insufficient survey data to provide a brand-level rating, indicated by a gray dash (—), we assume the model has average reliability and satisfaction.

UPPER OVEN

TIMER 1    CLOCK    TIMER 2

CONV BAKE    CONV BROIL    PURE CONV    CONV ROAST

BAKE    BROIL    PROBE    SELF CLEAN

START CONTINUE

START TIME    COOK TIME    STOP TIME

CANCEL SECURE

6:15

LOWER OVEN

CONV BAKE    CONV BROIL    PURE CONV    CONV ROAST

BAKE    BROIL    PROOF    SELF CLEAN

START TIME    COOK TIME    STOP TIME

CANCEL SECURE

1 2 3  
4 5 6  
7 8 9  
0 #



dacor



# Hot Topics

WHETHER IT'S PAIRED WITH A COOKTOP OR WITH A RANGE, A WALL OVEN (OR TWO) CAN ADD FLEXIBILITY, CONVENIENCE, AND CROWD-FRIENDLY COOKING CAPACITY. USE THESE PRO TIPS TO DECIDE WHICH FEATURES MAKE SENSE FOR YOU.

Unlike a range, a wall oven can go wherever you want it: at waist or eye level so that you won't have to bend to pull out heavy pans, or even under a counter. And now lower prices have made wall-oven and cooktop pairs more affordable, though most combos will still cost more than a range. Use our ratings and reliability data as a guide as you shop. And remember that you don't have to choose the same brand for your oven and cooktop.

## SMART SHOPPING

Use these basics to help narrow down your options.

### SIZE

Wall ovens come in a range of widths: 24, 27, 30, and 36 inches. Consumer Reports tests wall ovens 30 inches wide, the most popular size. You'll also find single- and double-oven styles. If you're replacing one, it's crucial that you measure the space and the cabinet cutout.

### FUEL

A majority of wall ovens are electric; they usually have a larger capacity than

similar gas models and don't require a gas connection. But remember that electric wall ovens need their own electrical circuit. And no matter how your new wall oven is fueled, be sure to have it professionally installed.

### CAPACITY

There was a time when choosing a wall oven over a range meant you had to settle for a small oven without a self-cleaning feature. No longer. Manufacturers are finding ways to increase capacity. Of the single wall ovens we tested, scores

for usable capacity (which differ from the figure supplied by the manufacturer) ranged from good to excellent. The smallest in our tests was just over 2 cubic feet, and the largest was more than 3 cubic feet.

### FEATURES

A convection feature circulates heated air through the oven. That can speed cooking, but you may pay about \$250 more for the convenience compared with a nonconvection model. Ovens that excelled at broiling produced well-seared, evenly cooked burgers in our tests. If you're an avid baker, look for high scores in our baking tests.

## FOCUS ON FEATURES

These functions may add convenience.

### CONTROL LOCKOUT

This lets you disable the oven controls, preventing accidental operation—a good idea for households with kids.

### COOK TIME/DELAY

It lets you select times for the oven to start and stop cooking. But there are few foods you'd want to put in a cold oven and let sit for delayed start.

### SIDE-SWING AND FRENCH DOORS

The first is a single door with hinges on

one side. French-door models have two doors that separate in the middle and open outward. Both types prevent you from having to reach over an open door to retrieve hot food.

### CONVECTION

Many ovens have one or more convection fans that circulate hot air, which can reduce cooking time.

### VARIABLE BROIL

This offers adjustable settings for broiled foods, instead of only "on" (typically 500° F) and "off."

# Recommended Products

Recommended wall ovens are top-scoring models that have at least good reliability ratings. CR Best Buys are recommended wall ovens that combine impressive performance and value, and at least good reliability. Ratings for double ovens are based on our tests of corresponding single-oven models.



SINGLE ELECTRIC WALL OVEN

**KITCHENAID  
KOSE500ESS**

\$2,300

**85**

Superb broiling, impressive baking, and a large oven help this 30-inch electric wall oven stand out. It has a numeric keypad, a temperature probe, and five or more rack positions. But self-cleaning is just good. [kitchenaid.com](http://kitchenaid.com)



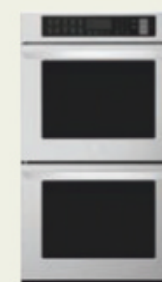
SINGLE ELECTRIC WALL OVEN

**MAYTAG  
MEW9530FZS**

\$1,300

**82**

This oven rates Excellent overall, with an exceptionally roomy capacity and Very Good ratings for baking and broiling. Self-cleaning was just good. It has a convection mode and touchpad controls. [maytag.com](http://maytag.com)



DOUBLE ELECTRIC WALL OVEN

**LG  
LWD3063ST**

\$2,200

**82**

Excellent broiling and Very Good baking ratings helped this double-oven impress our testers. The ovens have five rack positions, convection mode, covered bake elements, and large windows. [lg.com](http://lg.com)

Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Survey Results		Test Results				Features			
			Predicted reliability	Owner satisfaction	Baking	Broiling	Oven capacity	Self-cleaning	Width (in.)	Covered element	Convection mode	Temperature probe
<b>SINGLE ELECTRIC WALL OVENS</b>												
KitchenAid KOSE500ESS	85	\$2,300							30			
LG LWS3063	82	\$1,640							30			
Maytag MEW9530FZ	82	\$1,300							30			
Samsung NV51K7770SG/AA	81	\$2,600							30			
GE JTS5000SNSS	79	\$1,500							30			
Frigidaire Gallery FGEW3066UF	78	\$1,400							30			
Café CTS70DM2NS5	77	\$2,745							30			
Whirlpool WOS72EC0HS	77	\$1,890							30			
Electrolux EW30EW55PS	77	\$2,250							30			
Electrolux EI30EW38TS	75	\$2,070							30			
Jenn-Air JJW3430DS	75	\$3,900							30			
KitchenAid KOSE900HSS	74	\$2,970							30			
Bosch 800 Series HBL8451UC	74	\$2,250							30			
Bosch HBLP451RUC	69	\$3,100							30			
Miele PureLine H 6281 BP	64	\$2,600							30			
Bosch HBL5351UC	64	\$1,710							30			
Thermador ME301JS	61	\$2,900							30			
Frigidaire Professional FPEW3077RF	60	\$1,900							30			
Amana AWO6313SFS	52	\$990							30			
GE Profile Twin-Flex PT9200SLSS	51	\$2,700							30			
Frigidaire FFEW3026TD	51	\$950							30			
Viking RVSOE330SS	45	\$3,210							30			
GE JTS3000SNSS	43	\$1,485							30			
<b>DOUBLE ELECTRIC WALL OVENS</b>												
Café CT9570SLSS	89	\$5,530							30			
KitchenAid KODE500ESS	85	\$2,700							30			
LG LWD3063ST	82	\$2,200							30			
Samsung NV51K7770DG/AA	81	\$3,200							30			
Frigidaire Gallery FGET3066UF	78	\$2,050							30			
Café CTD70DM2NS5	77	\$3,735							30			
Jenn-Air JJW3830DS	75	\$5,500							30			

**HOW WE TEST:** **Baking** reflects whether cakes and cookies baked on two racks were evenly browned. **Broiling** is based on even browning of a pan of burgers and high-heat searing ability. **Oven capacity** is our measurement of usable space. **Self-cleaning** is a gauge of the

self-cleaning cycle's effectiveness at removing a baked-on mixture of eggs, lard, cherry pie filling, cheese, tomato purée, and tapioca. (All scores for double wall ovens are based on results from the upper oven.) **Price** is approximate retail. **Overall Score** combines test results

with survey data for predicted reliability and owner satisfaction. **Predicted reliability** estimates the likelihood that newly purchased models from a given brand will develop problems or break within the first five years. **Owner satisfaction** reflects the proportion of

CR members who are extremely likely to recommend the oven they bought. In cases where we have insufficient survey data to provide a brand-level rating, indicated by a gray dash (—), we assume the model has average reliability and satisfaction.







# The Fast Lane

MICROWAVE OVENS ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR SPEEDY HEATING. BUT TODAY'S TOP MODELS ALSO PROMISE A RANGE OF FUNCTIONS, FROM CONVECTION COOKING TO GRILLING. HERE'S HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT MICROWAVE FOR YOUR NEEDS.

Whether you love to cook or live on reheated coffee and frozen pizza, your microwave has probably become a kitchen essential. Defrosting and reheating are common uses, but some of our tested microwaves don't do either very well. In fact, our tests of small (compact), midsized, and large countertop, over-the-range, and built-in models revealed big differences in overall performance. You can see the results in our ratings, starting on page 51.

### ● SMART SHOPPING

Before you shop, decide whether an under-the-counter, over-the-range, or countertop model will suit your needs best.

#### **BUDGET**

Countertop microwaves usually cost less than the other types, and midsize models start around \$80. Over-the-range microwaves, or OTRs, can be had for less than \$200, but most we tested cost \$400 and up. Models designed to be built into cabinetry or a wall begin at \$400, but kits are available for certain countertop models that give you a built-in look for less.

#### **SPACE AND LOCATION**

Think about where the microwave works best for you, and your available space. Countertop models obviously eat up counter space.

For example, the top-rated midsize model is 22 inches wide and 18 inches deep. The best large microwave we tested is 22 inches wide and 19 inches deep. You'll want to factor in height as well.

#### **TYPE**

Countertop models are the most widely sold. Over-the-range models are just that: They're installed over a range. The built-in category includes models designed to be built in, either surrounded by cabinetry or recessed into a wall. Microwave drawers fall in this group and can be placed under a countertop or below a wall oven. And certain countertop models can be converted to built-ins with a kit.



### ● FOCUS ON FEATURES

More options may sound appealing, but think about what you'll really use before you pay more for them. Here's what to consider.

#### **TURNTABLES AND TRAYS**

Most microwaves have a turntable that rotates food for uniform heating. But some have a

rectangular tray that slides from side to side, which might work better for large casseroles or platters.

#### **QUICK KEYS**

A 1-minute or 30-second key requires just a tap to extend the preset cooking time, defaulting to the high-power cooking level. The key

also allows quick adjustments to your previous settings. Pushing the button more than once multiplies the time extension.

#### **RACKS**

These let you speed things up by cooking multiple dishes simultaneously. They may also be used to

improve convection cooking by allowing heat beneath the cooking dish. But you could have trouble fitting even a coffee mug in certain models unless you remove the rack, so check when shopping.

#### **SHORTCUT KEYS**

They take the guesswork out of cooking food



## ● ON THE MARKET

Depending on your kitchen, you can choose from countertop, over-the-range, and built-in microwaves (including drawer-style). The size of the unit doesn't always translate to usable cooking space. Our research has found that usable capacity for tested microwaves is about 50 to 60 percent of what manufacturers claim. More watts usually means more cooking power, but differences of 100 watts or so don't matter much. Prices, usable capacity, and watts are based on our tested models.

### COUNTERTOP MICROWAVES

This basic style offers appealing pricing and easy installation. Just plug it into an ordinary outlet—one dedicated to the microwave, or it might trip the circuit breaker. These units eat up counter space, so note the microwave's dimensions, choosing the largest capacity for the available space. Also check the instructions for the recommended clearance around the appliance.

**PRICE** \$50 to \$150 for small (compact), \$70 to \$500 for midsized, and \$70 to \$620 for large.

**USABLE CAPACITY** Most tested models in this category have usable capacity that's about 50 to 60 percent of what manufacturers claim. Usable capacity ranges are 0.4 to 0.5 cubic feet for small (compact),

0.5 to 0.8 cubic feet for midsized, and 0.7 to 1.5 cubic feet for large. **WATTS** 700 to 950 for small (compact), 800 to 1,200 for midsized, and 950 to 1,300 for large.

### OVER-THE-RANGE MICROWAVES

Known as OTRs, these models free up counter space and typically include venting capability, but they usually don't vent as well as a range hood. Plan on installation by a pro.

**PRICE** \$130 to \$1,200.

**USABLE CAPACITY** Most tested models have a usable capacity that's about 50 to 60 percent of what manufacturers claim. Usable capacity is 0.6 to 1.5 cubic feet.

**WATTS** 850 to 1,100.

### BUILT-IN MICROWAVES

This category includes models designed to be surrounded by cabinetry or built into a wall. Microwave drawers, for example, can be installed under a countertop or beneath a wall oven.

Some countertop models can be built in with a kit. The information below is for models designed only to be built in, not for countertop models with optional built-in kits.

**PRICE** \$380 to \$1,440.

**USABLE CAPACITY** We haven't tested enough built-ins to determine the percentage of usable capacity compared with manufacturer claims. Usable capacity ranges from 0.9 to 1.1 cubic feet.

**WATTS** 950 to 1,100.

that's often microwaved, such as popcorn and frozen vegetables.

### CONVECTION COOKING, GRILLING, AND BROWNING

These features offer the appeal of a second oven in your kitchen. But none of the models we tested provided the consistent results

that you'd get from a regular oven or a grill.

### A CHILD LOCK

If there are children in the household, a lockout function helps to prevent them from operating the microwave.

### TIP

Take your largest casserole to the store with you to make sure it fits.

# Recommended Products

Most models do a respectable job of basic microwaving tasks, such as defrosting meats, reheating leftovers, and making popcorn. You'll probably pay more for an oven with a larger capacity, a stainless steel finish, lots of presets, and functions such as convection and speed cooking.

## OVER-THE-RANGE



**WHIRLPOOL**  
**WMH53521H**  
\$470

86

Our top-rated model earns an Excellent score for heating evenness, defrosting, and ease of use, and it's very quiet. It fits a 9x15-inch baking dish, and the turntable can be turned off. Predicted reliability has a rating of Very Good, and owner satisfaction is rated Good. [whirlpool.com](http://whirlpool.com)



**CAFÉ**  
**CVM721M2NS5**  
\$855

79

This solid performer earns a rating of Excellent at evenly heating food and was very fast. It's also easy to use and exceptionally quiet. Defrosting is rated Excellent, but venting is just Good, as is reliability and owner satisfaction. It has a sensor, and the turntable can be turned off. [cafeappliances.com](http://cafeappliances.com)



**GE**  
**JVM3160RFSS**  
\$250

79

This well-priced GE is superb at defrosting. It earns a Very Good rating at evenly heating food, and it vents well. It doesn't have a sensor to detect when food is done, but if you prefer picking a set cooking time, this model is fine. Predicted reliability and owner satisfaction earn a rating of Good. [ge.com](http://ge.com)

## MIDSIZED COUNTERTOP



**LG NEOCHEF**  
**LMC1275SB**  
\$180

84

Excellent overall and a CR Best Buy, this model offers superb heating evenness and defrosting. It heats very quickly and is quiet when set to high. It boasts 0.8 cubic feet of usable capacity, and it has touchpad controls but no sensor. [lg.com](http://lg.com)

## LARGE COUNTERTOP



**PANASONIC**  
**NN-SE785S**  
\$290

86

The top-rated Panasonic rates Excellent at evenly heating food and Very Good at defrosting. It's fast at heating water and very quiet when set on high. It's easy to use and has a sensor, which measures the steam that food emits and shuts off the microwave when cooking is done. [panasonic.com](http://panasonic.com)



**PANASONIC**  
**NN-SD975S**  
\$250

82

This excellent all-around performer impressed our testers with its fast and even heating. Defrosting evenness is rated Very Good, and it's quiet and easy to use. It has a usable capacity of 1.5 cubic feet, and it boasts a sensor, an auto-defrost feature, and both a dial and buttons for controls. [panasonic.com](http://panasonic.com)



**GE PROFILE**  
**JES2251SJ**  
\$280

80

With 1.5 cubic feet of usable capacity, this roomy GE offers excellent overall performance. Highlights include heating evenness that earns an Excellent rating, fast heating, and defrosting that rates a Very Good. It's easy to use and relatively quiet when set on high. It offers a sensor and touchpad controls. [ge.com](http://ge.com)

# WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

# AVAXHOME-

the biggest Internet portal,  
providing you various content:  
brand new books, trending movies,  
fresh magazines, hot games,  
recent software, latest music releases.

Unlimited satisfaction one low price

Cheap constant access to piping hot media

Protect your downloadings from Big brother

Safer, than torrent-trackers

18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages

Brand new content

One site



**AVXLIVE** **ICU**

AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open <https://avxlive.icu>

Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Survey Results		Test Results						Specs			Features			
			Predicted brand reliability	Owner satisfaction	Heating evenness	Defrosting evenness	Speed of heating	Microwaving noise	Ease of use	Venting (air flow)	Claimed capacity (cu. ft.)	Usable capacity (cu. ft.)	Watts	Detailed prompts	Convection mode	Sensor	Stainless/SS-look option
<b>OVER-THE-RANGE MICROWAVES</b>																	
Whirlpool WMH53521H	86	\$470										2.1	0.9	1,000			
Whirlpool WMH75021HZ	85	\$470										2.1	0.9	1,100			
GE Profile PVM9005SJSS	80	\$540										2.1	1	1,050			
Café CVM721M2NS5	79	\$855										2.1	1	1,050			
KitchenAid KMHS120ESS	79	\$585										2	1	1,000			
GE JVM3160RFSS	79	\$250										1.6	0.9	1,000			
LG LMV2031ST	78	\$350										2	0.9	1,000			
LG LMH2235ST	77	\$450										2.2	0.9	1,000			
Frigidaire Professional FPBM3077RF	77	\$595										1.8	0.9	1,050			
Kenmore 83337	76	\$405										1.7	0.8	1,000			
Whirlpool WML55011HS	75	\$405										1.1	0.6	1,000			
Frigidaire Gallery FGMV17WNVF	75	\$380										1.7	0.8	1,000			
Kenmore 87583	74	\$500										2.2	0.9	1,000			
Frigidaire FFMV1645TD	72	\$320										1.6	0.8	1,000			
Frigidaire Gallery FGMV176NTD	72	\$350										1.7	0.8	1,000			
GE JVM6175DKWW	71	\$320										1.7	0.7	1,000			
Black+Decker EM044KIN-P	71	\$200										1.6	0.7	1,000			
Whirlpool WMH78019HZ	70	\$570										1.9	0.9	1,100			
Frigidaire FFMV1745T	70	\$280										1.7	0.8	1,000			
Bosch 500 Series HMV5053U	69	\$500										2.1	0.9	1,100			
LG LMV1762SB	69	\$220										1.7	0.8	1,000			
KitchenAid KMHC319ESS	68	\$650										1.9	1	1,000			
Whirlpool UMV1160CS	66	\$180										1.6	0.8	1,000			
LG LMV1831ST	65	\$250										1.8	0.8	1,000			
KitchenAid KMLS311HSS	65	\$720										1.1	0.6	1,000			
Maytag MMV5220FZ	65	\$420										2.1	1.5	1,000			
Café CVM517P2MS1	65	\$800										1.7	0.8	950			
Bosch HMV8053U	65	\$675										1.8	0.9	1,000			
GE Profile Advantium PSA9120SFSS	64	\$1,200										1.7	0.8	925			
Samsung ME20H705MSS	64	\$350										2	1	1,000			
GE Profile PVM9179SKSS	63	\$585										1.7	0.8	950			
Electrolux IQ-Touch EI30BM60MS	63	\$695										1.8	0.9	1,050			
GE Adora DVM7195SKSS (Home Depot Exclusive)	63	\$360										1.9	0.9	1,000			
LG LSMC3089BD	62	\$720										1.7	0.8	950			
Dacor Discovery PCOR30S	61	\$900										1.1	0.7	850			



Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Survey Results		Test Results					Specs			Features			
			Predicted reliability	Owner satisfaction	Heating evenness	Defrosting evenness	Speed of heating	Microwaving noise	Ease of use	Claimed capacity (cu. ft.)	Usable capacity (cu. ft.)	Watts	Detailed prompts	Convection mode	Sensor	Stainless/SS-look option

**MIDSIZED COUNTERTOP MICROWAVES**

\$ LG NeoChef LMC1275SB	84	\$180	↑	↓	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑	1.2	0.8	1200				
\$ Panasonic Genius Prestige NN-SD681S	80	\$180	↓	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑	↓	↑↑	1.2	0.7	1200			•	
General GEW1000E	78	\$310	—	—	↑↑	NA	↑	↑↑	↑	1	0.8	1000				•
Panasonic NN-SN686S	75	\$175	↓	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↓	↓	1.2	0.7	1200			•	•
Summit SCM1000SS	73	\$320	—	—	↑	NA	↑↑	↑	↑	1	0.8	1000				•
Breville Quick Touch BMO734XL	71	\$250	↑	↑↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	1.2	0.7	1100	•		•	•
Samsung MG11H2020CT	68	\$180	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	1.1	0.7	1000				•
Samsung MC12J8035CT	67	\$400	↓	↓	↓	↑↑	↓	↑↑	↑	1.2	0.8	900		•		•
Samsung MC11K7035CG	66	\$295	↓	↓	↓	↑↑	↓	↑↑	↑	1.1	0.6	1000		•	•	
Danby DMW111KBLDB	66	\$90	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	1.1	0.6	1000				
Magic Chef MCM1110ST	65	\$80	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑↑	↑	1.1	0.6	1000				•
Cuisinart CMW-200	64	\$250	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	1.2	0.7	1000		•		•
GE JES1145SHSS	64	\$115	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑	1.1	0.6	950				•
Toshiba EM131A5C-BS	63	\$120	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑↑	↑	1.2	0.7	1100			•	•
Westinghouse WCM11100SSB	63	\$105	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	1.1	0.7	1000				•
Panasonic Prestige NN-SD372S	62	\$140	↓	↑↑	↓	↑↑	↑	↑	↓	0.9	0.5	950				
Magic Chef MCD1310ST	61	\$110	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑↑	↑	1.3	0.8	1000				•

**LARGE COUNTERTOP MICROWAVES**

✓ Panasonic NN-SE785S	86	\$290	↓	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑	1.6	0.9	1250	•		•	•
✓ Panasonic NN-SD975S	82	\$250	↓	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑	2.2	1.5	1250	•		•	•
✓ Panasonic NN-SN966S	81	\$250	↓	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑	2.2	1.4	1250			•	•
✓ Panasonic NN-SD945S	81	\$215	↓	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑	2.2	1.4	1250	•		•	•
✓ GE Profile JES2251SJ	80	\$280	↓	↓	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑	2.2	1.5	1200	•		•	•
✓ GE JES2051SN[SS]	78	\$250	↓	↓	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑	2	1.2	1200	•		•	•
✓ Panasonic NN-SD745S	77	\$220	↓	↑↑	↓	↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑	1.6	0.9	1250	•		•	•
✓ LG LMC1575	77	\$200	↑	↓	↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↓	1.5	0.8	1200			•	•
✓ Panasonic NN-SN736B	76	\$190	↓	↑↑	↑	↑	↑↑	↑	↑	1.6	0.9	1250			•	
Toshiba EC042A5C-BS	73	\$195	↑	↓	↑	↑↑	↓	↑↑	↑	1.5	0.8	1000		•		•
GE Profile PES7227SLSS	70	\$350	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑↑	↑	2.2	1.3	1100			•	•
Electrolux EI24MO45IB	68	\$600	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	2	1.2	1100	•		•	
Panasonic NN-SU 656B	68	\$140	↓	↑↑	↓	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑	1.3	0.7	1100			•	

Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Survey Results		Test Results					Specs			Features			
			Predicted reliability	Owner satisfaction	Heating evenness	Defrosting evenness	Speed of heating	Microwaving noise	Ease of use	Claimed capacity (cu. ft.)	Usable capacity (cu. ft.)	Watts	Detailed prompts	Convection mode	Sensor	Stainless/SS-look option

**LARGE COUNTERTOP MICROWAVES** *Continued*

Frigidaire Gallery FGMO205K[F]	68	\$320	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	2	1.2	1200	●		●	●
KitchenAid KMCS3022GSS	67	\$430	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	2.2	1.3	1200			●	●
Farberware Smart Sensor Cooking FMO16AHTBSA	67	\$200	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	1.6	0.9	1300			●	●
Danby DMW14SA1BDB	67	\$150	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	1.4	0.7	1100			●	
GE Profile PEB9159SJSS	67	\$665	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	1.5	0.8	1000		●	●	●
Magic Chef MCM1611ST	66	\$130	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	1.6	0.9	1100				●
Samsung MG14H3020CN	66	\$230	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	1.4	0.9	950		●		●
Oster OGYZ1602B	66	\$110	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓	1.6	0.9	1100				●
Magic Chef MCD1811ST	66	\$140	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	1.8	1.1	1100				●
Frigidaire FFCE1655US	64	\$140	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	1.6	1	1100			●	●
Sharp SMC1655BS	63	\$150	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	1.6	0.9	1100			●	●
Samsung MS19M8000AS	62	\$190	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	1.9	1.2	950			●	●
KitchenAid KMCS1016GSS	61	\$515	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	1.6	0.9	1200			●	●

**BUILT-IN MICROWAVES**

Sharp SMD3070AS	65	\$1,100	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	1.2	1.1	1000	●		●	●
Sharp Carousel R-1214	63	\$380	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	1.5	0.9	1100	●		●	●

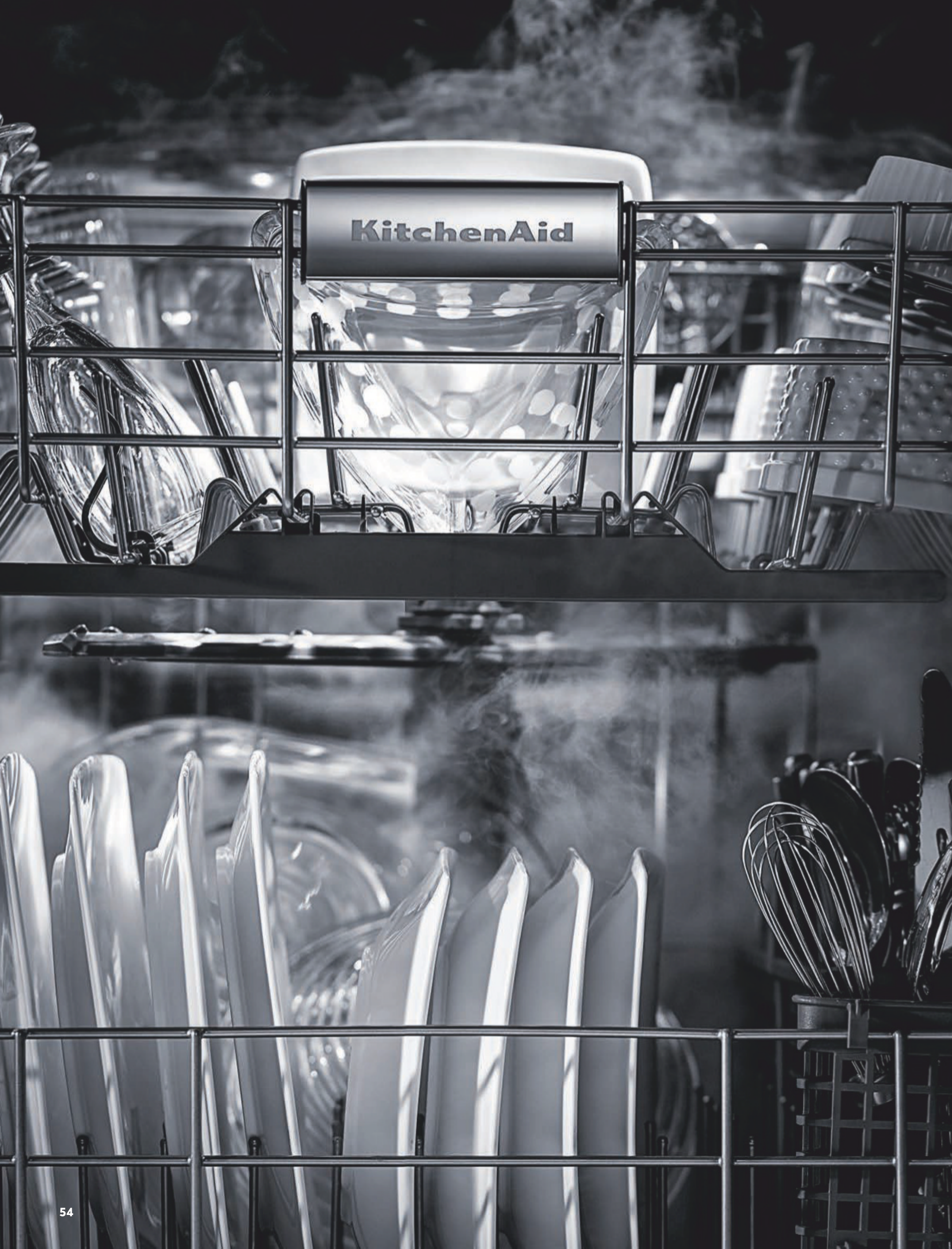
> All-Access and Digital members can find the latest, complete ratings at [CR.org/microwaveratings](https://www.consumerreports.org/microwaveratings).

**HOW WE TEST:** **Heating evenness** reflects how evenly a model reheated a dish of cold mashed potatoes. **Defrosting evenness** is based on how well the auto-defrost program defrosted a pound of frozen ground beef. **Speed of heating** is based on the temperature rise of water that's heated. **Microwaving noise** reflects how quiet the appliance is while it's on high. **Ease of use** includes

how easy it is to set the microwave without referring to the instructions. **Venting** (airflow) is based on the volume of air drawn in by the internal fan on the highest setting of an over-the-range model. **Usable capacity** is the usable space based on our measurements, and excludes the corner spaces for models with rotating turntables. Note that most over-the-range models allow

you to turn off the rotation to fit large dishes. With the rotation off, measured capacity approximates claimed capacity. **Price** is approximate retail. The **Overall Score** combines test results with survey data for predicted reliability and owner satisfaction. **Predicted reliability** estimates the likelihood that newly purchased models from a given brand will develop problems or break within

the first five years. **Owner satisfaction** reflects the proportion of CR members who are extremely likely to recommend the microwave they bought. In cases where we have insufficient survey data to provide a brand-level rating, indicated by a gray dash (—), we assume the model has average reliability and satisfaction.



**KitchenAid**



Dishwashers

# Clean Plate Club

BETTER CLEANING USING LESS ENERGY AND WATER—SOUNDS IMPOSSIBLE, RIGHT? BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE BEST DISHWASHERS IN OUR TESTS DELIVER. PLUS, MANY MODELS HAVE A SLEW OF CONVENIENCE FEATURES. USE THIS GUIDE TO HELP YOU FIND THE RIGHT ONE FOR YOU.

Using a dishwasher can save you more than 230 hours a year compared with washing and drying by hand, according to Energy Star. If you haven't bought a dishwasher in awhile, you'll notice that they don't look as uniform as they once did. You'll find more finishes and sleek designs, some with hidden controls, no handles, and no brand logos. This helps a new dishwasher blend in with appliances from other brands. Here's what else you need to know.

### ● SMART SHOPPING

Focus on these details while you're shopping.

#### STYLE

Cabinet-front dishwashers can accommodate a panel that blends in with your cabinets for an integrated, furniture-style look. Other options include a range of finishes and a recessed pocket handle instead of a standard one.

#### DIMENSIONS

Conventional dishwashers are intended for a space measuring 24 inches wide by 24 inches deep. Installing your new dishwasher

could be a challenge if you've tiled the floor or redone your counters, because that might change the height of the cavity. So measure your space and ask the retailer for the full height range, and allow extra space for the leveling feet.

#### CONVENIENCE FEATURES

Many dishwashers have adjustable racks and lots of flatware slots. Certain midpriced models have a third rack for large utensils and small cups. Many have fold-down tines to help fit large dishes, and racks

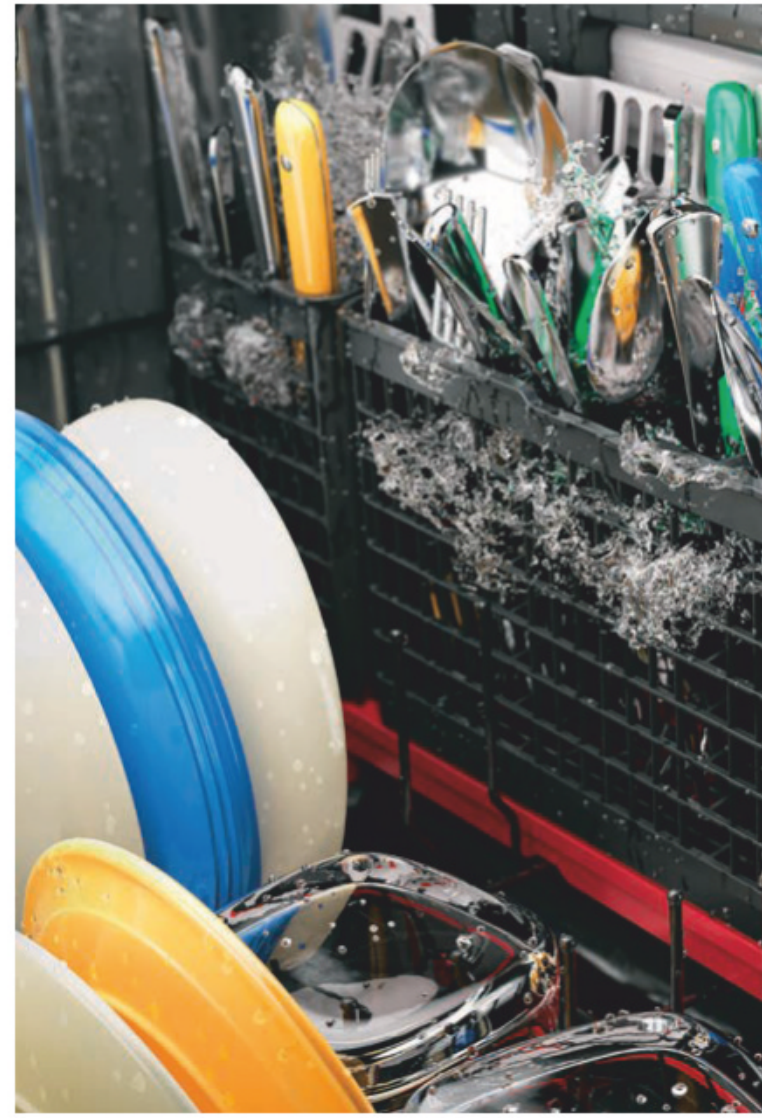
that move up or down for oversized items.

#### CONTROLS

Certain models have interactive touch controls, but the usual touchpads are fine if they're well-marked. If controls are hidden when the door is closed, look for cycle-time and other outer displays, otherwise it can be hard to tell that a quiet machine is on.

#### ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Dishwashers that are Energy Star qualified use about 12 percent less energy than standard models and save water. The most miserly used only 4 to 6 gallons of water in our tests, which included the high-temperature wash and heated dry options when available.



### ● FOCUS ON FEATURES

These convenience features will make your dishwasher easier to use.

#### ADJUSTABLE RACKS AND LOADING AIDS

Racks that move up and down, tines you can adjust, and silverware and stemware holders let you reconfigure the interior of a dishwasher and organize its contents to fit large and odd-shaped items. One model we tested goes an extra step with an upper rack that you can adjust single-handedly. Shop carefully and you're likely

to get a third rack for large utensils and small cups, and not just in premium models.

#### SOIL SENSORS

These adjust the cycle time and water use to the load's soil level, reducing energy demand and water use for more efficient loads.

#### RINSE AND HOLD CYCLE

It lets you rinse dirty dishes when you're not quite ready to start a full cycle. This perk can reduce odors and prevent

soil from setting while you stack up enough dirty dishes for a full load, and it still uses less water than prerinsing by hand.

#### WASH ZONES

Certain models designate a part of the dishwasher for heavily soiled items needing a special cycle. These zones don't always run for the whole cycle. In our lab tests, they seem to work as promised.

#### FILTERS

These keep wash water free of food that could

be redeposited onto clean dishes. There are two types: self-cleaning and manual. With self-cleaning filters, a grinder pulverizes debris and flushes it down the drain. That's convenient but can be noisy. Certain models have a filter without a grinder. They're quieter, but you need to clean the filter periodically to avoid smells, a quick and easy job. Refer to your owner's manual to see which you have.

#### SPECIAL WASH CYCLES

Most dishwashers come with at least three cycles: light, normal, and heavy (for pots and pans), with many newer models also including

"quick" or "express" cycles that clean lightly soiled loads in as little as 20 minutes but don't dry the dishes. Some offer cycles including pot scrubber, soak/scrub, steam clean, china/crystal, and sanitizing. And certain models have a half-load option, a handy cycle if you don't use many dishes and rarely have a full load. The three basic cycles should be enough for most chores, even for baked-on food. A sanitizing option that raises the water temperature above the typical 140° F doesn't necessarily deliver better cleaning for dishes. It's meant to disinfect the dishwasher's interior.



### STAINLESS STEEL TUB

Usually available in midpriced and higher-end models, stainless steel tends to resist staining better than light-colored plastic does. Gray plastic tubs help camouflage stains and trim the overall cost. Any plastic tub should last longer than most people keep a dishwasher.

### HEATED DRY

Dishwashers usually dry after a cycle using drainage and the residual heat in the tub. Certain models will either heat the water further during the final rinse (to warm up the stainless tub) or use a heating element, perhaps coupled with a fan to circulate the air. A few

models have the door open near the end of the cycle to aid in drying.

### HIDDEN CONTROLS

Controls mounted along the top edge of the door (hidden when the door is closed) are strictly about style. The downside: You usually can't see cycle progress at a glance. Partly hidden controls are a good compromise. You'll know when the machine is running and sometimes the remaining cycle time.

### QUIET PERFORMANCE

Some manufacturers display a decibel rating. But they average the sound level of an entire cycle (including the silent dry cycle), which can be a bit misleading.

## ON THE MARKET

Take a close look at how the dishwasher's interior is configured—the spacing of tines and the placement of the silverware baskets and racks. You need a dishwasher that works for the dishes, cookware, and utensils you use.

### DISHWASHERS FOR \$500 OR LESS

Although they aren't the top performers in our tests, you can still get a dishwasher that's excellent at cleaning and very good or even excellent at drying. Certain models in this price range now have a soil sensor, which adjusts the cycle's time and water use to the load's soil level, improving water efficiency. And some even have a stainless interior. But basic features, longer wash cycles, and noisier operation are likely.

### DISHWASHERS FOR \$600 TO \$900

You can get a quieter machine, superb cleaning, and convenient features that might make it worth spending a bit more, such as adjustable racks and flexible flatware slots, along with a stainless tub, which tends to resist stains better than plastic. A soil sensor is a given.

### DISHWASHERS FOR \$1,000 OR MORE

High-end dishwashers come with high-end styling and innovative features, such as special wash zones for heavily soiled items, and WiFi connectivity.

### DISHWASHER DRAWERS

They typically have two stacked drawers that you can use simultaneously or separately. But they're expensive, and the ones we tested haven't impressed us with their performance.



FISHER & PAYKEL

# Recommended Products

Almost all the models we tested clean well, are easy to load, and come in a stainless finish. They also use far less water and energy than washing by hand. The picks here are excellent overall performers, and most have a timed-start feature, a heavy-duty or pots and pans cycle, and self-cleaning filters. The ratings rank models by overall performance.



**BOSCH ASCENTA SHX3AR75UC**  
**Cycle Time:** 95 min.  
**Water Usage:** 4 gal.  
 \$630

88

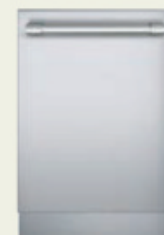
The combination of superior performance and features that more commonly appear on pricier washers makes this model a great value. It scores very well for washing, drying, and quiet operation, and its 95-minute cycle for a normal wash is one of the shortest of any washer that CR tests.  
[bosch-home.com](http://bosch-home.com)



**BOSCH 300 DLX SERIES SHS863WD5N**  
**Cycle Time:** 150 min.  
**Water Usage:** 4 gal.  
 \$770

84

This midpriced model earns a Very Good rating for washing. Even though many competitors earn Excellent scores for this critical task, it's still one of the top-rated washers in the category overall. The reason: It's among the best at drying, it's relatively quiet, and owners give Bosch dishwashers top marks for reliability and satisfaction in CR surveys.  
[bosch-home.com](http://bosch-home.com)



**THERMADOR DWHD660WFP**  
**Cycle Time:** 155 min.  
**Water Usage:** 4 gal.  
 \$1,800

83

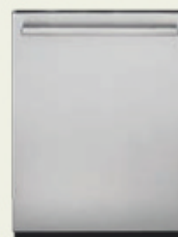
This exceptionally quiet model earns a Very Good rating for cleaning heavily soiled dishes and an Excellent for drying. Its energy efficiency also rates Excellent. It does have a long cycle time, however, and you have to clean the filter manually.  
[thermador.com](http://thermador.com)



**BOSCH BENCHMARK SHX89PW55N**  
**Cycle Time:** 155 min.  
**Water Usage:** 4 gal.  
 \$1,620

83

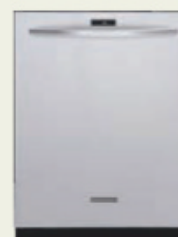
This Bosch Benchmark commands a top price and is a top performer. Not that its cleaning ability is so extraordinary; it earns a Very Good for that, but many high-end models score even better. But it rates Excellent for both drying and very quiet operation, and owners give Bosch dishwashers top marks for reliability and satisfaction in CR surveys. Its 150-minute wash cycle is on the long side.  
[bosch-home.com](http://bosch-home.com)



**THERMADOR DWHD770WFM**  
**Cycle Time:** 150 min.  
**Water Usage:** 5 gal.  
 \$2,300

82

Thermador is Bosch's more expensive sister brand, and this model is one of the priciest dishwashers out there. Its Very Good score for washing, though adequate, trails most of its competitors. But it earns Excellent grades on other tests, including drying and quiet operation. And it achieves close-to-the-top overall performance scores because owners give Thermador dishwashers Excellent ratings for reliability and satisfaction.  
[thermador.com](http://thermador.com)



**KITCHENAID KDTM354DSS**  
**Cycle Time:** 125 min.  
**Water Usage:** 4 gal.  
 \$1,035

82

This model aced CR's tests for cleaning, drying, and energy use. It's relatively quiet. And though the normal wash cycle clocks in at 125 minutes, that's still faster than many of its competitors. It earns top scores for energy and water use.  
[kitchenaid.com](http://kitchenaid.com)



**Whirlpool WDF540PADM**  
**Cycle Time:** 115 min.  
**Water Usage:** 5 gal.  
 \$565

81

This stripped-down Whirlpool, a top performer in the budget category, offers a lot of value. It scores Excellent on CR's tests for both washing and drying, and boasts one of the shortest cycle times of any washer CR has tested. And on surveys, CR members give Whirlpool dishwashers top marks for reliability. One negative: Though some models at this price have a stainless steel interior, which resists staining, this one is plastic.  
[whirlpool.com](http://whirlpool.com)

Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Survey Results		Test Results				Features							
			Predicted reliability	Owner satisfaction	Washing	Drying	Energy use	Noise	Cycle time (min.)	Ample flatware slots	Adjustable upper rack	Adjustable tines	Displays remaining time	Interior material	Requires custom door panel	Self-cleaning filter
<b>24-INCH</b>																
<b>Bosch</b> Ascenta SHX3AR75UC	88	\$630							95					Stainless steel and plastic		
<b>Bosch</b> 300 DLX Series SHS863WD5N	84	\$770							150					Stainless steel		
<b>Bosch</b> 100 Series SHXM4AY55N	83	\$675							150					Stainless steel and plastic		
<b>Thermador</b> DWHD660WFP	83	\$1,800							155					Stainless steel		
<b>Bosch</b> Benchmark SHX89PW55N	83	\$1,620							155					Stainless steel		
<b>Thermador</b> DWHD770WFM	82	\$2,300							150					Stainless steel		
<b>Ikea</b> Renlig IUD7070DS [288921]	82	\$380							115					Plastic		
<b>Bosch</b> Benchmark SHX88PZ55N	82	\$1,600							150					Stainless steel		
<b>KitchenAid</b> KDTM354DSS	82	\$1,035							125					Stainless steel		
<b>Miele</b> Classic Plus G4977SCVISF	81	\$1,200							150					Stainless steel		
<b>Bosch</b> 300 Series SHEM63W55N	81	\$765							155					Stainless steel		
<b>Whirlpool</b> WDF540PADM	81	\$575							115					Plastic		
<b>Kenmore</b> 14573	79	\$600							145					Stainless steel		
<b>Kenmore</b> 14543	79	\$475							145					Stainless steel		
<b>Bosch</b> 800 Series SHPM78W55N	79	\$900							160					Stainless steel		
<b>KitchenAid</b> KDTM704ESS	78	\$1,710							110					Stainless steel		
<b>Miele</b> Futura Crystal G6665SCVISF	78	\$1,800							140					Stainless steel		
<b>KitchenAid</b> KDTM404ESS	77	\$1,400							110					Stainless steel		
<b>Kenmore</b> 14523	77	\$610							150					Stainless steel		
<b>Bosch</b> 800 Series SHXM98W75N	77	\$1,125							160					Stainless steel		
<b>Miele</b> Dimension G6785SCVISF	76	\$2,000							145					Stainless steel		
<b>GE</b> Profile PDF820SSJSS	76	\$1,010							150					Stainless steel		
<b>Kenmore</b> Elite 14793	76	\$900							145					Stainless steel		
<b>Kenmore</b> Elite 14753	75	\$645							145					Stainless steel		
<b>Bosch</b> 500 Series SHPM65W55N	75	\$800							160					Stainless steel		
<b>GE</b> Profile PDT855SSJSS	75	\$1,370							155					Stainless steel		
<b>Café</b> CDT845P2NS1	75	\$1,100							155					Stainless steel		
<b>Bertazzoni</b> DW24XT	74	\$1,850	-	-					135					Stainless steel		
<b>Kenmore</b> 13223	74	\$890							160					Stainless steel		



Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Survey Results		Test Results				Features							
			Predicted reliability	Owner satisfaction	Washing	Drying	Energy use	Noise	Cycle time (min.)	Ample flatware slots	Adjustable upper rack	Adjustable tines	Displays remaining time	Interior material	Requires custom door panel	Self-cleaning filter
<b>24-INCH</b> <i>Continued</i>																
Thor Kitchen HDW2401SS	73	\$810	—	—	↑	↓	↑	↑	130	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		
KitchenAid KDPE234GPS	73	\$700	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	135	●	●	●		Stainless steel		
KitchenAid KDTE304GPS	73	\$985	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	135	●	●	●		Stainless steel		
Kucht K6502D	73	\$710	—	—	↑	↓	↑	↑	140	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		
Kenmore 13473	73	\$350	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	160		●		●	Plastic		
Whirlpool WDT730PAHZ	72	\$450	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	140	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel and plastic		
Ikea VASKAD [50422663]	72	\$850	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	145	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		
Ikea SPOLAD [80422355]	72	\$750	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	145	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		
Ikea Renlig IUD7555DS [90292264]	71	\$550	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	160	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		
LG LDT7808BM	71	\$900	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	145	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		●
Whirlpool WDT970SAHZ	70	\$580	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	145	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		
Whirlpool WDF330PAHS	70	\$485	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	110					Plastic		
Bosch SHPM65ZC5N	70	\$600	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	170	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		
Maytag MDB4949SHZ	70	\$480	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	155	●				Stainless steel		●
Miele Futura Lumen G6885SCVIK2O	70	\$2,300	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	170	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel	●	
Samsung DW80K7050US	69	\$650	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	130	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		
GE GDP615HSMSS	69	\$640	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	155	●	●		●	Stainless steel and plastic		
GE Profile PDT715SYNFS	69	\$700	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	155	●	●		●	Stainless steel and plastic		
Kenmore Elite 14815	68	\$1,250	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	120	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		●
Bosch 800 Series SHEM78WH5N	68	\$1,245	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	165	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		●
Kenmore Elite 14673	67	\$600	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	135	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		●
Ikea LAGAN [00385804]	66	\$270	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	160					Plastic		
Samsung DW80R9950US	66	\$750	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	130	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		●
Whirlpool WDF130PAHW	65	\$280	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	160					Plastic		
LG Signature LUDP8997SN	65	\$1,500	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	130	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		
LG LDP6797ST	64	\$650	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	130	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		
GE GDT655SSJSS	64	\$825	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	155	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		
GE GDT695SSJSS	64	\$915	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	155	●	●	●	●	Stainless steel		
KitchenAid KDPE334GPS	63	\$750	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	160	●	●	●		Stainless steel		

Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Survey Results		Test Results				Features							
			Predicted reliability	Owner satisfaction	Washing	Drying	Energy use	Noise	Cycle time (min.)	Ample flatware slots	Adjustable upper rack	Adjustable tines	Displays remaining time	Interior material	Requires custom door panel	Self-cleaning filter

**24-INCH** *Continued*

<b>Frigidaire</b> FFCD2413US	63	\$300	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	145					Plastic		•	
<b>Frigidaire</b> FFID2426TS	62	\$530	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	130			•		Plastic			
<b>Kenmore</b> 13803	62	\$350	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	115					Plastic			
<b>Samsung</b> Chef Collection DW80M9990US	61	\$1,300	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	130	•	•	•	•	Stainless steel			•
<b>LG</b> LDF5545ST	60	\$400	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	200	•	•	•	•	Stainless steel			
<b>Amana</b> ADB1500ADS	57	\$570	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	140				•	Plastic			
<b>Samsung</b> DW80M2020US	56	\$530	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	130	•	•			Stainless steel and plastic			
<b>GE</b> GDF630PSMSS	56	\$450	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	200	•	•		•	Plastic			
<b>Frigidaire</b> Gallery FGIP2468UF	55	\$430	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	200	•	•	•	•	Plastic			
<b>Frigidaire</b> Gallery FGID2479SF	55	\$595	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	195	•	•	•	•	Stainless steel			
<b>Frigidaire</b> LFID2459VF	55	\$450	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	205		•		•	Stainless steel			
<b>Samsung</b> DW80N3030US	54	\$400	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	175	•	•			Stainless steel and plastic			
<b>GE</b> GDT565SSNS	51	\$550	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	215	•				Stainless steel			
<b>Fisher &amp; Paykel</b> DD24DDFTX9N	51	\$1,400	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	180	•		•		Plastic			
<b>Electrolux</b> IQ Touch EI24ID81SS	49	\$1,100	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	190	•	•	•	•	Stainless steel			
<b>Frigidaire</b> FBD2400KS	37	\$300	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	90					Plastic			

**18-INCH**

<b>Whirlpool</b> WDF518SAHM	71	\$825	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	130	•	•			Stainless steel and plastic			•
<b>Miele</b> Dimension G4720SCI	71	\$1,500	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	170	•	•	•	•	Stainless steel	•		
<b>Frigidaire</b> FFBD1821MW	65	\$670	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	140	•				Stainless steel			
<b>GE</b> Profile PDT145SSLSS	63	\$900	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	125	•	•	•	•	Stainless steel and plastic			
<b>Bosch</b> 300 Series SPE53U55UC	58	\$760	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	135		•	•	•	Stainless steel			

**HOW WE TEST:** To score **Washing** performance, we run the normal or equivalent cycle to clean a full load with 10 place settings. **Drying** performance is our assessment of how thoroughly a dishwasher dries plastic cups—a tough task—using our test cycle and a rinse aid, which improves drying. **Energy use**

is based on our test cycle. A panel of testers judge **Noise** levels by listening to each machine through its entire cycle. **Cycle time**, rounded to the nearest 5 minutes, is based on running the normal or equivalent cycle to clean a full load. **Price** is approximate retail. **Overall Score** combines test results with survey

data for predicted reliability and owner satisfaction. **Predicted reliability** estimates the likelihood that newly purchased models from a given brand will develop problems or break within the first five years. **Owner satisfaction** reflects the proportion of CR members who are extremely likely to recommend

the dishwasher they bought. In cases where we have insufficient survey data to provide a brand-level rating, indicated by a gray dash (—), we assume the model has average reliability and satisfaction.





# Planning Kitchen Storage

THE RIGHT KITCHEN CABINETS CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A WORKSPACE THAT'S DISORGANIZED AND CROWDED AND ONE THAT'S BEAUTIFUL AND EASY TO WORK IN. HERE'S HOW TO PLAN AND SHOP FOR STORAGE THAT FITS YOUR SPACE AND BUDGET.

Cabinets can be your biggest expense when remodeling, accounting for up to 40 percent of your budget. So it's worth spending the time to find the organizing features you need and a look you'll love—at the right price. Consumer Reports doesn't test cabinets at this time, but our in-house experts can help to inform your decisions. Use this guide to shop and save.

● **SMART SHOPPING**

Before you head to a showroom, determine what you can spend and think about how you use the space.

**BUDGET**

Cabinets fall into three categories: stock, semicustom, and custom. Stock cabinets start around \$70 per linear foot. (A typical kitchen has 25 to 30 linear feet of cabinets.) Home centers sell them fully assembled. Stores such as Ikea offer flatpack versions that need to be put together on site. Semicustom cabinets, which start around \$150 per linear foot, come in more configurations, so they'll fit your kitchen more precisely. Custom cabinets can cost \$500 or more per linear foot. They're crafted to your specs and can include personalized features.

**STYLE**

The first decision is between framed and frameless. Framed cabinets have a separate

frame applied to the front of the cabinet box; doors and drawers are attached to that frame. Frameless cabinets, often referred to as European-style, eliminate the face frame; doors and drawers are attached directly to the cabinet box. That provides great accessibility and a more contemporary look. The absence of a face frame can compromise rigidity. Some manufacturers compensate by using a thicker, stronger box—say, 3/4-inch plywood instead of 1/2-inch particleboard. For the European look in a framed cabinet, opt for a full-overlay door, which covers the frame.

**STORAGE FEATURES**

Accessories (see "Pick Your Storage Accessories," below) can improve cabinet functionality, but they will also increase the cost by 20 percent or more. You'll save money by keeping features to the essential.

**TIP**

Cabinet manufacturers often charge premium prices for interior organizers and door and drawer hardware. Save by looking for storage accessories you can add after installation and buying knobs and pulls at a home center or online.



Pick Your Storage Accessories

Cabinet manufacturers offer a wide array of optional storage accessories—usually for an upcharge. Here are some worth considering:

- **Drawer dividers** for corralling small items, such as cooking utensils and flatware.
- **Pantry cabinets** that feature rollout trays and

- adjustable door racks.
- **Slide-out wastebaskets** to keep trash easily accessible but neatly out of sight.
- **Message-center cabinets** that offer shallow storage for small items, such as keys, as well as an integrated dry-erase message board or bulletin board.

- **Toe-kick cabinets** that are installed between the floor and the base of a cabinet, perfect for holding shallow items such as cookie sheets, trays, and place mats.
- **Lift cabinets** with spring-loaded shelves that swing up and out to provide easy access to mixers and food

PHOTOS: BARRY CALHOUN (TOP); MARK LUND (BOTTOM MIDDLE); KIM SMITH (BOTTOM RIGHT)



## ● ON THE MARKET

Kitchen cabinets can vary greatly in price. Here's a look at the three main types you'll see.

### **BASIC**

Often called stock, they're inexpensive, off-the-shelf cabinets. Some are fully assembled; others will need to be assembled on site. Many are frameless, meaning the door has no lip or "reveal" around it. **PROS** They're a money-saving choice if you aren't too picky about style options or don't demand a perfect fit. More of them have better drawers, solid-wood doors, and other once-pricey features. And we found basic cabinet models that held up better than some more expensive ones.

**CONS** Many basic boxes are thinly veneered particleboard rather than higher-quality plywood. Style and trim options, sizes, and organizing accessories are still limited. Figure on an hour or more of assembly for each set.

### **MIDLEVEL**

These semicustom models are a sound choice for most kitchens. Many are made with face-frame construction, where a solid-wood frame is visible around the door and drawers. **PROS** Midlevel models offer many made-to-order custom options for size, materials, finish, moldings and other trim, and accessories such as range-hood covers. That can make them the best value overall because you'll get the look you want without a custom price.

**CONS** As with basic cabinets, features and quality can vary considerably. Boxes may be veneered particleboard rather than higher-quality plywood.

### **PREMIUM**

Short of custom made-to-order cabinets, these semicustom models offer the most style and storage options. **PROS** They generally come with plywood boxes and other premium materials and hardware options. Widths may come in 1/4-inch increments rather than the typical 3 inches, so they can fit your space perfectly.

**CONS** Though generally less expensive than fully made-to-order custom units, models with the most features and of the highest quality can cost as much as certain full-custom units. So get a price from a local cabinetmaker before you place an order.

processors, then tuck away when they're not in use.

- **Cubby units** installed underneath wall cabinets to hold wine or water bottles.
- **Vertical dividers** that neatly shelf cookie sheets and trays on their sides. They can be a good way to fill gaps between stock cabinets.



● **FOCUS ON FEATURES**

What separates a well-made cabinet from a cheap imitation? Here are the features to look for—and what to avoid.

**1. HARDWARE**

Full-extension drawer guides are better than integrated side rails or undermounted double-roller designs. Some cabinet models have a “soft close” feature that stops them from slamming shut. As for door hinges, in past tests we didn’t find any significant differences among the various types.

**2. SHELVES**

Look for ¾-inch plywood. Lesser-quality ⅝- or ½-inch particleboard may sag.

**3. MOUNTING STRIPS**

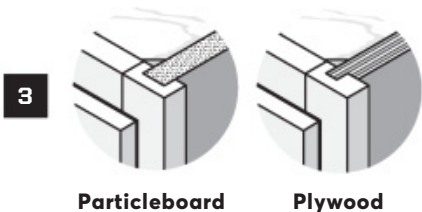
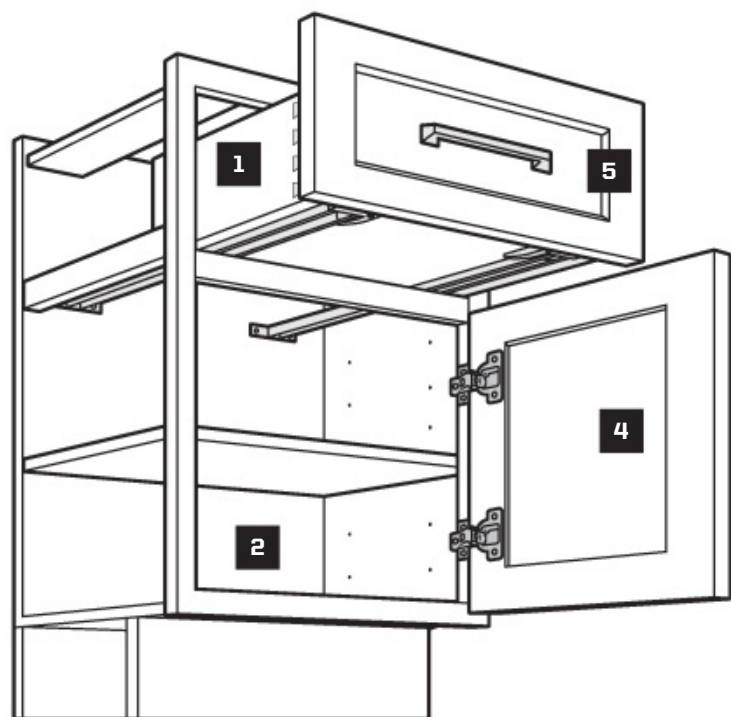
Ask the contractor to use ¾-inch hardwood strips or metal strips with bolt holes. Thinner wood, medium-density fiberboard, or particleboard can be a safety concern with heavily loaded wall cabinets.

**4. DOORS**

Most manufacturers offer a similar range of options at all their price levels. Look for a solid-wood frame surrounding solid-wood or plywood panels.

**5. DRAWERS**

Well-built drawers are critical because drawers get the most use. The best ones have solid-wood sides, dovetail joinery, and a plywood bottom that fits grooves on four sides. Avoid stapled particleboard.



# Fake a Custom Look

If you’re buying budget-friendly stock or semicustom cabinets, you don’t have to settle for the ordinary. Decorative design elements can give even basic stock cabinets a more personalized look in an array of styles, including country, modern, and traditional.

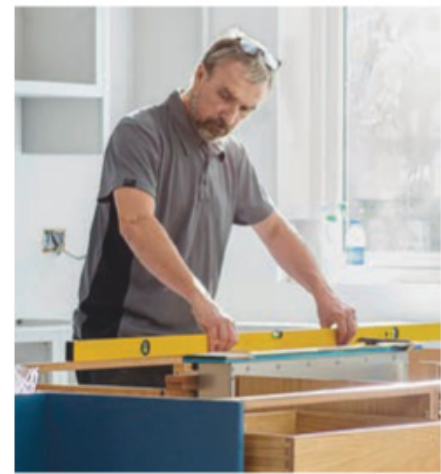
- **Accent doors**, available in a variety of styles—textured or colored, frosted glass, or stainless steel—can enhance visual interest or create an industrial look.
- **Moldings**, which range from simple to ornate, can be added to the top, bottom, or edge of cabinets as a finishing touch, or along the bottom of wall cabinets to conceal undercabinet lighting. Just be sure that the style you choose suits your cabinets and your home; consider matching them to existing moldings or trim.
- **“Legs” (or feet)** added to the base of built-in cabinets create the trendy look of freestanding furniture. You can find decorative trim pieces, such as moldings, corbels, corner details, onlays, and turnings, for a great price at local lumber stores and home centers.



# Choose a Winning Finish

The finish you choose for your cabinets can set the tone for your entire kitchen. Options include clean and modern looks for contemporary kitchens; deep, rich woods for traditional elegance; and distressed finishes for a vintage effect.

The right choice for your kitchen depends on your



### **GET THE INSTALLATION RIGHT**

When installers come to give an estimate, have a plan handy. That way they can account for the height and type of the new wall cabinets, the soffits, the location of electrical outlets and plumbing, and other variables. Make sure the estimate includes the removal and disposal of your existing cabinets and any other necessary demolition.

Before hiring an installer, talk with suppliers and, if possible, at least three former customers to find out how the work has held up. Ask for copies of the installer's insurance certificates as well. Certification from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry is a plus; it indicates a high level of professionalism.

For safety's sake, shore up the wall mountings. And be certain the installer reinforces the mounting strips if they're made of thin particleboard.

personal style—and your lifestyle. "The white kitchen is a true classic," says Susan Serra, a certified kitchen designer, certified aging-in-place specialist, and author of The Kitchen Designer blog. "And it's popular today as an easy look that can be used to interpret any

kitchen-design theme."

If you prefer a more natural look, consider a finish that reveals the wood grain of the cabinet rather than obscuring it. Glazed finishes, for example, add soft, translucent color on top of the wood but allow the beauty of the grain to show through. But

that finish often comes at a premium price.

For those in the market for something a bit more modern, matte and high-gloss finishes are available in almost every color, not to mention trendy metallics, black, and white.

If you can't choose just one finish, create a layered look by

combining two or more—a modern look that adds a custom flair. To complement a natural-wood finish, for example, add an accent cabinet in an opaque color such as pale yellow or blue, or in a neutral. Or go bold in one area, such as on the base of the island.







# Counter Intelligence

IF YOU WANT THE SLEEK LOOK OF MARBLE OR CONCRETE WITHOUT THE MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS, YOU'RE IN LUCK. OUR TOP-RATED COUNTERTOP MATERIALS OFFER THE WINNING COMBINATION OF BEAUTY AND DURABILITY IN A WIDE RANGE OF STYLES.

We stained, sliced, scratched, scorched, and nicked 14 countertop materials to test how well they'll stand up to use in a kitchen. Spoiler alert: Quartz continues to impress our testers on every front. The manufactured stone offers a look that's realistic, resembling even rare and delicate materials surprisingly well. But it's not the only option that's durable. Old favorites like granite and laminate also took their share of abuse on the chin. Read on for all the details.

### ● SMART SHOPPING

Pay attention to these points as you plan your new countertops.

#### **SAMPLE SIZE**

Tiny swatches or pictures can't give you a good sense of how a countertop material will look in your kitchen. So ask for a sample that's as large as the retailer can get. For natural stone, such as granite or marble, be sure to see the actual slab that will become your countertop before installation, because natural stone can vary significantly from store samples.

#### **DESIGN OPTIONS**

Combining more than one countertop material looks dynamic and could save you money. For example, you could choose a more durable material for heavily used

areas and something less durable as an accent.

#### **NEW (AND OLD) MATERIALS**

Laminate, for example, looks better than you may remember, and it's durable and budget-friendly.

#### **RESALE VALUE**

Grout lines between tiles are easily stained, and that may turn off potential buyers. Stone counters tend to look impressive and could raise your home's selling price.

#### **MEASUREMENTS**

If an installer does the measuring, he's responsible for any mistakes. Make sure the contract states the counter thickness, edge and backsplash treatments, and fees for sink and faucet cutouts.





## ● FOCUS ON FEATURES

Decisions about the details can make a difference in looks and performance.

### EDGE

You'll have several options for the edge treatment of your counters. Trimming laminate counters with wood can create a higher-end look and prevent chipping. For stone counters, rounded edges are less likely to chip. Straight and beveled edges give a more modern look, and an S-shaped curve, an ogee, offers stone or solid surfacing a more traditional feel. Some treatments add to the cost, so check with the supplier first.

### FINISH

Quartz and granite are sold with a polished

(glossy) or honed (matte) finish. In our tests, both were about the same at holding up to stains that were allowed to dry overnight. Less common are leather and pebbled finishes. Granites with proprietary sealers performed no better than regular granite. Matte and grain finishes help conceal scratches in stainless steel better than polished finishes, but expect to see fingerprints. Quartz performed similarly regardless of the finish, but butcher block and concrete counters performed differently in our tests depending on the sealer used.

### SEAMS

The joints between two slabs of stone or other kinds of material can make or break the look of a countertop.

They should be almost invisible in solid-surface and stainless steel countertops. For other countertop materials, seams that are 1/16 inch or less are standard. Wide joints can trap food and grime, and they're a telltale sign of sloppy installation.

### SINK

Top-mounted sinks, also called drop-ins, sit on top of a counter. Undermount sinks are installed under a countertop and require a waterproof countertop material, such as quartz, stainless steel, solid surfacing, or concrete. Stainless steel and solid surfacing can be used for a countertop and sink.

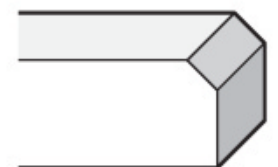
## FIND YOUR EDGE



STRAIGHT PROFILE



EASED PROFILE



BEVELED PROFILE



BULLNOSE PROFILE



SHORT OGEE PROFILE

## The Worst Stains for Every Surface

You might expect mustard and grape juice to be in a lineup of the worst offenders in countertop stains. But of the 20 household products in our stain tests, food coloring and permanent marker proved to be the toughest to wash away. Many things stain bamboo, and limestone and oil-rubbed butcher block don't fare well, either. Here's what left visible marks on six countertop materials.

### BAMBOO (BEESWAX/ MINERAL-OIL FINISH)

Beet juice, coffee, crayon, drain cleaner, food coloring, pencil, permanent marker, rust, and tea.

### CONCRETE (WITH PENETRATING SEALER)

Food coloring, hot oil, permanent marker, and shoe polish.

### RECYCLED GLASS

Food coloring.

### MARBLE

Food coloring and shoe polish.

### STAINLESS STEEL

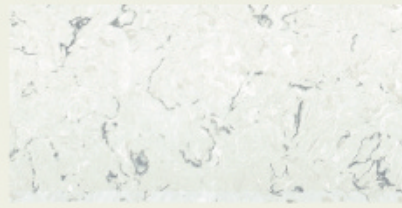
Drain cleaner and tarnish remover.

### TILE

Food coloring, crayon, ink, permanent marker, and rust.

# Recommended Products

We've found that there's little variation among brands, so we rate materials instead. It's important to note that in some instances, a particular finish can affect a material's performance. That's why you'll see certain materials listed more than once in our ratings on the facing page.



**QUARTZ**  
\$20 TO \$60 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

84

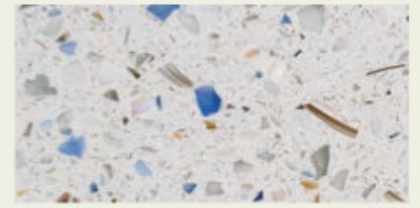
**PROS** A combination of mineral, color, and resin, quartz stands up well to cuts, abrasion, and heat. It comes in vibrant colors and patterns that look like granite and marble.  
**CONS** Edges and corners can chip, and you'll need a pro to repair them.



**GRANITE**  
\$20 TO \$60 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

81

**PROS** Each slab of this natural stone is different. Heat, cuts, and scratches didn't harm it in our tests. Polished and matte finishes resist most stains when properly sealed.  
**CONS** Needs periodic resealing. Chips must be professionally repaired.



**RECYCLED GLASS**  
\$25 TO \$100 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

69

**PROS** Available in many colors, with large or fine particles. Most recycled glass resists stains, cuts, scratches, and heat.  
**CONS** It's the only material for which we found a difference among brands. Cosentino's Eco counters were the only ones that cracked during our heat tests.



**TILE (CERAMIC AND PORCELAIN)**  
\$5 TO \$20 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

67

**PROS** Tile is water-resistant, heat-resistant, and ideal for use near stoves. It comes in many colors, sizes, and patterns.  
**CONS** It chips. The grout between tiles can stain even when it's sealed, and it can mildew. Thinner grout lines and darker grout may help somewhat.



**ULTRACOMPACT**  
\$50 TO \$100 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

63

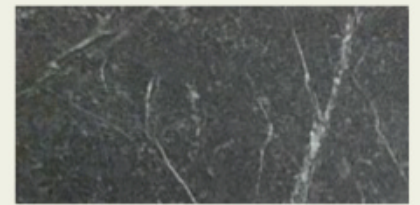
**PROS** We tested Dekton, a combination of quartz, porcelain, and glass, according to the manufacturer. It resisted damage from heat, stains, chopping and cutting, and abrasion.  
**CONS** The material sustained chips to the edges and cracked into two in our impact tests.



**SOLID SURFACING**  
\$15 TO \$50 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

53

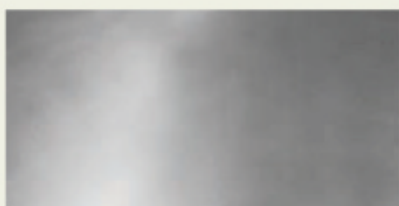
**PROS** Available in a range of colors and patterns, it can be used for counters, sinks, and backsplashes. Color won't vary much from sample to slab. It resists most stains. Small nicks and scratches can be repaired.  
**CONS** It scratches and cuts easily, so use a cutting board.



**SOAPSTONE**  
\$20 TO \$70 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

46

**PROS** Best for adding the look of stone to a low-traffic kitchen. It withstands heat very well, and small scratches can be repaired. Slabs can vary widely.  
**CONS** It's easy to slice, nick, and scratch. Stain resistance is fair. It must be rubbed with mineral oil periodically.



**STAINLESS STEEL**  
\$20 TO \$60 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

39

**PROS** It repels stains and heat, and doesn't rust or discolor. Countertops can include an integral sink for a seamless appearance.  
**CONS** It shows fingerprints, and dents and scratches easily. Matte and grain finishes hide damage better.



**BUTCHER BLOCK (VARNISHED)**  
\$20 TO \$60 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

37

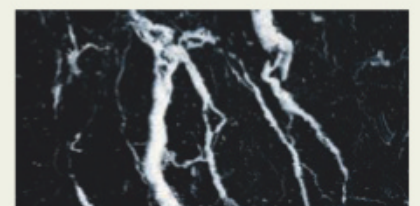
**PROS** It creates a warm, natural look in a kitchen and is easy to install and repair.  
**CONS** It may need periodic sealing or refinishing to remove cuts, dings, and scratches. Its finish affects performance. Varnish improves stain resistance, and penetrating oils decrease it.



**LIMESTONE**  
\$25 TO \$75 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

27

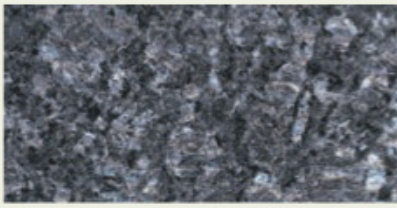
**PROS** Limestone provides a stone look without heavy veining, and it resists heat well.  
**CONS** Soft and porous, it scratches and dents easily. Eleven of the 20 substances we applied left visible stains after they were on the surface for just 24 hours, despite sealing.



**MARBLE**  
\$25 TO \$75 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

14

**PROS** Marble is best for a classic look in low-traffic areas.  
**CONS** It's more porous than granite, so it's not as stain-resistant. It also scratches easily, can chip, isn't very heat-resistant, and needs to be resealed regularly to prevent stains.



**LAMINATE**  
\$5 TO \$25 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

68

**PROS** It's inexpensive, easy to install, and much better-looking than you probably remember, thanks to new printing technology and decorative edges. Stains and heat didn't damage the laminates we tested.

**CONS** Cutting directly on laminate damages the surface.



**CONCRETE (TOPICAL SEALER)**  
\$25 TO \$75 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

39

**PROS** It can be dyed or fabricated with a surface texture.

**CONS** It may crack. Durability depends on the fabricator's skill and the sealing method. Topical sealers resist stains but not heat. Penetrating sealers resist heat but not stains and require periodic reapplication.



**BAMBOO**  
\$20 TO \$60 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

10

**PROS** Available in several styles, including a parquet pattern.

**CONS** Bamboo is easily stained, scorched, sliced, and nicked. The manufacturer might warn against using it around a sink because moisture can warp the material. And it might darken over time.

Material	Overall Score	Price	Test Results				
			Stains	Cutting	Heat	Abrasion	Impact
Quartz (engineered stone)	84	\$20-\$60	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓
Granite	81	\$20-\$60	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓
Recycled Glass (penetrating sealer) <sup>1</sup>	69	\$25-\$100	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓
Laminate	68	\$5-\$25	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑
Tile (ceramic and porcelain)	67	\$5-\$20	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓
Ultracompact (Dekton) <sup>2</sup>	63	\$50-\$100	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓
Solid Surfacing	53	\$15-\$50	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑
Soapstone (mineral-oil finish)	46	\$20-\$70	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓
Concrete (penetrating sealer)	40	\$25-\$75	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓
Concrete (topical sealer)	39	\$25-\$75	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓
Stainless Steel	39	\$20-\$60	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓
Butcher Block (varnished)	37	\$20-\$60	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓
Limestone	27	\$25-\$75	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓
Butcher Block (oil finish)	24	\$20-\$60	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓
Marble	14	\$25-\$75	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Bamboo (beeswax/mineral-oil finish)	10	\$20-\$60	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

**HOW WE TEST:** **Stains** shows resistance to 20 common foods and household products. **Cutting** reflects resistance to damage from weighted chef's and serrated knives used in slicing and chopping motions. **Heat** gauges how well

materials resisted damage and discoloration from a pot filled with oil heated to 400° F. **Abrasion** is resistance to damage from a weighted sanding block. **Impact** reflects the ability to withstand blunt and pointed weights dropped from

up to 3½ feet. **Price** is the typical range per square foot for the material only. Installation costs vary by region, material, and total scope of project. **Overall Score** summarizes performance in all tests.

<sup>1</sup> Unlike other brands, Cosentino's Eco line of recycled counters developed a thin crack during our heat tests and was excluded from the ratings. The other recycled-glass products tested were 3 centimeters thick.

<sup>2</sup> Cosentino's Dekton was tested. In our impact tests, pieces of the edges chipped off, and the Dekton cracked into two pieces on samples that were the manufacturer-recommended thickness of 2 centimeters.





# Getting Underfoot

NEW FLOORING CAN GIVE YOUR KITCHEN A DRAMATICALLY DIFFERENT LOOK, HELP LINK IT TO ADJOINING SPACES, AND MAKE CLEANING EASIER. HERE'S HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT MATERIAL FOR YOUR SPACE AND YOUR BUDGET.

Installing a new floor is one of the more expensive updates you'll undertake. With so many choices—wood, vinyl, laminate, tile—where do you begin? Your budget is certain to guide your decision. But you should also consider how much foot traffic and sunlight your flooring will endure. To help you pick, we put the most common types and brands through a battery of tests. Use our ratings to select the floor that's best for your kitchen.





### ● SMART SHOPPING

Use these tips to pick the best flooring for your lifestyle.

#### **TRAFFIC**

In busy areas, choose a product that aced our foot-traffic tests. The best porcelain tiles, laminates, and luxury vinyls can replicate the look of wood quite well if that's what you prefer.

#### **SETTING**

Before you buy, pick up samples of materials you're considering. Compare them side by side, under natural and artificial light, where they will be installed.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

Vinyl floors with the

industry's FloorScore certification emit relatively low levels of volatile organic compounds, substances that have been linked to health problems and pollution. For wood flooring, certification by the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative offers some assurance that it comes from responsibly managed forests. Check the packaging for product and manufacturer certification.

#### **MEASUREMENTS**

To determine how much flooring you'll need, calculate the room's square footage by multiplying its

length times its width. (Divide an irregularly shaped room into smaller rectangles, calculate the square footage of each, then add them together.) Then buy 7 percent to 10 percent extra to allow for mistakes, bad samples, and waste.

#### **CONSISTENCY**

Variations in color can occur from one batch of flooring to the next, so buy all the flooring you'll need at one time, plus a little extra for future repairs. For the most natural wood look, pull boards from multiple packages when installing.

### ● ON THE MARKET

Before you buy, consider the pros and cons of each material.

#### **SOLID WOOD AND BAMBOO**

**BEST FOR** natural warmth. Solid flooring can usually be sanded and refinished several times. Prefinished floors can hold up better than those finished on-site. And their warranty comes from the factory, not the installer, giving you the guarantee of a big company. With a private installer, you might have a tougher time getting a refund if your floors are installed improperly. **BUT** solid wood will expand and contract with humidity, so it's not a good choice for damp spaces. And it can dent easily. Certain species can show wear quickly and become discolored from sunlight. Unfinished flooring costs less than prefinished, but higher installation costs can offset savings.

#### **ENGINEERED WOOD AND BAMBOO**

**BEST FOR** a warm look and easy installation. This veneer over substrate can usually be nailed, stapled, or glued in place, or "floated" without fasteners or glue. Many can be refinished. Well-installed, high-quality products can be as durable as solid wood.

**BUT** most show wear and dent easily, and some can be damaged by moisture.

#### **VINYL**

**BEST FOR** practicality and easy installation. Many products stand up to damage from moisture, dents, stains, and sun. **BUT** it can't pass for a natural material up close. Scratches deeper than the decorative layer will show the color of the vinyl below.

#### **CERAMIC TILE**

**BEST FOR** projects with a bigger budget, though newer floating varieties are more affordable. There's a wide variety of styles, and tile tends to resist wear. **BUT** most can't be floated and are difficult to install. Dropped items can crack it, and grout can stain. Replacing damaged tiles is tricky.

#### **LINOLEUM**

**BEST FOR** those who want a sustainable, resilient surface. **BUT** vinyl tiles offer better performance.

#### **LAMINATE**

**BEST FOR** toughness, variety of styles, and easy installation. It can usually be floated. The best wear well, and most resist stains and UV. **BUT** most dent fairly easily, and laminate can't be refinished.

# Recommended Products

Top performers usually resist wear, scratches, and color change better than others of their type. But dents are a challenge for most. Here, we focus on top picks with specific strengths, value, or both.

## PREFINISHED SOLID WOOD AND BAMBOO



**TERAGREN PORTFOLIO NATURALS WHEAT TPF-PORTTG-WHT**  
\$7.50 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

76

This solid bamboo flooring shows superb resistance to scratches and stains, impressive dent resistance, and a finish that resists wear from foot traffic.  
[teragren.com](http://teragren.com)

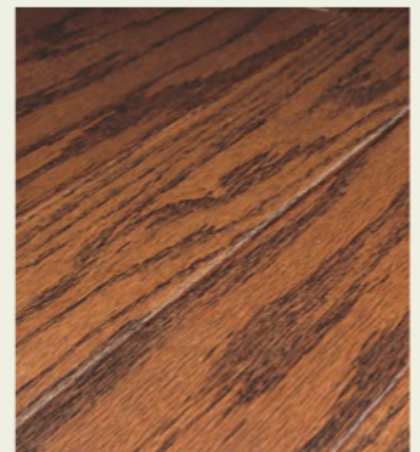


**ARMSTRONG PARAGON ORIGINAL EMBER SAKP59L401**  
\$7 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

71

With excellent resistance to wear from foot traffic, this prefinished solid wood also does well at resisting color change from ultraviolet rays and won't fade as much as others in sunny areas.  
[armstrong.com](http://armstrong.com)

## ENGINEERED WOOD



**HOME LEGEND STRAND WOVEN MOJAVE HL667**  
(HOME DEPOT)  
\$2 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

70

This top-rated engineered bamboo flooring shows strong resistance to staining, denting, UV exposure, and wear.  
[homedepot.com](http://homedepot.com)

## VINYL



**ARMSTRONG PRYZM ELEMENTS OF HERITAGE VINTAGE MULTI PC020**  
\$5.30 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

89

This top-rated vinyl has outstanding resistance to foot traffic, staining, denting, and UV exposure, and it resists scratches very well, too.  
[armstrong.com](http://armstrong.com)

## PORCELAIN TILE



**SNAPSTONE BEIGE 11-001-02-01**  
\$8 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

94

The chief attractions of this tile are do-it-yourself floating installation and resistance to all but denting. The 12-inch square tiles we installed were impervious to foot traffic, scratches, staining, and color change from sunlight.  
[snapstone.com](http://snapstone.com)

## LAMINATE



**PERGO OUTLAST+ VINTAGE PEWTER OAK LF000848**  
(HOME DEPOT)  
\$3 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

90

Superb resistance to wear from foot traffic, scratches, staining, and color change from sunlight help put this flooring at the top of the pack.  
[homedepot.com](http://homedepot.com)



**LUMBER LIQUIDATORS DREAM HOME BOARDWALK OAK 10043317**  
(HOME DEPOT)  
\$2.50 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

86

This flooring earns an Excellent score for its resistance to foot traffic, scratches, and UV exposure. But dent resistance was just fair.  
[lumberliquidators.com](http://lumberliquidators.com)

\*Price is for product only. Does not include installation.

Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Test Results					Sq. ft. per box	Installation	Light shades	Medium shades	Dark shades
			Resists foot traffic	Resists scratches	Resists stains	Resists dents	Resists sunlight (UV)					
<b>PREFINISHED SOLID WOOD FLOORING</b>												
✓ Teragren Portfolio Naturals Wheat TPF-PORTTG-WHT	76	\$7.50	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	22	Floating	●	●	●
✓ Armstrong Paragon Original Ember SAKP59L401	71	\$7.00	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	24	Nail	●	●	●
Ⓢ Lumber Liquidators Builder's Pride Select Pewter Gray Maple 10040807	68	\$4.50	↑	↓	↑	↓	↓	20	Nail or glue		●	●
Blue Ridge Hardwood Flooring Red Oak Natural 20473 (Home Depot)	59	\$3.40	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	18	Nail or staple	●	●	●
Lumber Liquidators Bellawood Natural Hickory 10034423	47	\$6.50	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	34	Nail, glue or floating	●	●	
Bruce Hickory Country Natural AHS601 (Home Depot)	47	\$4.00	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	20	Nail	●		
Mullican St. Andrews Solid Oak Strip 10930	46	\$6.00	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	24	Nail	●	●	●
Shaw Sequoia Hickory 5 SW539 Pacific Crest 02000	45	\$7.50	↓	↑	↑	↓	↑	24	Nail, staple, glue or float	●	●	●
Heritage Mill Brushed Vintage Hickory Pewter PF9759 (Home Depot)	42	\$6.00	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	21	Nail		●	●
<b>ENGINEERED WOOD FLOORING</b>												
Ⓢ Home Legend Strand Woven Mojave HL667 (Home Depot)	70	\$2.00	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	13	Floating	●	●	●
Malibu Wide Plank French Oak Stinson HDMPC138EF (Home Depot)	61	\$2.60	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	24	Floating or glue	●	●	●
SmartCore Naturals Timber Creek Oak LX54904001 (Lowe's)	60	\$4.00	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	20	Floating or glue	●	●	●
Harris Wood Traditions SpringLoc Red Oak Bridle HE2505OK48	48	\$5.50	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	33	Floating or glue	●	●	●
Heritage Mill Scraped Oak Amaretto PF9773 (Home Depot)	47	\$4.30	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	31	Nail, staple, glue or floating		●	●
Mannington American Hardwoods American Oak Plank Natural AMP05NAL1	42	\$4.00	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	36	Nail, staple, glue or floating	●	●	●
Home Legend Hand Scraped Oak Gunstock Click-Lock HL16H (Home Depot)	42	\$3.40	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	25	Floating or glue		●	●
<b>VINYL FLOORING</b>												
✓ Armstrong Pryzm Elements of Heritage Vintage Multi PC020	89	\$5.30	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	22	Floating	●	●	●
✓ Congoleum DuraCeramic Sierra Slate SI74 Golden Greige	89	\$5.00	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	17	Glue	●	●	●
Ⓢ Armstrong Vivero D10 Homespun Harmony Rugged Brown U1042	87	\$4.00	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	36	Floating or full spread adhesive	●	●	●
Ⓢ Tarkett NAFCO PermaStone Collection Natural Slate Sand Stone NS-660	82	\$4.70	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	27	Glue	●	●	●
✓ Armstrong Alterna Mesa Stone Canyon Sun D4112	82	\$5.50	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	25	Glue	●	●	●
Ⓢ Shaw Matrix Regency Gunstock Oak LX90100706 (Lowe's)	78	\$2.00	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	28	Floating	●	●	●
SmartCore Ultra Blue Ridge Pine 50SLVF603 (Lowe's)	77	\$3.30	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	16	Floating	●	●	●
Lumber Liquidators CoreLuxe Ultra Rose Canyon Pine 10043266	75	\$4.10	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	15	Floating or glue	●	●	●
Armstrong LUXE Plank Timber Bay Barnyard Gray A6861	68	\$5.50	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	24	Floating	●	●	●
Mohawk Woodlands Vintage Charm MHKIV039392	66	\$3.00	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	19	Floating	●	●	●
TrafficMaster Khaki Oak 185312 (Home Depot)	64	\$1.80	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	24	Floating	●	●	

**ALERT** Prefinished solid wood, vinyl, and tile flooring are better choices when it comes to formaldehyde emissions. Just be sure to use glues that don't contain the gas when installing these materials. Engineered wood and laminate flooring products are made with glues and resins that can emit formaldehyde.

Brand + Model	Overall Score	Price	Test Results					Features				
			Resists foot traffic	Resists scratches	Resists stains	Resists dents	Resists sunlight (UV)	Sq. ft. per box	Installation	Light shades	Medium shades	Dark shades

**VINYL FLOORING** *Continued*

<b>Mannington</b> Black Mountain Oak Fireside 080171 <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup>	63	\$1.50	⬇️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	Data not available	Loose lay or glue down (permanent bond or releasable bond)		•	•
<b>Congoleum</b> AirStep Evolution Forest Valley Deer Path 72102 <sup>2</sup>	60	\$2.00	⬇️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	Data not available	Glue down or loose lay	•	•	•
<b>Shaw</b> Floorte PRO Paramount 512G Plus 510SA Ginger Oak 00802	58	\$3.20	⬇️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	28	Floating or glue	•	•	•
<b>Home Legend</b> Oak Graphite HLVT3024 (Home Depot)	58	\$2.80	⬇️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	23	Floating			•
<b>Stainmaster</b> Washed Oak 737998 (Lowe's)	54	\$2.50	⬇️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	19	Floating	•	•	
<b>LifeProof</b> Nashville Oak I106514L (Home Depot)	54	\$3.00	⬇️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	20	Floating	•	•	•
<b>SmartCore</b> Canberra Acacia 50SLV503 (Lowe's)	52	\$2.80	⬇️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	20	Floating	•	•	•

**PORCELAIN TILE FLOORING**

✓ <b>SnapStone</b> Beige 11-001-02-01	94	\$8.00	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	5	Floating		•	•	•
Ⓢ <b>Style Selections</b> Natural Timber Ash 553878 (Lowe's)	88	\$4.00	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	10	Thinset		•	•	
<b>Dal-Tile</b> Forest Park Timberland FP97	76	\$7.00	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	13	Thinset		•	•	•

**LAMINATE FLOORING**

Ⓢ <b>Pergo</b> Outlast+ Vintage Pewter Oak LF000848 (Home Depot)	90	\$3.00	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	20	Floating			•	
Ⓢ <b>Lumber Liquidators</b> Dream Home Boardwalk Oak 10043317	86	\$2.50	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	15	Floating			•	•
Ⓢ <b>Home Legend</b> Textured Oak Paloma HL1226 (Home Depot)	86	\$2.50	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	17	Floating		•	•	•
✓ <b>Pergo</b> Portfolio+ Wet Protect Hermosa Oak LF000951 1071545 (Lowe's)	83	\$2.60	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	17	Floating; underlayment required		•	•	•
✓ <b>Shaw</b> Pinnacle Port Plus SL426 Weathered Hickory 05011	74	\$3.00	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	19	Floating		•	•	•
✓ <b>Armstrong</b> Coastal Living L3051 White Wash Walnut	72	\$3.50	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	14	Floating		•	•	•
✓ <b>Pergo</b> TimberCraft West Lake Oak LF000893 864889 (Lowe's)	71	\$3.00	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	17	Floating		•	•	•
<b>Armstrong</b> Architectural Remnants Woodland Reclaim Old Original L3102	60	\$5.00	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	22	Floating		•	•	•
<b>Home Decorators Collection</b> Distressed Brown Hickory 34074SQ (Home Depot)	50	\$2.00	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	15	Floating			•	•
<b>Shaw</b> Timberline SL247 Sawmill Hickory 255	50	\$5.00	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	18	Floating			•	
<b>Shaw</b> Repel Harbour Towne SA589 Sable Hickory 07013	45	\$3.00	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	19	Floating		•	•	•
<b>Style Selections</b> Tavern Oak 528976 (Lowe's)	44	\$1.00	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	⬆️	21	Floating		•	•	

➤ All-Access and Digital members can find the latest, complete ratings at [CR.org/flooring](https://www.cro.org/flooring).

**HOW WE TEST: Resists foot traffic** denotes how quickly surface wear was noticeable after repeated passes with an abrasion tester. **Resists scratches** indicates the ability to withstand scratches, as when an object with rough edges is dragged on a floor. A scratch

tool is moved across the flooring sample with progressively heavier weight until a scratch is visible. **Resists stains** indicates how resistant the floor is to staining from various products, such as mustard, shoe polish, crayon, ink, bleach, and peroxide. **Resists dents**

shows resistance to dents caused by blunt and pointed weights dropped from increasing heights. **Resists sunlight (UV)** indicates how well the flooring stood up to continuous exposure to ultraviolet light for roughly two weeks. **Price** per square foot is approximate

retail. **Overall Score** is based on performance in our tests of resistance to wear from foot traffic, scratches, dents, stains, sunlight, moisture (not shown), and slipping (not shown).

<sup>1</sup> Bamboo product. <sup>2</sup> Square feet per box is not applicable because this product is sold in sheets. <sup>3</sup> Option of loose-lay installation, which requires adhesive or tape at edges and seams. Can also be glued down.





# Where to Shop and Save

SOME RETAILERS OFFER GREAT SELECTION, ATTRACTIVE PRICES, AND HELPFUL SERVICE, AND OTHERS FALL SHORT. OUR EXCLUSIVE SURVEY REVEALS THE WINNERS AND LOSERS.

If you need to replace an appliance, you can't go wrong by shopping at Abt or at Costco. Both retailers got high marks from more than 48,000 Consumer Reports' members who told us about their experiences buying more than 72,000 major and small appliances from chain and independent retailers across the country.

## Where to Shop and Save

ONCE AGAIN, we found that the biggest stores weren't necessarily the best. Abt, for example, has one big walk-in warehouse in suburban Chicago but ships across the country. It was among our top-rated major-appliance retailers for the 10th year in a row. A newcomer in our ratings, Sur la Table, serves consumers online and in relatively small-footprint stores nationwide; it's rated tops among small-appliance retailers.

None of the big-box appliance stores with hundreds of locations—Best Buy, Home Depot, Lowe's, and Sears—rate in the highest tier for either small or large appliances. Web behemoth Amazon is among the top-rated retailers for small appliances, though. And in our ratings, certain retailers earned only Poor or Fair scores for some individual attributes. Among small-appliance retailers, for instance, Walmart gets the lowest possible score for selection, service, and in-store atmosphere.

But even Walmart receives a Very Good score for overall shopping experience. In fact, all small- and large-appliance retailers in our ratings received high scores for overall satisfaction. Indeed, something about the shopping

experience at these retailers gives our members a more positive feeling overall than what each of our six ratings categories may capture on their own. So while a retailer may not fare well on certain attributes, members may still report a satisfactory shopping experience overall.

Here's some perspective from our survey about where and how CR members shop for appliances, plus tips on stretching your appliance-shopping dollars.

### Where People Shop

While most appliance purchases are still made at walk-in stores, online purchases are growing. Nearly half (47 percent) of our members' recent small-appliance buys were online, compared with 25 percent just five years ago. For major appliances, the increase was more modest: Eighteen percent of major appliances are bought online, up from 11 percent five years ago.

### How People Shop

While the majority of purchases are still made in physical stores, around 4 out of 5 major- and small-appliance shoppers use the internet to research their product by doing things such as checking prices

and reading reviews. Over 80 percent of small- and major-appliance shoppers who use the internet while shopping go to a retailer's website before making a purchase at its store or website.

Alternatively, 36 percent of shoppers who buy a major appliance online and 10 percent of online small-appliance shoppers check out products at a walk-in store first, a practice called showrooming. Nearly half (46 percent) of shoppers who buy a major appliance at Costco.com and more than 30 percent of those who buy a major appliance from the websites of Best Buy, Home Depot, and Lowe's go to a physical showroom first. For small appliances, shoppers buying online at Bed Bath & Beyond, Target, and Williams-Sonoma are the most likely to go to a store beforehand.

### It Pays to Haggle

Most appliance shoppers say they don't attempt to negotiate a better price. They're leaving money on the table; most shoppers who ask for a discount get a lower price. Online shoppers who tried to haggle were as successful at getting a discount as in-store shoppers.

Nearly 30 percent of major-appliance shoppers haggled for a better price, and those who succeeded ended up saving a median of \$100. Only a small proportion (4 percent) of small-appliance shoppers attempted to negotiate, but those who triumphed ended up saving a median of \$40.

Our members reported trying a number of price-negotiation tactics. The most common techniques used by successful major-appliance hagglers is purchasing several items at once or referring to prices offered by other retailers. It's also effective to point out that you're a veteran or senior citizen. Don't be shy: Almost 15 percent of successful hagglers who got a better price just asked for one.

### Warranties and Service Contracts

Eighteen percent of major-appliance shoppers buy an extended warranty



Retailer	Reader Survey Results					
	Overall satisfaction score	Price paid	Selection	Service	In-store atmosphere	Website usability
<b>MAJOR APPLIANCES</b>						
Abt	94	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Nebraska Furniture Mart	92	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓
Warners' Stellan	92	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑
R.C. Willey Home Furnishings	92	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓
Costco	92	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑
Independents	90	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓
Ferguson	90	↓	↑	↑	↑	—
Spencer's TV & Appliance	89	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓
Amazon.com	89	↓	↑	—	—	↑
Famous Tate	89	↓	↑	↑	↑	—
Grand Appliance & TV	88	↓	↑	↑	↑	—
Albert Lee Appliance	88	↓	↑	↑	↑	—
Best Buy	87	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑
P.C. Richard & Son	87	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓
Pacific Sales	87	↓	↑	↑	↑	—
JCPenney	86	↑	↓	↓	↓	—
Lowe's	86	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
ABC Warehouse	86	↑	↑	↑	—	—
Menards	85	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Sears	85	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Home Depot	85	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Sears Hometown Stores	84	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Bray & Scarff	83	↓	↓	↑	↑	—

Retailer	Reader Survey Results					
	Overall satisfaction score	Price paid	Selection	Service	In-store atmosphere	Website usability
<b>SMALL APPLIANCES</b>						
Sur La Table	95	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑
Abt	93	↑	↑	↑	—	↑
Williams Sonoma	92	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑
Costco	92	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓
QVC.com	92	↑	↓	↑	—	↑
Amazon.com	91	↑	↑	↓	—	↑
Bed Bath & Beyond	89	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Kohl's	89	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓
Exchange	89	↑	↓	—	—	—
Meijer	89	↑	↓	—	↑	—
Independents	89	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓
Macy's	89	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Manufacturers' websites	89	↓	↓	↓	—	↓
HSN	89	↑	↓	—	—	↑
Sam's Club	89	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓
Best Buy	88	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
BJ's	88	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Target	87	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Canadian Tire	87	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
JCPenney	86	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Menards	86	↓	↓	↓	↓	—
P.C. Richard & Son	85	↓	↓	↓	↓	—
Lowe's	85	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Home Depot	85	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Walmart	84	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Sears	84	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

**HOW WE SURVEY:** Ratings are based on Consumer Reports' 2019 Spring Survey of 48,289 CR members reporting on 72,633 appliance purchases made between January of 2018 and June of 2019. **Overall Satisfaction**

**Score** represents shoppers' overall satisfaction with their retail experience. If all respondents are completely satisfied with a particular retailer, this score would be 100; a score of 80 indicates that respondents are "very

satisfied," on average. Differences of less than 5 points are not meaningful. The other attributes listed under **Reader Survey Results** reflect average scores on a scale from "very poor" to "excellent." Ratings are based on the

experiences of CR members, who may not be representative of the general US population. Dashes (—) indicate insufficient sample size to provide a rating or that an attribute is not applicable to a retailer.

or a service contract, but only 3 percent of small-appliance buyers do the same. Our survey finds that Bray & Scarff and P.C. Richard & Son are the pushiest retailers when it comes to pressuring shoppers into buying an extended warranty to cover a major appliance. Their salespeople's aggressiveness appears

to pay off; 39 percent of P.C. Richard's in-store major-appliance buyers pay for extra coverage, as do 37 percent of Bray & Scarff patrons. That's considerably higher than the rate of most other retailers in the survey. Among small-appliance retailers, P.C. Richard is the pushiest, our survey shows.

Keep in mind that if you are considering buying an extended warranty, the period of coverage can differ from retailer to retailer, so the cost of the warranty may vary. That said, Consumer Reports has found that it's rarely worthwhile to purchase an extended warranty.



## Resources



### Get Inspired

**3** Laurent pattern from Avantgarde Collection, Dekton by Cosentino, [dekton.com](http://dekton.com)

**4-5** Left, Studio McGee, [studio-mcgee.com](http://studio-mcgee.com). Right, Catherine Brophy Interior Design, [catherinebrophy.com](http://catherinebrophy.com); Jean-Luc Torchon Design Studio, [hvadesign.com/work/jean-luc-torchon](http://hvadesign.com/work/jean-luc-torchon)

**5** Top, HCR2250AGS 24" gas range, Haier, [haierappliances.com](http://haierappliances.com). Bottom, Small Spaces Kitchen Suite, Whirlpool, [whirlpool.com](http://whirlpool.com)

**6-7** Top, 30" Beverage Center and 24" Undercounter Refrigerator Drawers in Saffron finish, True Residential, [true-residential.com](http://true-residential.com). Bottom left, Grohe Blue Chilled and Sparkling 2.0 faucet, Grohe, [grohe.us](http://grohe.us). Bottom right, Matte White Finish, Café, [cafeappliances.com](http://cafeappliances.com)

**7** Top, Baxt Ingui Architects, [baxtingui.com](http://baxtingui.com). Middle, InstaView Refrigerator with Craft Ice, LG, [lg.com](http://lg.com). Bottom

right, Plum wine appliance, Plum Inc., [plum.wine](http://plum.wine)

### BUYING GUIDE

#### Opener

**34-35** Tyler S. Pankratz, [tspdesign.com](http://tspdesign.com)

#### Refrigerators

**14-15** Elena Phillips Interiors, [elenaphillipsinteriors.com](http://elenaphillipsinteriors.com)

#### Ranges

**24** KitchenAid, [kitchenaid.com](http://kitchenaid.com)

**26-27** Kelly Deck Design, [kellydeck.com](http://kellydeck.com)

#### Cooktops

**34** Morgan Harrison Home, [morganharrisonhome.com](http://morganharrisonhome.com)

#### Wall Ovens

**42** Dacor, [dacor.com](http://dacor.com)

#### Microwaves

**46** GE, [geappliances.com](http://geappliances.com)

#### Dishwashers

**54** KitchenAid, [kitchenaid.com](http://kitchenaid.com)

#### Cabinets

**62** Ashley Marsella of 11-11 Creative, [11-11-creative.com](http://11-11-creative.com)

**64-65** Sophie Burke Design, [sophieburkedesign.com](http://sophieburkedesign.com)

**65** Bottom left, KraftMaid, [kraftmaid.com](http://kraftmaid.com). Bottom right, Julie Deuble of Sierra Unlimited Construction, [houzz.com/pro/jdeuble](http://houzz.com/pro/jdeuble)

#### Countertops

**68** Studio McGee, [studio-mcgee.com](http://studio-mcgee.com)

**70** Bottom left, Kate Roos Design, [kateroosdesign.com](http://kateroosdesign.com)

**72-73** Quartz: Cambria in Swanbridge, [cambriausa.com](http://cambriausa.com).

Granite: Stonemark Granite

in White Ornamental, [homedepot.com](http://homedepot.com). Recycled glass: GEOS in Ocean Shell, [eos-surfaces.com](http://eos-surfaces.com). Tile: Daltile in Hamilton Storm, [homedepot.com](http://homedepot.com). Ultracompact: Dekton Ultracompact in Aura15, [dekton.com](http://dekton.com). Solid surfacing: Corian Solid Surfacing in Elderberry, [corian.com](http://corian.com)

#### Flooring

**74** Barrett Oswald Designs, [barrettoswalddesigns.com](http://barrettoswalddesigns.com)



P. 34

MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

Share your story

# POWERFUL STORIES CAN INSPIRE CHANGE



**Share Your Story™** is a way that members can share personal stories or read one that they can relate to.

If you had an experience in which you think a product was defective, a service under-delivered, or a business practice was misleading, we want to hear from you.

Check out **Share Your Story™** at [cr.org/membership](https://www.consumerreports.org/membership)

**CR** ConsumerReports®