

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a red and white striped cardigan over a white top, is smiling and looking at a white appliance on a shelf in a store. She has her hands outstretched towards the appliance. The shelves are filled with various household appliances, including irons and blenders. Price tags are visible on the shelves.

BUYERS GUIDE

Cheap Appliances

 euronics

INTRODUCTION

It isn't always easy to find a new appliance on a small budget. Maybe it's time your kitchen had a makeover, or perhaps your washing machine's broken? Whether you want a cheap and cheerful option or the top of the range technology, our buyers guide is here to help.

We'll take you through everything you should consider when deciding on a budget for your new appliance, whether that's a dishwasher or a Blu-ray player.

“ Whether you want a cheap and cheerful option or the top of the range technology, our buyers guide is here to help.



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A young man and woman are looking at a washing machine in a store. The man is on the left, wearing a dark blue sweater, and the woman is on the right, wearing a white lace top. They are both smiling and looking at the machine. The machine is white and has a glass door. There are yellow sticky notes on the machine. The background is a store with other appliances.

PRICE VARIATION IN APPLIANCES



When you're shopping online, you'll see one washing machine priced at £200, and another that costs over £1000. You'd assume that a more expensive machine would be of higher quality, but this isn't always true. You need to look at the specifications and features to find an appliance that suits your needs.

Once you have a shortlist of features you really want, it will be much easier to find the right model. And, thanks to promotions and sales, you don't always have to break the bank to get a great quality appliance.

FEATURES & TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

The main reason that appliances are getting more expensive is because of advances in technology.

Manufacturers are continually developing new features to help make your life easier. Many high-end appliances can get expensive, so you should work out which features and functions you need. Or, you could go for a simpler model that'll cost you less.

Energy efficiency is becoming increasingly important, and every brand is working to develop appliances that will save you money in the long run. But, new technology can often make appliances more expensive in the short-term. You can find more information in our [dedicated energy efficiency buyers guide](#).

Appliances can also vary in price depending on whether you're buying a freestanding or integrated model. Integrated appliances can end up costing more for several reasons – there are more details in our [dedicated guide](#).



“ Many high-end appliances can get expensive, so you should work out which features and functions you need.



REFRIGERATION BUDGETS



There are many things to consider when deciding on a budget for your new fridge or freezer. These appliances can be expensive to run as they are always switched on, so you might be inclined to go for a cheaper model. However, the more expensive appliance could save you more money over time.

This section will give you information about capacity and efficiency, so it's easier to make that all-important decision.



STYLES

Fridge freezers come in a range of sizes and styles. A basic freestanding model is the cheapest option with prices of around £400, while a bigger American-style appliance will require a larger budget of £600-£1,000.

Freestanding fridges with a freezer on top (top mount models) are generally the most affordable option, and tend to have a good energy efficiency rating.



CAPACITY

Capacity is one of the most important things to consider as it has a significant impact on the price.

By choosing a size that suits your needs, you could save money. A smaller home with one or two people will need a fridge capacity of around 100-200 litres, while a larger family of five or more may need a fridge capacity of over 300 litres.

If you're living on your own or want your own food storage in university accommodation, consider a mini fridge. These have a capacity of about six to 16 litres with one shelf, and you can find one at around £30-£80.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Fridge freezers often have additional features to help improve the appliance's energy efficiency.

Newer models have a holiday mode that runs at a low, efficient rate if it's empty for a long time. Some models also have an alarm that lets you know when the door is left open.

These features can make fridges and freezers more expensive, but the improved energy efficiency can save you money in the long term.



FROST FREE AND MANUAL DEFROSTING

An appliance's defrosting system will also have an impact on the upfront cost.

Manual defrosting is more often found in cheaper fridges. This means you'll have to regularly defrost your freezer to prevent large amounts of ice from building up.

Frost free technology is found in mid to high range models and stops ice crystals from forming around your food. This is done by circulating cool air around the inside of the appliance, which also helps to keep your food fresher for longer.

“Fridge freezers often have additional features to help improve the energy efficiency.”



PRICES OF COOKERS, OVENS, AND HOBS



When you're choosing a new cooker, oven, or hob, it's important to think about the features you need. If you're on a budget, it's worth considering factors such as the capacity and fuel efficiency. Find out more in this section of the guide.



DOUBLE OR SINGLE OVEN

Like other appliances, the capacity of your cooker or oven will have an impact on its price. You should consider how much space you need to cook for your family.

A single oven will be cheaper than a double oven – a single can cost around £150-£350 whereas a double oven can range up to £500. But, as with most appliances, you'll be able to find high-spec single and double models costing over £1,000.

Conventional ovens are often the most basic and the cheapest to buy, but they do have some disadvantages.

CONVENTIONAL AND FAN OPERATED OVEN

Conventional ovens are often the most basic and the cheapest to buy, but they do have some disadvantages.

It's harder to keep temperatures even in a conventional oven, which makes it more difficult to bake on multiple levels. Plus, cooking times tend to be longer.

Fan ovens can be a little more expensive, as they contain more elements to provide an even distribution of temperature. But the overall cooking times are lower, and they can be easier to use.





“ Induction hobs are becoming more popular because they’re incredibly efficient and help to reduce cooking times.

HOBS

Whether you buy one as part of a cooker or separately, different types of hobs will vary in price.

An electric plate hob is one of the cheapest types you can buy, but the most expensive to run, as the plates heat and cool slowly.

Induction hobs are becoming more popular because they’re incredibly efficient and help to reduce cooking times. However, they are a lot more expensive to buy in comparison to other hobs on the market – you’ll typically have to spend around £200-£300.

GAS OR ELECTRIC?

When it comes to choosing between gas and electric, you need to think of the long-term running costs. Gas is cheaper to use than electricity, but if you choose an electric model, you can help to reduce costs by purchasing an energy efficient model.

If you want to enjoy the best of both worlds, you could opt for a dual fuel cooker. These models have an electric oven and gas hobs, but the added flexibility of this option is often reflected in a higher price.



LAUNDRY APPLIANCE PRICES



The capacity and programmes will have a big impact on the price of washing machines, tumble dryers, and washer dryers. Consider which features you need before making your purchase.

Read this section of our buyers guide to find out more.

WASHING MACHINES

The prices of washing machines can vary from £170 up to around £2,000. The more programmes and functions an appliance has, the more expensive it is likely to be. So, it's important to decide which features you will need.

The spin speed and capacity tend to have the greatest impact on a washing machine's price. You'll be able to find a model with a 7-8kg capacity under and around £200, which is ideal for most homes.

Models with a higher spin speed are popular, as they help to reduce the drying time. A slower spin speed can lead to longer washing cycles, but the initial cost may be cheaper. Prices start to increase from £200 when washing machines have a spin speed over 1200 rpm.

TUMBLE DRYERS

Tumble dryers are expensive to run, with the cost per year varying from £30 to around £120 so you should take the energy efficiency of the model into account.



“Machines with a slower spin speed can lead to longer washing cycles, but the initial cost may be cheaper.”



VENTED DRYERS

These are the cheapest type of dryer available, and you can purchase a basic model for around £150. But, they have extremely high running costs and can add to your energy bill significantly if you are using them every day.

CONDENSER DRYERS

A good condenser tumble dryer is a little more expensive to buy, costing around £200. These types of dryers have slightly lower running costs than vented models, which is worth considering if you want to save money in the long run.



HEAT PUMP DRYERS

Costing around £300-£600, these dryers are the most expensive, but they do have very low running costs. So, if you have a large family and wash several loads a week, they could save you money on your energy bills.

You can take further steps to make your dryer run as efficiently as possible. By not overloading the drum, the air can circulate properly, which will shorten the running time. You should also clean the lint filter after every drying cycle, so your machine is free from fluff and can run smoothly. These steps will ensure that the machine will run efficiently and keep running costs as low as possible.

“Condenser dryers do have slightly lower running costs than vented dryers.”



WASHER DRYERS

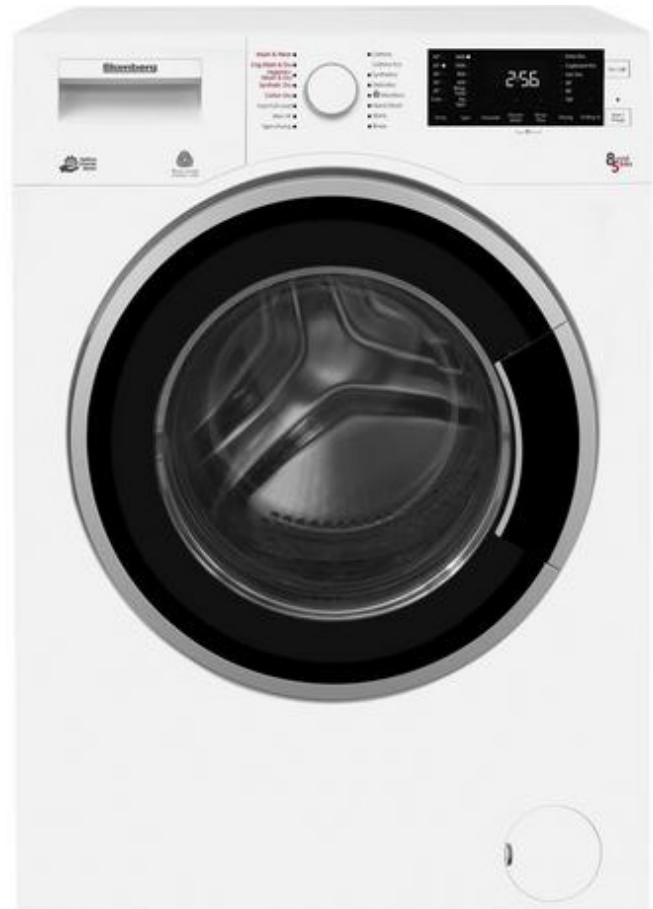
It's tempting to buy a washer dryer if you need new a laundry appliance as it's a really convenient alternative.

However, it can be argued that washer dryers are more likely to break down. This is because they have many parts, as one appliance is doing the work of two machines.

Bear in mind that they normally wash more clothes than they can dry, so you'll need to run it more frequently than if you had separate appliances.

If you are set on a washer dryer, you'll probably need a budget of around £300.

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DISHWASHER COSTS



Cost is a major factor if you're buying a new dishwasher, as it's sometimes seen as more of a luxury household appliance. Different types of dishwashers vary in price, but whichever you choose, you can look at spending anything from £200-£1,000.

The dishwasher's capacity and features have the biggest influence on price. Deciding which model is best for your needs helps you get the most for your money.

STANDARD DISHWASHERS

Standard dishwashers are a popular choice, as they're ideal for families and come in a range of capacities.

The smallest size has enough space to wash about 10-12 place settings. As this type is the most common, it's easy to find a great model for a reasonable price.

SLIMLINE DISHWASHERS

Slimline dishwashers are cheaper than standard sized models because they're narrower and have a smaller capacity.

A slimline model is perfect for saving space if your kitchen is small or if you only cook for a couple of people.

Although they're smaller than a standard size dishwasher, slimline dishwashers can wash a load of around 9-10 place settings. But, for the number of dishes it can wash, a standard sized washer is more energy efficient.

INTEGRATED DISHWASHERS

Semi-integrated and integrated dishwashers cost a little more than freestanding models because it's more expensive to build models that fit into a particular space.

Semi-integrated models tend to be manufactured by premium brands only.



“ Standard dishwashers are the most common, so you can find a decent model for a reasonable price.



COMPACT DISHWASHERS

Compact or table-top designs can be more expensive than regular sized dishwashers, as they aren't made by a lot of manufacturers.

You can place them on worktops or integrate them into work surfaces, which means you don't have to bend down. However, as the name suggests, they have only a small capacity and are more suited to smaller households. Plus, compact dishwashers aren't as energy efficient as other types on the market.

RUNNING COSTS

A slimline dishwasher's running costs are roughly £30-£40 a year, while standard-sized models cost around £35-£45 to run.

When it comes to water usage, some studies show that dishwashers are more efficient than washing up by hand. It's estimated that a good full-size dishwasher will use 0.5 litres to wash one item, while by hand it can take up to nine litres.



FLOORCARE PRICE RANGE



Vacuum cleaners vary in price across different brands and models. You can buy a basic model for under £100, or you could spend £800 for a top of the range robotic cleaner. It's important to look at the specifications, so you don't end up buying an expensive cleaner that isn't right for you.



HOW MUCH SHOULD I SPEND?

It's been shown that most models under £50 show lower quality cleaning results. If you can afford to increase your budget to £100-£150, then you should be able to find a great model, whether that's upright or cylinder, bagged or bagless, or a cordless design.

UPRIGHT OR CYLINDER?

When it comes to choosing between upright and cylinder models, the price doesn't vary too much. For a good quality design, regardless of which type you choose, the average price is approximately £170-£180.

CORDED OR CORDLESS?

Cordless vacuums are handy for moving around your home easily, but they can be more expensive.

You can buy a cordless model for under £100, but it may not be the best quality. Plus, you have to consider what it will cost to charge the vacuum, and how often it will need charging. It may be worth spending more than £150 on a more advanced model.

BAGGED OR BAGLESS?

You can save money over time with a bagless vacuum as you won't have to keep buying new bags. However, it's worth considering that you may have to replace the vacuum filters every now and again.

Bagless models are now more popular and so tend to be cheaper to buy than the bagged alternative.



PRICES OF SMALL APPLIANCES



Small appliances are designed to make our life a little bit easier. But, how much should you spend when you're buying a new toaster, kettle, iron, or blender? Always make sure you check out the specifications and customer reviews before you make a purchase.



TOASTERS

There's a big variation in price for toasters. If you're looking for a basic model, you can look to pay as little as £10. But if you're after a design with lots of functions, you could pay up to £250.

A decent toaster with standard features can cost around £20-£40, but it may be worth increasing your budget slightly for a better-quality design.

KETTLES

The prices of kettles vary from around £10-£100. With higher-end models, you'll be paying more for the brand and the design. However, it's worth checking the specifications, as some models will have extra features like a quick boil function.

If the look of the appliance isn't important to you, then you can pick up a great model for £30 or less.



A decent toaster with standard features can cost around £20-£40.

STEAM IRONS

When it comes to irons, you'll pay more for a higher steam output. So, when you're deciding on the budget, it may be worth spending a little extra for a more powerful iron.

Along with other small appliances, there are a few models available for under £10, but it's likely they won't deliver the best results. It is possible to pick up an effective model for £30 and under, but you can pay up to £300 for a top-of-the-range steam generator iron.



BLENDERS

Again, blenders have a large price range. Higher priced blenders are best for tackling harder foods like nuts and grains. However, a more expensive model won't necessarily guarantee top-quality results.

You'll find that most blenders tend to cost around £30-£150, and spending anything in between should give you a decent model that's built to last.

STAND MIXERS

Stand mixers are one of the most expensive small appliances as prices range between £100 and £700.

A model at the higher end of the price range will usually come with a wider range of attachments, a larger capacity, and a sturdier design.

“ Stand mixers are one of the most expensive small appliances as prices range between £100 and £700.



BUDGETS FOR TVs, BLU-RAY PLAYERS, AND AUDIO



With all the new technology that's now available, it's hard to decide on a budget for TVs and audio devices. The most important place to start is deciding which features you need and whether you'll get enough use out of them. Make sure you always check out the specifications and reviews, so you're not just tempted by a low price.



TVS

The screen size plays a large part in the price of TVs.

If you're looking for a cheaper model, then you shouldn't have to pay above £300 for a screen size under 32". A 32"-54" screen will cost anything from £250 up to £1,000, and if you go even bigger, a screen size over 55" could end up costing more than £10,000.

Another important price factor is the screen resolution. You can choose from basic HD-Ready, Full HD and top of the range UHD. It may be tempting to go for the highest resolution, but this isn't always the best option as it depends on the distance of your sofa to the screen.

For example, if you buy a 43 inch UHD TV, you need to be sat just 3.6 feet from the screen to enjoy the full benefit of the high resolution. But, if you buy a 43 inch Full HD TV, you can sit up to five feet away and still get the full benefit of the HD resolution. So, if you have a room that is only big enough for a 43 inch TV, you might want to think twice before purchasing the more expensive, higher resolution model.

Features such as the backlight technology, High Dynamic Range, smart features and more will also impact a TV's price.

Nearly all televisions come with a built-in Freeview or Freesat tuner, taking away the need for a separate box. If you like to record a lot of television, you'll still need a box; but, some cheaper TVs do feature USB playback. This lets you record and watch programmes through a USB plugged into a port. You might need to buy a USB, but the cost of this will be lower than a digital box.



BLU-RAY PLAYERS

You can find many Blu-ray players available at great prices.

The average cost is around £60-£130, depending on the brand. Or, if you want a bargain, you can buy one for as little as £30. The brand of Blu-ray player will have a significant impact on the price.

It may be tempting to go for the highest resolution of TV, but this isn't always the best option.

AUDIO

Soundbars and speakers make a great addition to your home cinema system, but they can come at a price. It's possible to pick up a basic model for under £100, but an average price is around £130-£200.

If you're looking for a soundbar which is packed full of innovative features, you can expect to pay around £500 to £800.



Soundbars and speakers make a great addition.



SALES AND DEALS

You can get amazing deals on great high-spec models if you're prepared to wait for the seasonal sales. Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and Boxing Day are often the events with the biggest discounts.

You should also keep an eye out for cash-back and trade-in deals, as this can be a great way of disposing of your old appliance and getting money off your new model.



OTHER PRICE CONSIDERATIONS



When you're looking into an appliance's price, you should think about the future as well as the short term – it's worth thinking about the features that could save you money in the long run. Read on to find out what else you should consider.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The demand for energy efficient appliances is increasing, especially for items with high energy usage, such as fridge freezers.

Efficient appliances may cost you more initially, but the advanced technology will save on running costs in the long term. You can find out more about energy efficiency in our dedicated buyers guide.

LIFESPAN

It can be difficult to work out the lifespan of your appliance and manufacturers rarely release this information.

Researching popular brands with good reviews is worthwhile. Sometimes, it's better to invest in a quality brand with a good reputation, as a cheaper brand may cost more to fix over time.

“ A cheaper brand may cost more to fix over time.

COMBINATION APPLIANCES

Multi-use appliances are a matter of personal preference and depend on the amount of space you have in your home.

Individual appliances are often cheaper, but if you need to purchase a washing machine and tumble dryer, you can pay less for a combined washer dryer.

However, combination appliances don't tend to be as efficient as individual appliances. They're also more likely to break, as they are doing the job of two different machines.



FREESTANDING APPLIANCES

Freestanding appliances are cheaper and offer lots of other cost advantages.

They're also a lot more common than integrated models, so there's a higher competition across the market and a wider choice of options. This means you can pick a decent machine at a great price.

Plus, it's likely you'll get better value for money with a freestanding appliance. This is because they can offer more features than a built-in appliance of the same price.



INTEGRATED APPLIANCES

Integrated appliances tend to cost more because they're designed to fit into a certain space. They also look more attractive, giving your kitchen a streamlined look.

However, they do cost more to install and could cost you even more in the long run. For example, in the event of a breakdown, they're expensive to repair because it's harder to access the mechanics. Plus, if you decide to move to a new house, it's harder to take the appliance with you, so you might have to replace the model.

It depends on what style you want as to whether you choose an integrated or freestanding appliance. Built-in models tend to be more expensive, so it's worth shopping around to find the best deal.

If you think you need a new appliance because your current one has a fault, then you should consider calling an engineer.

“ Freestanding appliances are cheaper and offer lots of other cost advantages.



REPAIR OR REPLACE

If you think you need a new appliance because your current one has a fault, then you should consider calling an engineer. It might be cheaper than spending hundreds of pounds on a new model.

This can be done by estimating your appliance's value. Take into account how much you spent initially, as well as the appliance's age. If the repair costs more than this figure, then you should consider buying a new appliance. If your appliance is older, then it's likely that a replacement is the cheaper option.

When you're looking at new models, look for the warranty information, so you know how long you'll be covered should something go wrong.

You may also have to consider the delivery and installation costs of your new appliance. Some companies offer a disposal service where they can take away your old model to be recycled for a fee too.



“When you're looking at new models, look for the warranty information, so you know how long you'll be covered.”



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