The dishwasher you should buy for your kitchen

[00:00:00] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Is your TV on the blink? Has your fridge freezer suddenly packed in, just moved house and need to buy something quickly? That's where our just buy this recommendations come in. Welcome to this podcast from Witch. Hello, it's Rob here in the Witch Studio for this episode of Just Buy This, a podcast featuring our experts and their buying advice.

[00:00:22] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** I'm sure you'll have seen our Best Buy, great value and our eBuy endorsements. Before, but with over 650 of them on our website, we know that it can sometimes feel overwhelming to search for the product that best suits your needs. Now that's where the, just by this endorsement comes in, handpicked recommendations that our product testing experts think tick the most important boxes.

[00:00:45] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** And will work well for most people most of the time. Now on today's episode, we're in the kitchen with principal researcher Andy Lachlan. Andy, hello. Hello, Andy. It is great to have you here. Always good to chat dishwashers. Let's get straight to it though. Can you reveal. Which dishwasher has got your Jos Bon

[00:01:04] **Andy Laughlin:** this recommendation?

[00:01:05] **Andy Laughlin:** I can indeed. So without further ado, um, so get your pens ready yet, guys. Uh, this is the Bosch SMV, uh, four EC X 20 3G, uh, which isn't one of Elon Musk's children, but is in fact an integrated dishwasher from, um, a Bosch really well-respected brand. Um, and the reason why we've chosen this. Um, is because a lot of people have got fitted kitchens.

[00:01:31] **Andy Laughlin:** Um, they're looking for that nice, sleek, finished dishwasher. But what we really looking for here is long lasting value. We don't wanna buy a product just 'cause it's cheap or it's fancy, or it's this, this and that and the other. We wanna put it into our kitchen and just use it for as long as possible and, and we feel that this dishwasher ticks those boxes and then some.

[00:01:52] **Andy Laughlin:** How rigorous

[00:01:53] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** is our testing? I mean, I assume very rigorous, Andy. So this dishwasher that you've just mentioned there, this model from Bosch, I'm not gonna do all the letters of the numbers, but maybe we'll get used to them again a little bit later on so that people know the exact model we're talking about.

[00:02:04] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** But, but yeah, this, this particular dishwasher, how rigorous. Have we been able to, to test this? What paces have we been

[00:02:11] **Andy Laughlin:** putting it through? Oh, well, as many paces as possible. I can show you that. Yeah. I mean, our program is, we've been running this for donkeys years, basically. And um, we feel that it puts dishwasher within a time limit.

[00:02:24] **Andy Laughlin:** We're not gonna test it over 10 years. It's not even advisable to do that anyway, because let's face it, the product can change over that time. In the, in a period of time. This puts it through pretty much all the trials and tribulations to expose it if it's going to be so, so we are talking not just, um, dirty plates, but baked on stains.

[00:02:43] **Andy Laughlin:** We actually bake them in an oven. Um, you know, you couldn't get much more sort of left out over a period of weeks than, than the, than the soils that we use. Um, in depth energy testing, ergonomics testing, which makes it, you know, really exposes those dishwashers that, you know, you're tearing your hair out when you're trying to load it.

[00:03:02] **Andy Laughlin:** Um, and, uh, and then some. So we really put these things through their paces and, and so if, if it is come out through those and it's, um, done well then, you know, it's be a pretty good product.

[00:03:11] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** So you have touched on it, but what are some of the things that this dishwasher does do well then? You said it, you know, it's a nice sleek model.

[00:03:16] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** It fits well in, in your kitchen, but in terms of the actual. Use of the product? What's it doing Well, is it, is it

[00:03:22] **Andy Laughlin:** cleaning particularly well? Well, first and foremost, you want it to clean, right? I mean, like, I'm not doing the dishes for myself. I don't wanna be taking the plates out afterwards and, and washing them in the sink.

[00:03:31] **Andy Laughlin:** That's what I'm buying the machine for. Um, and this machine, I mean, I've described it as a lean, mean cleaning machine, and I will stand by that. Um, I mean, you could stack it with pretty much anything, you know, the aftermath of a Sunday roast, you know, most delicate glassware. And this thing is going to, uh, go through, its.

[00:03:47] **Andy Laughlin:** Pace is really, really well and put everything out spotless. And the good thing as well with this machine, um, it has something called an auto door opening, which pretty much does what it says on the tin. It pops the door open at the end of the cycle, vents the steam. So you are gonna have really dry dishes ready for the cupboard as soon as it's finished.

[00:04:03] **Andy Laughlin:** That is really

[00:04:04] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** useful 'cause what I find myself doing this is a hack that I feel like I clearly haven't invented Andy, but once the, the dishwasher is. Done and, and it's beeped at me. Unfortunately, my model, it, it's not as good as this one from Bosch. Clearly doesn't pop itself open, so I have to open it and then I, I stick a little tea towel down there and then close the door so the, the moisture is absorbed by the T towel.

[00:04:22] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** I dunno if we'd recommend that, but if, if your dishwasher can just pop the door open for you, then you don't need to,

[00:04:28] **Andy Laughlin:** well, you shouldn't really need to even get touch the tee towel with a good dishwasher. It should do it for you. That's. What, um, good machines are supposed to do. Um, but yeah, this machine is really, really good for it.

[00:04:39] **Andy Laughlin:** It's also, um, quite unusually for dishwasher, quite easy to use. I mean, we actually, I mean, dishwashers is an old cliche. They, they are the source of, uh, many an argument. But actually that's often because they're quite badly designed. You know, you sort of find yourself sort of stumbling to find a place to, to put a bowl or a cup or a spoon or something.

[00:04:59] **Andy Laughlin:** Um, just because it's all a bit awkward in there. But this is actually one of the few models that we've tested against four stars for ease of use. So fortunately we've got non that are five stars. We've got a quite high bar. Um, but this is one of the better ones. So you shouldn't find yourself kind of.

[00:05:14] **Andy Laughlin:** You know, getting frustrated and annoyed while trying to stack your daily dishes

[00:05:18] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** and this type of, of dishwasher. This, this model that we're talking about from Bosch, how many. How many place settings can we put in there, and how many people does that equate to, if that makes sense? Yeah. You know, what, what size of household would this dishwasher

[00:05:31] **Andy Laughlin:** work for?

[00:05:31] **Andy Laughlin:** Yeah. Place settings is a bit of a confusing one really. But I mean, you should really think about it as effectively a place setting as if you are sitting down with a plate and a cup and a bowl and a spoon and a piece of cutlery and a glass. Very, very formal. Very formal. Yes, I have many formal dinner parties at my house, but basically, yeah, if you think about that, that's typically around 10 items.

[00:05:49] **Andy Laughlin:** So if you here. A single place setting. You know, you typically took about 10 items. So typically with about 14 place settings, which wash, uh, this dishwasher can do. I would say a, a sort of medium to large household would be fine. You know, whether that's the classic 2.4 kids or whatever scenario, um, you should be very much fine with this and you'll find that it will, it will cope with your daily dishes, your weekly dishes quite easily.

[00:06:16] **Andy Laughlin:** Um, you can go up to 16 place settings. There are ones. It's pretty big. I always say to people, just think, um, if you're gonna have to stack over a period of days, that stuff, unless it's got a soak function, it's gonna start to get a bit smelly. So you are wanting to have it just the right amount of space that you fill it, but don't have to wait two or three days to get it full up.

[00:06:39] **Andy Laughlin:** So you gotta, you gotta kind of think. How big is my household? What do I need? If you talk about price point,

[00:06:44] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** I feel like this is what a lot of people are gonna be wanting to mm-hmm. To, to, to talk about and to hear about. Now, this one's not the cheapest, I think, on the market, roughly between 600 and

[00:06:51] **Andy Laughlin:** 700, is that right?

[00:06:52] **Andy Laughlin:** Yeah, give or take about, about about six 50 to 700. That's right. Um, so it's not, not the cheapest for a big brand model, good warranty, bit, you know, um, uh, integrated dishwasher. But I think what people have also gotta think here. You're gonna keep this thing for 10 years plus you want the running cost to be good and well, and this is a good example of where energy labels are not always the full story.

[00:07:15] **Andy Laughlin:** This is actually a c energy label rated model. So you're thinking, okay, that's not, that's okay. Um, but actually it is, it is an eco buy. We've given an eco buy 'cause when we've tested it. For the size of machine, it's got really good affordable running costs. So we typically say running about five washers per week.

[00:07:34] **Andy Laughlin:** Um, you know, you're, you're not gonna be spending huge amounts on your energy bills over the year compared to some models. Um, so it uses energy, it uses water really efficiently. And the good news is it does that on both the main and the eco wash. So you can actually use the main program, which is around about.

[00:07:52] **Andy Laughlin:** An hour faster than the eco program as you main wash and not really worry about it. So you can get that kind of time back as much, if that makes sense.

[00:08:01] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** I think this is one of the, the main arguments, isn't it, that people use, I was talking to someone the other day and they said they were anti dishwasher, and I'm not sure, I don't, I don't even know what that means really, but, but their main argument was around.

[00:08:11] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** In their head, the cost that it was gonna, you know, that it was, it was gonna add up over the year to, to use your dishwasher rather than just washing everything by hand. And obviously there's the amount of water as well. I should add that we have an excellent video on the, which socials, dishwasher versus hand washing, which does show the difference in, in how much water you use when you're washing by hand and using a dishwasher.

[00:08:30] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** It, it'll surprise you, I promise. So go check that out on our socials. But yeah, I mean, Andy, in terms of the, the kind of cost of. Just the, the everyday use of a dishwasher. D does that argument stack up that dishwashers are, are, are expensive

[00:08:44] **Andy Laughlin:** to use? No, no, no. I mean, like, I mean, ul ultimately you think about those 14 play settings we refer back.

[00:08:50] **Andy Laughlin:** That's typically maybe sort of 120 to 140 items. You know, think about how much water filling a bowl, it getting dirty. You would have to go through to to, to wash an equivalent amount of dishes. The amount of water, the amount of energy to heat that water, to get it nice and hot. But also the fact that you are gonna have to do that dish washing yourself, you know, you know, this is, this is the dishwasher's there to sort of run efficiently, but it's also there to say mean that you don't have to wash the dishes.

[00:09:18] **Andy Laughlin:** You know, I dunno about you, but I find washing dishes quite tedious and boring. Um, I'd much rather stack them into a machine and let them do it so I can go and watch telly for a couple of hours. Thanks. Um, so, you know, it's there to clean. It wants to clean, just let it do its job. Yeah. As you say,

[00:09:32] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** as a time saver, I'm a, a huge fan of, of the dishwasher that I have.

[00:09:37] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Despite the fact, as I'm touched on earlier, it doesn't have the pop the door function, which now I'm gonna be, now I'm gonna be looking out for on, on all, uh, on all models, or maybe I should just buy this model because we've been talking about already that, how, how good it is. Uh, one thing we've not talked about with this model, uh, so far is the fact that I think you can control it from an app, Andy, is that right?

[00:09:55] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Is is that a fad or

[00:09:57] **Andy Laughlin:** is it actually useful? Well, you know, um, smart functionality is coming to a lot of appliances these days. I mean, I think roughly we test around 35 to 40% of dishwashers that have some kind of smart functionality. Um, obviously it depends on how much this matters to you, you know, so is it, is it essential?

[00:10:17] **Andy Laughlin:** Probably not. Is it a nice value add? Yes. You know, and, and Bosch gives a really long support, uh, for its apps. So it will keep them going and keep them safe from hackers for a really long time. So you're buying with a, with a good amount of confidence, it's gonna be good for quite a while. Right? That is dishwashers covered off then, Andy.

[00:10:33] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Remind us. It is the Bosch SMV four, EC X 20 3G. Thank you very much. We will put a link as well to, uh, to that product. On the witch website as well in in the description. Wherever you listen to this podcast should add and it will be there on witch duck UK if that is where you are listening to this. Now, Andy, as I said, that is dishwashers covered off, but what if you are looking for other products for the kitchen?

[00:10:58] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** What else has got our, just buy this recommendation.

[00:11:00] **Andy Laughlin:** Well, if 650 pounds is a little bit too expensive for you, we've also got a much cheaper dishwasher. It's the Best Buy with, uh, seven programs in total. Good range of stuff alongside your sort of normal, fast and eco and main washes. There's also a delicate wash for your glassware and really intensive wash for dirty pans.

[00:11:18] **Andy Laughlin:** So you've got a load of options really despite paying not too much. Um, we've also got a slim line dishwasher, so if you've got a smaller kitchen, not space for a full size. Slim line typically would be about sort of seven to seven to 10, um, uh, play settings. So a good amount of space still. Um, it, uh, cleans glasses in the far corners, the upper rack, so it's really, really efficient regardless of where you stack stuff.

[00:11:42] **Andy Laughlin:** Um, so you're getting a lot for your money in a small, small package as such, away from dishwashers, not where I like to be, but, um, you can be, uh, uh, uh, if you're in the market for a fridge freezer. And we've got one that's quicker than average at chilling and freezing and it holds 11 bags of shopping. You know, obviously stack it in there, don't just ram 'em in.

[00:12:03] **Andy Laughlin:** Um, and it's really energy efficient too, so it shouldn't rack up your bills. And finally, we've got an integrated fridge freezer, so if you want an ice. Sleek finish in your kitchen. Um, we've got a model that combines excellent performance with great inefficiency.

[00:12:15] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Two. Brilliant. Well, it sounds like if you are fitting out a kitchen, if you listen to this, you, uh, you've got some appliance that you need to buy.

[00:12:22] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** That sounds like a, a very good list now to find out what those products are that Andy has just mentioned, and to read more about the 50. Other products that have our, just by this recommendation, then head to which co uk slash just buy this. Now you have to be a member to see our, just by this recommendations.

[00:12:39] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** But if you are not already a member, then don't forget, you can get 50% off our annual subscription right now. Just head to which dot code uk slash podcast offer to get started. Andy, thank you very much. Really appreciate it. You're welcome.

[00:13:02] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Thanks for listening to this podcast from which the UK's consumer champion. You can find plenty more advice about what we discuss today in the show Note. There. You'll also find a link to become a witch member for 50% off the usual price, an offer exclusively available to you. Our podcast listeners.

[00:13:18] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Joining Witch not only gives you access to our product reviews, our app, one-to-one, personalized buying advice and every issue of Witch Magazine across the year, but you'll also be helping us make life simpler, fairer, and safer for everyone. Don't forget to hit subscribe wherever you're listening, and that way you'll be notified whenever we release a new episode of which money, which shorts.

[00:13:38] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Or any other podcast that we make for you. And if you want to get in touch with us, then follow us on social media. We are at witch uk, or drop us an email to podcasts@witch.co uk and we'll see you next time.