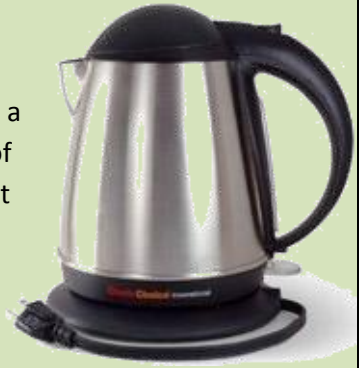


Test Report
On
Electric Kettle

Electric Kettles

An electric kettle is probably one of the kitchen appliances people use the most. It is a nifty device that can boil water in a matter of minutes, specially when stove is not in use. It should be safe, easy to use and quiet.

Fourteen brands of kettles were tested for noise, safety, speed and ease of use and also examined what to be considered before choosing new kettle. The brands were **Philips HD 4649, Kenwood SJM 281, Usha Electric Kettle 3217, Morphy Richards Rapido, Baltra Solid, Hevells Titania, Bajaj Majesty KTX10, Prestige PKPWC 1.7, Optima CK 2400, Orient Actus KT 1801S, Inalsa Mist, Preethi Glow, Maharaja Whiteline EK-704 SS, and Khaitan Ketil KTK 106.**



Parameters Tested

Boil performance: It measured the time how long a kettle takes to boil water before it automatically turns off. It was done to check how much time taken to boil one litre of water and later to the minimum recommended level. It also looked at whether the kettles overboiled water as this wastes both time and energy.

Ease of use: Checked controls, filling, pouring, removing / replacing on the base, water level indicator, balance and handle comfort.

Filters: Fineness of limescales filters are checked and how closely it fits within the housing.

Noise: Measured the noise level.

Key Findings

Many of kettles heated a whole litre of water to 100°C in just over three minutes. It is less than half the time taken by the slowest on the test- **Preethi Glow**.

Three models even managed to do it in less than three minutes - **Kenwood SJM 281, Morphy Richards Rapido** and **Philips HD 4649**.

Some models not fared well and got poor overall scores either because of not having limescale filter-**Inalsa Mist** or overboiled water- **Preethi Glow**. They continued to heat water even after it had reached the boiling point.

Best Buy

Philips HD 4649

This model got 5 stars for its boiling category and scored well in other categories also. It has plastic body and has capacity from 0.25 to 1.7 litres. It takes just under three minutes to heat one litre of water to 100°C. It is very quick and has boil-dry protection. So if there is less water than the minimum recommended volume, it will automatically switch off to prevent damage.

The kettle is designed in a way that it is very user friendly. Limescale filter is easily removable. It has comfortable handle, clearly labeled controls and a water gauge. It can be filled through the spout to save time and effort and water does not leak from the lid when it is poured. The lid can be removed easily with the help of knob.



PROS Well designed, balanced and comfortable to hold

CONS No variable temperature settings

Kenwood SJM 281

This model has metal body with a minimum capacity of 0.4 litre and a maximum of 1.67 litres. The levels are marked as cups and not millilitres on the kettle. Its boiling was the fastest on test. It takes just under two and a half minutes to boil a litre of water. It is bit noisy when it is in use. It has standard features like boil-dry protection but after boiling lid becomes hot and handles remain cool. However, there is a knob on the lid which allows it to be removed comfortably just after boiling.



PROS Fastest at heating water, easy to use

CONS Flat-pin plug so need to use separate adapter to use in Indian round pin sockets. Mouth of kettle is so small so difficult to clean.

Usha Electric Kettle 3217

This model did well in all test categories. It takes a below average three minutes and 18 seconds to boil one liter water.



With plastic body it has a minimum capacity of 0.27 litre and maximum of 1.7 litres.

The lid is open through a spring loaded button. The mouth of the kettle is large enough to reach inside and clean.

The limescale filter can be difficult to remove, though its tight fit does ensure that there is a no gap for calcium to escape. It feels unbalanced to

handle when it is filled to the maximum level. The handle space is less to hold the kettle.

PROS Not noisy, lid opens with push button

CONS Only one year warranty

Cleaning and maintenance tips

The kettle requires periodic care because most of us use the hard water from the tap to boil the kettle, but over frequent use and time, limescale can build up and prohibit the appliance from working at its best. It will take more time to boil water if descaling is not done properly. So there is wastage of energy and money. If there is any damage results from limescale, even manufacturer refuses to repair or replace because it does not cover under warranty period.

How to Care and remove scale from inside the kettle

- Fill the electric kettle half way with water and the rest of the way with white vinegar. The combination of water and vinegar works to loosen scale deposits that form on the inside of the kettle.
- Heat the kettle to boiling, then turn off and allow to sit for 30 minutes or until kettle has completely cooled.
- Dispose of the water and vinegar solution.
- To remove the smell of vinegar, boil with water again
- Clean the inside of the kettle with a nylon pad to loosen any scale clinging to the inside of the kettle.
- Rinse the electric kettle with cool water and dry the inside with a clean cloth.

Test and Ratings

Model	Specification		Test performance					Test Score (%)
	Price (Rs.)	Max. Volume (litres)	Time to boil one litre of water	Boiling	Ease of use	Filter	Noise level	
Philips HD 4649	2,745	1.7	2:56	5 Star	5 Star	5 Star	3 Star	84
Kenwood SJM 281	3,090	1.7	2:21	5 Star	5 Star	4 Star	2 Star	80
Usha Electric Kettle 3217	2,995	1.7	3:18	4 Star	5 Star	5 Star	4 Star	73
Morphy Richards Rapido	2,395	1.8	2:48	3 Star	5 Star	4 Star	3 Star	65
Baltra Solid	1,619	1.8	3:09	3 Star	5 Star	2 Star	3 Star	62
Hevels Titania	1,445	1.5	3:30	3 Star	4 Star	4 Star	4 Star	62
Bajaj Majesty KTX10	1,790	1.7	3:01	3 Star	4 Star	2 Star	3 Star	58
Prestige PKPWC 1.7	1,445	1.7	5:12		5 Star	4 Star	5 Star	56
Optima CK 2400	1,790	1.8	3:28	3 Star	3 Star	4 Star	3 Star	54

Model	Specification	Test performance						Test Score (%)
Orient Actus KT 1801S	2,399	1.8	3:17	3 Star	4 Star	4 Star	3 Star	52
Inalsa Mist	2,350	1.8	3:17	3 Star	3 Star	NA*	3 Star	52
Preethi Glow	1,950	1.7	6:29		5 Star	5 Star	5 Star	51
Maharaja Whiteline EK- 704 SS	2,251	1.5	3:20	3 Star	3 Star	2 Star	4 Star	51
Khaitan Ketil KTK 106	1,390	1.8	3:14		3 Star	2 Star	4 Star	44

‘The Inalsa Mist does not have a lime scale filter’

For further details please contact Consumer Education and Research Centre, Ahmadabad

Source: Right Choice, March-2014