



Dishwashers

Consumer Choice dishes the dirt on ten Choice Buy dishwashers.



REPORT by Clodagh O'Donoghue

At a glance

- Ten Choice Buys
- Handy features
- Dishwasher testing

When it comes to buying a new dishwasher, there are full-sized, slimline and compact models to choose from, with the decision here largely depending on the amount of space you have available in your kitchen and the size of your household. Full-sized models are 60cm wide, compared to a width of 45cm for a slimline model, and a compact dishwasher can sit on top of a kitchen counter, which is useful if you have no cupboard space available under the counter or if you have difficulty bending down. Dishwasher capacity is measured in places settings, with one place setting consisting of a dinner plate, dessert plate, tea cup and saucer, soup plate, glass tumbler, and cutlery, including a knife, fork and soup spoon.

Naturally, a dishwasher's size affects the number of items you can fit into it, with a full-sized model capable of washing 12 place settings or more than 120 items at once, whereas a slimline model will manage

90-100 items and a compact or counter-top appliance will generally only be able to wash 40-50 items. You can opt for a freestanding appliance or one that is integrated or semi-integrated to fit in with the design of your fitted kitchen. With an integrated dishwasher, the entire front panel will be concealed behind a kitchen-cabinet door whereas a semi-integrated model will have most of its front panel covered but the machine's control panel will be left visible at the top.

Handy features

There are some useful features to look out for when shopping for a new dishwasher. In most models, the top basket is height-adjustable but those that have easy-adjust mechanisms mean that you can raise or lower the basket even when it is fully loaded without removing it from the machine. Foldable plate racks are handy when you



are trying to fit in pots, pans and awkward items. Fold-down racks are preferable to removable racks as they do not require external storage when not in use. Some dishwashers have a sliding cutlery tray instead of the standard cutlery basket, which can be good for large utensils and reduce the risk of jabs from knives and forks. However, these trays can sometimes be fiddly to load and they tend to decrease the height between baskets, which can cause problems if you have taller glasses or larger plates.

Many dishwashers have eco or energy-save settings, which reduce energy use by washing at lower temperatures. These programmes also generally use less water than standard wash programmes but they take longer to complete a cycle. Halfload settings are aimed at saving water, time and energy when the dishwasher is not full. With some appliances, you can focus the wash to one basket, which is useful for washing a smaller load daily to avoid the dishwasher getting smelly. In general, however, using the half-load option is less efficient than waiting until you have a full load and using the energy-

save programme. Other helpful features include child safety locks to prevent the dishwasher door from being opened when the machine is running and devices that protect against flooding should something go wrong with the appliance.

Dishwasher testing

Our dishwasher tests seek to replicate the everyday challenges facing these appliances to see how they will perform in a typical kitchen. Two programmes are tested – the main programme for normally soiled dishes and the eco or energy-saving programme.

A load consists of a number of place settings, including plates, cups, glasses and cutlery, as



well as a range of other kitchen items that would typically make up a mixed load, such as saucepans, a large serving bowl, serving spoons, and a hard-to-dry plastic container. To assess how the dishwasher copes with dried-out residue, the dishes are soiled with various substances, including eggs, spinach, oat flakes, tea and tomato juice and then air-dried or oven-dried to make sure the soil is set. Each dishwasher is loaded as similarly as

possible and the drying efficiency of the appliance is measured 30 minutes after the programme has finished. The dishwasher's cleaning efficiency is then assessed on a scale of 0-5. Water and electricity use is measured for all phases within the programme, and the tests are repeated three times for each dishwasher.



Cleaning
★★★★★
Drying
★★★★
Noise
★★★
Energy use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★
Water use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★



Cleaning
★★★★★
Drying
★★★★
Noise
★★★
Energy use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★
Water use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★

Full-sized, semi-integrated

1. Bosch SMI53E05GB €600

The **Choice Buy** Bosch SMI53E05GB is a full-sized dishwasher that delivers excellent cleaning and drying results. Because this is a semi-integrated model, it can be built into a fitted kitchen but its control panel will remain visible. This dishwasher can fit up to 13 place settings, which means it has room for around 130 items, and a quick-release system allows you to easily adjust the height of the upper rack to make room for taller items. The Bosch SMI53E05GB's five programmes include intensive, economy and quick-wash modes and there is also a half-load setting among other options. As well as being extremely energy-efficient, this model also uses very little water, particularly on the eco program. Other useful features include a childproof door lock, a 24-hour electronic delay timer and a number of foldable racks and shelves so you can fit in larger items.

Full-sized, freestanding

2. Bosch SMS53A12GB €505

The **Choice Buy** Bosch SMS53A12GB is a full-sized, freestanding dishwasher that does an impressive job of both cleaning and drying dishes. It has sufficient room for 130 items and with foldable plate racks in both the top and bottom baskets, the layout inside can be adjusted to accommodate larger items. There is also a height-adjustable upper basket with easy-to-use quick-release levers to help you raise or lower it to a more convenient position. The Bosch SMS53A12GB is very energy efficient and uses very little water, with just six and a half litres of water required for its Economy 50°C programme, which reuses water saved from the final rinse of the previous wash cycle at the start of the next wash. The only drawback to this excellent machine is that it tends to be a bit noisy during washing, though you can use the 24-hour delay timer to set it for a time that you are out of the room.



Cleaning
★★★★★

Drying
★★★★★

Noise
★★★★

Energy use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★

Water use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★



Cleaning
★★★★★

Drying
★★★★★

Noise
★★★★

Energy use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★

Water use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★

Full-sized, freestanding

3. Bosch SMS40A08GB €505

The **Choice Buy** Bosch SMS40A08GB is a full-sized, freestanding dishwasher that holds 12 place settings. It cleans and dries dishes to an exceptional standard, leaving very few watermarks – although, as with most dishwashers, it struggles to dry plastic items. There are four dishwashing programmes – Intensive, Quick Wash, Pre-rinse as well as the Economy programme, which washes at 50°C and takes a rather long three hours to clean a full load, although the results are excellent. This model scores top marks in terms of energy and water consumption, using just 11.5 litres of water on the Economy 50°C programme. The Bosch SMS40A08GB offers some useful features, including foldable plate and cup racks, a height-adjustable top basket, a large item spray head, a 24-hour electronic delay timer and LED indicators to show you when you need to refill the salt and rinse-aid.

Full-sized, freestanding

4. Bosch SMS65E28GB €665

A full-sized, freestanding dishwasher the **Choice Buy** Bosch SMS65E28GB will leave dishes spotlessly clean and thoroughly dried. It can hold 13 place settings or around 130 items and the height of the upper basket can be adjusted easily if you need to fit in taller items. Wash programmes on this appliance include an Economy programme and an Intensive programme, which wash dishes at 50°C and 70°C, respectively, and additional options include half-load and speed-wash settings. The sensor-driven Auto 45-60°C programme adjusts the wash time and temperature according to the dirtiness of your dishes. The Bosch SMS65E28GB is not too noisy and impresses in terms of energy and water consumption, with the Economy 50°C programme using only six litres of water to clean a full load. Other useful features include a childproof door lock, a 24-hour delay timer, and an attachable large-item spray head. This silver dishwasher also comes in a white version, the SMS65E22GB.



Cleaning
★★★★★

Drying
★★★★★

Noise
★★★★★

Energy use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★

Water use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★



Cleaning
★★★★

Drying
★★★★★

Noise
★★★★★

Energy use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★

Water use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★

Full-sized, fully integrated

5. Siemens SN65M031GB €498

If you are looking for a full-sized, fully integrated dishwasher the **Choice Buy** Siemens SN65M031GB could be a good option. It can hold 12 places settings or around 120 items and there is a useful height-adjustable top basket as well as foldable plate and cup racks for fitting in larger items. It delivers outstanding cleaning and drying results on all kinds of dirty dishes, though, as with many dishwashers, it struggles to dry plastic items. This model scored well in terms of energy and water consumption, with its Auto 45°-65°C programme using around 12 and a half litres of water to clean a full load of dishes. The Siemens SN65M031GB comes with an anti-flood system and a childproof door lock as well as a digital countdown indicator and LED lights to show when rinse-aid and salt refills are needed.

Full-sized, fully integrated

6. Beko DW686 €414

The **Choice Buy** Beko DW686 is a full-sized dishwasher that can be fully integrated into your fitted kitchen and will deliver very good cleaning and drying performance, leaving very few watermarks. It has a range of wash programmes to choose from, including an automatic programme, which uses a sensor to set the duration and temperature of the wash according to the dirtiness of the water and is quite water- and energy-efficient. An Economy 50°C programme further reduces water and energy consumption. The Beko DW686 can hold up to 13 place settings, or 130 items, and an easy-to-use height-adjustable upper basket and folding prongs on both the upper and lower baskets can help accommodate pots, pans, bowls or larger items. You can delay this machine's start by up to nine hours but there is no child lock or anti-flood device.



Cleaning
★★★★★
Drying
★★★★★
Noise
★★
Energy use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★
Water use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★



Cleaning
★★★★★
Drying
★★★★★
Noise
★★★★★
Energy use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★
Water use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★

Full-sized, freestanding 7. Miele G4300SC €949

A full-sized, freestanding dishwasher, the **Choice Buy** Miele G4300SC is the most expensive of our current **Choice Buys** but it will leave your dishes spotless and well dried. This model may suit large households as it has sufficient room inside for 14 place settings, or 140 items - though you may need to load it carefully to fit everything in. A cutlery tray located at the top of the machine replaces the traditional cutlery basket and its upper basket is height-adjustable. This dishwasher is easy to use, with a clear control panel, but it is fairly noisy when filling with water. You can choose from various wash programmes, including an effective Sensor Wash 55-65°C and a Quick Wash 40°C, but in order to achieve good energy and water efficiency, you will need to use the Energy Save programme, which takes almost three hours so you will have to wait a while for your clean dishes.

Slimline, freestanding 8. Miele G4500SC €799

The **Choice Buy** Miele G4500SC is a slimline freestanding dishwasher that can hold over 90 items. Its performance in terms of cleaning and drying dishes is impressive, leaving crockery and cutlery sparkling with no watermarks. In addition, this dishwasher is very quiet, both when filling and during washing cycles. However, it is not very water or energy efficient, although water and energy consumption is reduced significantly if the Energy Save programme is used. Other wash programmes include a 40°C quick wash option and an effective sensor wash programme that uses sensors to gauge the dirtiness of the water and sets the time and temperature of the wash accordingly. Instead of a traditional cutlery basket, this model features a cutlery drawer that is located at the top of the dishwasher and the upper basket can be raised or lowered to suit the height of the dishes to be loaded.



Cleaning
★★★★★
Drying
★★★★★
Noise
★★★★
Energy use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★
Water use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★



Cleaning
★★★★★
Drying
★★★★★
Noise
★★★★
Energy use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★
Water use
(Energy save programme)
★★★★★

Slimline, freestanding 9. Bosch SPS40C12GB €405

The **Choice Buy** Bosch SPS40C12GB is a slimline, freestanding dishwasher that does a great job of cleaning and drying dishes. Smaller than a full-sized model, this appliance still has room for nine place settings, or over 90 items, and a heightadjustable upper basket can help you fit in taller items, though this is not quite as easy to adjust as in some other **Choice Buy** models. There are four wash programmes to choose from - Intensive 70°C, Economy 50°C, Quick Wash 45°C, and Pre Rinse - and although, at nearly three hours, the Economy 50°C programme takes longer than average, it is energy efficient and delivers good cleaning and drying results. Useful features include an anti-flood device, an extra spray head for cleaning large items, LED lights to indicate when salt and rinse-aid need to be refilled and a time delay that can be set for three, six or nine hours.

Full-sized, freestanding 10. Beko DFN1000X One Touch €450

The **Choice Buy** Beko DFN 1000X One Touch is unusual in that it is a fully automatic dishwasher that takes ease-of-use to a new level. There are no programme options for users to choose between; instead they simply press one button and sensors in the machine will gauge the dirt level of the water and the wash load and set the temperature of the water and the length of the wash cycle accordingly, selecting one of five programme levels. This full-sized, freestanding dishwasher produces great dishwashing results and its drying performance is excellent, even on tricky-to dry plastic items. Both energy consumption and water use are low for a full-sized appliance and among its useful features, the Beko DFN 1000X One Touch has a sliding cutlery tray, a childproof lock, an anti-flood device and an upper basket that is easy to raise and lower even when fully loaded.

Also worth considering...

Bosch SKS60E02GB €505 (Compact)



If you are fed up washing dishes by hand but you want to avoid bending down to load and unload a dishwasher or simply have no floorspace for a conventional model, a compact dishwasher that sits on your countertop could be the answer. The Bosch SKS60E02GB is a compact model worth considering as it can rival many full-sized models in terms of its cleaning and drying performance, with even plastic items emerging thoroughly dry. It can hold around six place settings, although larger items may be tricky to squeeze in, and features include a 24-hour delayed start and a digital countdown display. However, the Auto 45-65°C programme is not very water- or energy-efficient, though using the Economy 50°C programme reduces water and energy consumption somewhat. Unfortunately, the smaller size of compact dishwashers compared to conventional models generally does not translate into a smaller price tag, and the Bosch 60E02GB is in fact more expensive than some of our full-sized and slimline Choice Buys.

Cleaning

★★★★

Drying

★★★★

Noise

★★★★

Energy use

(Energy save programme)

★★★

Water use

(Energy save programme)

★★★

Useful contacts

Beko Ireland Ltd.

tel (01) 862 3411

www.beko.ie

Bosch

Origo

tel (01) 466 6700

www.bosch.ie

Miele Ireland

tel (01) 461 0710

www.miele.ie

Siemens Ireland

tel 1890 626041

www.siemens.ie

Dishwasher Fire Risks

BSH dishwasher repair action

BSH Home Appliances Ltd. recently announced a "voluntary repair action" across Ireland on a number of Bosch, Siemens and Neff dishwashers manufactured between 1999 and 2005. The same models of dishwashers were recalled in the U.K. almost two years ago but they were not recalled here as the company said that it had not found the same pattern of failures in the Republic of Ireland. However, BSH Home Appliances says that it has recently become aware of a small increase in the number of dishwasher failures in Ireland, which has caused it to review the situation and launch the free in-home repair programme. The fault lies in the dishwashers' control panel and involves a single solder point that can overheat and "in rare cases" cause a small risk of fire. In one such incident, a Dublin family were lucky to escape injury. In 2012 when their Bosch dishwasher went on fire shortly after being turned on. According to the company, these failures only appear to happen when in combination with age, usage and prolonged elevated voltage and when appliances are in operation. The affected

models are between eight and fourteen years old, and even though the risk is small, BSH is urging all customers who bought a Bosch, Siemens or Neff dishwasher before 2006 to contact them. A dedicated website, www.repairaction.ie, has been put in place where customers can check if they own an affected appliance and, if needed, book a simple in-home repair, which will be free of charge and take an engineer less than an hour to complete. Alternatively, customers can call freephone number 1800 322 222 to talk with a member of the company's Appliance Care Team. The affected dishwashers are in the batch range from FD 7901 and FD 8504 and a list of the models concerned is available on the repairaction.ie website. The model and batch numbers can generally be found inside the dishwasher door panel on the upper left side. If you do find that you have an affected model in your home, the company recommends that you do not use it unattended until a repair has been carried out.



Concerns over three Hotpoint models

In April 2013, manufacturer Hotpoint issued a Safety Notice concerning three dishwasher models that pose a fire risk – the FDW 20, FDW60 and FDW65A. Concerns about the appliances were first raised by Which?, the U.K. consumer magazine.

In a statement, Hotpoint says it is aware of the failure of an electrical component in a small number of appliances and that this can lead to overheating and be a potential fire hazard. The manufacturer warned its U.K. customers of the risk to households and requested that they get in touch to arrange a repair. Having initially advised Irish customers

that they were unaffected by the Safety Notice due to differences in electricity voltage levels here, Hotpoint has since stated that although there have been no reported incidents with these appliances in the Republic of Ireland, customers who have any concerns or questions can contact the company's Customer Service Centre on 00818 313413. The affected appliances were manufactured between June 2006 and March 2007 and the first five digits of the nine-digit serial number are between S/N60601 and S/N70331. For more information, visit www.hotpointservice.co.uk/fdw/.