The washing machine you should buy for your home

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[00:00:09] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Is your TV on the blank? 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 Lily Jones here in the Witch Studio for this episode of Just Buy This, a podcast featuring our experts and their buying advice.

[00:00:32] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** I'm sure you'll have seen our Best Buy, great value and eco buy 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 is where just by this comes in. So this is an exclusively available to which members they are handpicked recommendations that our product testing experts think tick the most important boxes and will work well for most people most of the time.

[00:01:01] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** And on today's episode, we are joined by our resident washing machines expert, Becky Jakeman. Becky, welcome.

[00:01:07] **Becki Jakeman:** Thanks very much Rob. Very happy to be here.

[00:01:09] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** It is great to have you here. Now we are talking washing machines. Obviously, as we've already said, you are our washing machine expert. So which washing machine have you given adjust by this recommendation to?

[00:01:21] **Becki Jakeman:** Well, it is the very snappily named Bosch, WAN 2 8 2 5 9 GB

[00:01:28] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** should say as well. We will put a link to that product on, uh, on the page wherever you're listening to this podcast. Uh, Becky, why do you love it? So much.

[00:01:37] **Becki Jakeman:** So there's a lot of reasons. Um, I picked this model. Our overall verdict is, it's good in all areas, which is always great to hear about something you're planning on spending your money on, and

[00:01:46] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** you, you can't say much better than that.

[00:01:47] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Good in all areas. That

[00:01:48] **Becki Jakeman:** is a glowing recommendation indeed. But essentially, yeah, this one. Did perform across the board in, in our stain removal tests. So we test on the two main programs in our washing machine testing, so that is cottons and synthetics or whatever the closest equivalent to those is. Um, and this machine performed very, very well on both of those.

[00:02:12] **Becki Jakeman:** Um, so anything that goes into the drum, unexpected spills, any smudges. It's gonna get rid of those without any problems at all. Um, so we test our stain removal on things like blood and grease and ink. So kind of typically very tough to remove stains. So machines at school, well, in our testing generally aren't really going to struggle.

[00:02:35] **Becki Jakeman:** With much. Um, and that is the key thing with the washing machine, isn't it really getting your clothes clean?

[00:02:40] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** I mean, ultimately you, you just want it to wash your clothes properly. Exactly. As, as it clearly does. I'm not gonna ask where we source the blood from though, to stay in the clothes. I mean, maybe, maybe that's something you get into another time that's

[00:02:51] **Becki Jakeman:** secret info

[00:02:52] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** blindly.

[00:02:53] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Right. Okay. Well we will talk a bit more about our testing a little bit later on, but you've said there that. It's good in all areas, which is obviously why it's got our just by this recommendation, but it doesn't just have a, just by this recommendation because it gets even better because it is also a Best Buy.

[00:03:08] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Now, what does it need to have done to get a Best Buy? So these are, these are the, the best products that we found that are out there.

[00:03:14] **Becki Jakeman:** Yes, the best of the best are Best Buys. So anything that scores, uh, 75% or more in our testing is a Best Buy. So this model scores 78% and generally our best Buys Yeah, are those models that don't just excel in one area.

[00:03:30] **Becki Jakeman:** They are strong. Across the board, so as well as this one removing stains. It's also great at spinning your clothes so that gets loads of water trout so they don't take agent ages to dry. And it's also very good at ensuring there's no kind of detergent left in the fibers, which we can see a lot with some less good machines, I'll call them.

[00:03:54] **Becki Jakeman:** Um. And what that can mean is if you've got sensitive skin or anything like that, you can wear your clothes and they might feel itchy or in worse cases they can be stained, um, if rinses are poor. And something that's a very hot topic at the moment is energy use as well. So this is a very efficient model with its water use and its energy use.

[00:04:18] **Becki Jakeman:** We compare it to models of a similar size, and from that we work out a running cost. So what it will cost you to run over a 12 month period. Um, and this one performs very well, so it's about, bang, average running costs. Um, but yeah, very frugal water use, so you shouldn't really notice. Your bills shooting up if you need to run the old extra wash when you get back from holiday, things like that.

[00:04:44] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** So you're not having to pay a premium on your bill then for buying what is a very good washing machine.

[00:04:49] **Becki Jakeman:** Exactly. Exactly. I mean, we've tested washing machines that can be well over a hundred year, a hundred pounds a year to run, and this one is 68 pounds on the current energy price cap. So yeah, as I'd say, it's a pretty good deal energy wise.

[00:05:03] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** So over the lifespan of a typical washing machine, then you know, that really does just show how much you could be saving. Although that said, what would you say is the, the typical lifespan for a washing machine maybe?

[00:05:14] **Becki Jakeman:** Oh, that is a tricky question. Um, we do run our reliability surveys. And typically we say if a washing machine lasts about seven years, it's doing quite well.

[00:05:26] **Becki Jakeman:** Um, but obviously there's always outliers to that. So you'll find the odd person that says, I've had my washing machine for 20 years and it's still going strong. Um, so I'd say, yeah, anything less than that. There's probably scope to repair rather than replace. Um, but obviously there are always. Scenarios where you might look at the cost for replacing some, for repairing something and say it's definitely gonna be cheaper to just buy a new one of

[00:05:50] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** these.

[00:05:51] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Back to the the testing then Becky. Was there anything surprising that came out of our testing with this model? Would you say?

[00:05:57] **Becki Jakeman:** Potentially not surprising, but there is quite a common downside with washing machines that tend to wash well and that is that they can be quite slow. Um, so this one isn't really an exception to that.

[00:06:11] **Becki Jakeman:** It is one of the slower models we've tested.

[00:06:13] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** And when you say slow, do you mean the, the duration of the cycles?

[00:06:17] **Becki Jakeman:** Yes, that's right. So the cotton cycle on this one takes three hours and 37 minutes. Um, and the synthetic cycle is exactly one hour less, so two hours 37, which is very handy. Um, but for a machine of this capacity, so it's a nine kilogram machine, um, that is on the slow side.

[00:06:38] **Becki Jakeman:** However, I will also say. That the results are worth waiting for in this case. So quite often you can overlook a slow washing machine because, well, it washes well

[00:06:51] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** what? Talking of Of the duration there and the duration of these cycles. Sure. A quick wash. Yes. We all see it. There is a quick wash. Ever. A good idea, Becky?

[00:07:02] **Becki Jakeman:** Well, the thing with quick washes is I think a lot of the time people get sucked in by thinking you can wash. A week's worth of washing in half an hour, which sadly, especially for me, is not the case. So a lot of quick washes will actually only be good for one to two kilograms of clothes, which is actually normally only about a couple of shirts so they can do the job.

[00:07:26] **Becki Jakeman:** If you are kind of, there's some last minute bits you might need freshening up,

[00:07:31] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** um, some gym kit or something like that, maybe

[00:07:32] **Becki Jakeman:** Potentially, yeah. But anything with heavy staining or anything that needs a proper, proper clean, it might not cut the mustard.

[00:07:41] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** And when it comes to our testing now. I am going to say that I've done a little bit of homework before this episode, but you might tell me that I'm, I'm wrong.

[00:07:48] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Becky. When we do our testing, what temperatures are we testing on with these cycles? Is it 40 degrees? Because would 40 degrees be the, the, the usual that people are putting their washing machines on?

[00:07:58] **Becki Jakeman:** Yes. So we test at 40 degrees, um, because that is what our lovely members told us they like to use. So that is what we do.

[00:08:06] **Becki Jakeman:** Um, however, I will say. Machines can be just as effective at lower temperatures. So a lot of people would choose to wash at 30 or even 20, um, and it is cheaper to run. However, the trade off there is that sometimes things like stain removal aren't quite as good as when you wash at 40 degrees. So yes, 40 degrees is what we use.

[00:08:29] **Becki Jakeman:** And it's also the kind of standard temperature. If you stick a washing machine on and hit go, most of them will just go at 40 degrees.

[00:08:38] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** But as you said there, you know, we have chosen 40 degrees because that is the temperature that you, our members have said that you are washing your clothes on more often than not.

[00:08:45] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** So

[00:08:46] **Becki Jakeman:** Exactly. You

[00:08:46] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** know, it just shows that we are listening to you. When we are testing these products. Uh, let's talk about something that is very important. The cost. The price. Yes. So how does this model compare to, to some of the others out there on the market?

[00:08:57] **Becki Jakeman:** So this model at time of record is, uh, on offer.

[00:09:02] **Becki Jakeman:** So it's 499 pounds, but generally I think it comes in closer to the 600 pound mark. Just under 600 pounds. Um, now to be very boring, that is typically bang average for a washing machine, I would say. Um, we've tested washing machines that are 200 and something pounds. We've tested washing machines that are well over the thousand pound mark.

[00:09:25] **Becki Jakeman:** Um, so yeah, this one, a risk of being very boring. About a standard price. We do tend to see not a lot of difference in performance at different prices. So we've got best Buys that are under the 400 pound mark. We've got don't buys that are prier models. You're normally kind of paying for more of the feature side of things when you pay more for a washing machine.

[00:09:51] **Becki Jakeman:** So things like smart features and something called auto dosing has become very common in high-end models now.

[00:09:59] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Now auto dosing, I think I'm right. This is where the machine will effectively work out how much detergent it adds to each, each wash. So you will, yes. What will you do? You'll presumably add quite a lot of detergent.

[00:10:11] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** It's before you auto dose. And then it will then yes. Then yes. That's the one. Choose the right amount.

[00:10:15] **Becki Jakeman:** So machines with auto dosing have a big reservoir. I think it's normally in the base of the machine, and you can add, I think some models, it's up to about 40 washes worth Wow. For detergent. Wow. So you can

[00:10:26] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** buy like one of those WPP of bottles from the shops and you can just fill it up.

[00:10:30] **Becki Jakeman:** Yes. Yeah. And then you can forget about it.

[00:10:32] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Okay. I mean, would you, would you say that auto dosing is, is good? Is that a good development in the washing machine world?

[00:10:38] **Becki Jakeman:** I would say it could be handy mm-hmm. For a lot of people. Mm-hmm. Um, as you can just to fill it up and forget about it. But day to day, if you are not too fussed about popping a detergent pod in before each wash, it's probably not gonna impact your life in an enormous amount.

[00:10:54] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** And, and while we're talking about this, uh, this particular model. Just finally on, on this one, talking about the, the features that are available. Mm-hmm. Presumably this one does everything that you need it to and, and I dunno whether it has any of these funner features. I say funner, I'm not sure whether fun is the word Becky, but any of these smarter features, like smart features, maybe.

[00:11:14] **Becki Jakeman:** This one does not have smart functionality. However, it does have quite a few very useful programs, so it obviously covers your basics, but there's also specific cycles for shirts, jeans, waterproof items. There's also a reload function where you can pause the wash and throw things in if you've forgotten to add them in.

[00:11:36] **Becki Jakeman:** That is

[00:11:36] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** good. That's always an annoyance for me because you think, oh, goodness me, I've left a sock on the floor there as I've moved the wash back. Skit out of the bedroom and I need to pop that in as well.

[00:11:45] **Becki Jakeman:** So yes, that's very, very handy. Um, and there is also an iron assist program on there, and if you're like me and you hate ironing, I will take any help I can get.

[00:11:54] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Well, Becky, that has been really, really interesting. So great to hear. And. Just a reminder then let's, let's say it one more time, Becky, this particular washing machine that has our just buy this recommendation is,

[00:12:07] **Becki Jakeman:** it is the Best Buy Bosch, WAN 2 8 2 5 9 gb.

[00:12:13] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Well, that's the washing machine taken care of.

[00:12:15] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** But what if you are in the market for something else? Becky, can you give us a little tease of some of the other things that have out just about this recommendation?

[00:12:23] **Becki Jakeman:** I sure can. So that was a freestanding washing machine, but we also have an integrated washing machine. Which normally in our testing don't perform as well as freestanding models.

[00:12:34] **Becki Jakeman:** Um, but we do have one that is an exception and we have given a, just buy this recommendation. There's a tumble dryer that's earned our trifecta of Best Buy great value and. E coy recommendations, and it's a lot cheaper than our other Best Buys, too. A steam iron that has no problems removing creases and is nimble enough that it'll work around all kinds of clothing and a cordless vacuum that is generally very good at cleaning and has no problems picking up larger items of dirt and debris.

[00:13:05] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Well, as we said earlier on, you want a washing machine that's good at cleaning. You also want a cordless vacuum that's good at cleaning, so

[00:13:10] **Becki Jakeman:** absolutely.

[00:13:11] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** Good news that we've got that among our, just by this recommended products. Remember, these recommendations are exclusively available to which members, so to find out what they are and to read more about the more than 50 other products, then head to witch.co uk slash just by this.

[00:13:28] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** And Becky, thanks so much for joining us.

[00:13:30] **Becki Jakeman:** Thanks for having me.

[00:13:41] **Rob Lilley-Jones:** That brings to an end on our podcast from which there's loads more for you to read about everything we discuss today. Just head to the episode description for more useful everyday advice. There you'll also see an exclusive offer for podcast listeners like you to become a witch member for 50% off the usual price.

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