

CHOICE

Presentation by Matthew Steen and Chris Barnes

About CHOICE

- Independent not-for-profit founded in 1959
- One of only two such consumer organisations in the world to have its own laboratories
- Funded mainly by our members: approximately 180,000 of them!
- Revenue also from our licencing scheme CHOICE Recommended and commercial testing in our laboratories through our Test Research arm and other streams
- About 160 staff members

“Better, safer, fairer”



CHOICE and sustainability

- CHOICE believes that sustainable, ethical, and environmentally safe products and services are vital for consumers
- Our members show strong interest in this area
- However we don't take a specifically pro-solar or anti-gas stance, for example
- We aim to give consumers the right information to help them make the right choice for their needs, and focus on how businesses, governments and systems can make it easier for people to make the choices they they want to make
- For example our Solar Estimator service in partnership with SolarQuotes helps make going solar simpler.

choice.com.au/solar-estimator

Whitegoods

Energy

Heating and cooling: 40%

**Appliances and equipment including
refrigeration and cooking: 33%**

Water heating: 21%

Lighting: 6%

Of that:

Fridges: 8% of average household energy use (usually the only always on product through most households).

Washing machines and Dishwashers, combined to just over 4% of household energy use.

Water

Showers: 34%

Toilet: 26%

Laundry: 23%

Whitegoods

Appliances covered by CHOICE

Appliances and equipment including refrigeration and cooking: 33%

[Fridges](#)

[Washing machines](#)

[Dishwashers](#)

[Clothes dryers](#)

[Many cooking appliances](#)

Whitegoods

Using CHOICE

- ▶ Subscribe - costs \$26.95/3 months - we're the only non profit, consumer laboratory in Australia and one of only two in the world. Membership is how we get a vast majority of our funds)
- ▶ Many libraries have free access to choice.com.au or the magazines - we cover whitegoods, cooking appliances and heating and cooling regularly in the magazine.
- ▶ [Bega Valley Library](#) has a Choice subscription (print magazine and online access)
- ▶ Ask your relatives, friends and neighbours for access - usually someone has a membership

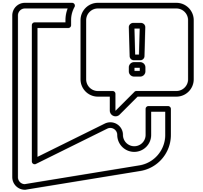
Other options

[Energyrating.gov.au](https://www.energyrating.gov.au) will give you heaps of data on energy ratings (especially for data nerds) - covers several relevant appliances

WELS - [waterrating.gov.au](https://www.waterrating.gov.au) will give you heaps of data based on water use (also for data nerds) - covers several relevant appliances

[Choice.com.au](https://www.choice.com.au) will give you performance ratings based on consumer use and standards use, together with energy ratings and water ratings

CHOICE Solar Panel reviews



In partnership with the CSIRO in Newcastle, but now looking for a new partner lab



CHOICE Solar Panel reviews - what we find

- Most panels perform within their claimed specifications
- There can be noticeable variation between samples of the same panel
- Some panels perform better than others, but we haven't found any obvious duds in our testing
- People use our reviews to get assurance with unfamiliar brands

JA SOLAR



JinkO Solar

tindo solar



Trina solar

[choice.com.au/solar](https://www.choice.com.au/solar)

CHOICE cooktop reviews

Cooking tests for all cooktop types:

- **White sauce** to test the cooktop's ability to work on the low heat setting (on ceramic cooktops we also melt chocolate to test the low heat setting)
- **Boiled rice** to assess the turn-down capacity of the cooktop – starting on a high heat and reducing to a simmer
- **Vegetable and beef stir fry** to test the high heat setting for a short time.
- Ease of use and energy usage tests.

Induction cooktops compare very favourably with gas for cooking performance and ease of use.



[choice.com.au/cooktops](https://www.choice.com.au/cooktops)

CHOICE oven reviews

Cooking tests for ovens:

- **Multi-shelf cooking:** Scones - on two shelves to test how evenly the ovens perform at a moderate/high temperature over a short time.
- **Low temperature cooking:** Meringues - to assess cooking ability at a low temperature for a long period.
- **Roasting:** Roast chicken
- **Base cooking:** We cook a freshly prepared pizza at a very high temperature for a short period to assess the ability to crisp and brown the base and evenly cook the toppings.
- **Grilling:** We toast bread to assess the grill area for how quickly and evenly it toasts.
- Ease of use and energy usage tests.

We only review electric ovens; gas ovens only make up a very small part of the market now.

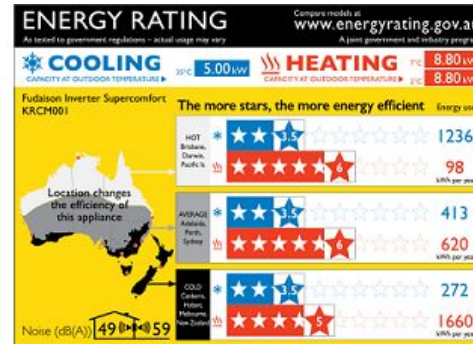
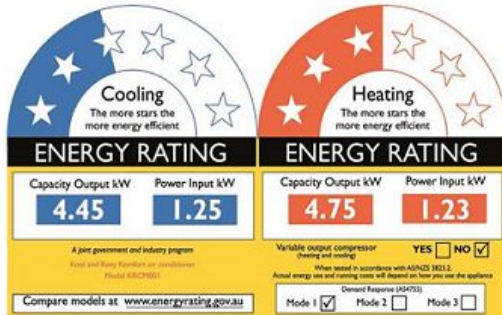


[choice.com.au/ovens](https://www.choice.com.au/ovens)

CHOICE air conditioner reviews

- We review split-system reverse-cycle air conditioners
- Review is not a lab test (too expensive!); instead we analyse data supplied by manufacturers and checked against the government energy registry
- Choosing the right size (capacity) is important
- They are the most cost-effective long-term way to heat a room or large living area

choice.com.au/airconditioners



CHOICE Community

- Free forum for anyone to join
- Moderated discussion of Choice content and other topics of interest
- Strong alignment to sustainability, solar, energy efficiency and so on
- Sharing consumer experiences
- Asking for advice from knowledgeable members
- Also fun chats about chocolate, recipes, pets and more



choice.communty