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8 Best Kitchen Trash Cans of 2024

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The best kitchen trash cans will help you control odors in your kitchen and manage household waste. However, if you've started looking for a new kitchen trash can already, then you already know that there are tons of options on the market. Between the various size options, finish choices, opening mechanisms, and additional features, deciding which one is right for you may feel a bit overwhelming.

We've compiled this guide of the best models on the market to help narrow down the options for you, naming the iTouchless 13-Gallon Automatic Trash Can as our best overall pick. We also highlight recommendations for any specific needs you may have, whether you're shopping for a small space, a large household, or on a budget.

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Best Overall

iTouchless 13-Gallon Automatic Trash Can »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Touchless opening to reduce the spread of bacteria
- ✓ Reflex technology prevents the lid from closing on a user's hand
- ✓ Comes with a carbon filter to minimize odors

CONS:

- ✗ Relatively expensive
- ✗ Filter needs to be replaced every three months

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The iTouchless Automatic Trash Can allows users to open the lid without physically touching it, minimizing the spread of germs and bacteria in the kitchen. The sensor detects motion and opens the lid accordingly. This model also features Reflex Technology to ensure that the lid doesn't close on your hand when you're still depositing trash into the bin. Depending on the layout of your kitchen and your preferences, you can choose to power the automatic trash can with either size D batteries or with an alternating current (AC) adapter power cord, neither of which are included.

An AbsorbX carbon filter is included with each purchase. This activated carbon filter absorbs kitchen odors from food and other sources and also traps volatile organic compounds (VOCs), providing you with a cleaner and fresher-smelling kitchen.

Additional filters are available for a separate purchase. This model has a fingerprint-resistant stainless steel body and an acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) black plastic lid, so it can coordinate with a variety of kitchen decor schemes. It takes standard-size kitchen trash bags, so you don't need to worry about purchasing potentially expensive custom-sized bags.

Specs

Price:	\$109.95
Capacity:	13 gallons
Opening Mechanism:	Sensor
Material:	Stainless steel body and plastic lid

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Best Budget

Sterilite 11-Gallon Slim Step-On Trash Can With ...

**PROS:**

- ✓ Inexpensive
- ✓ Hands-free opening
- ✓ Slim design fits in tighter spaces

CONS:

- ✗ Plastic material may absorb odors
- ✗ Smaller capacity

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If you don't want to spend a lot of money on a kitchen trash can, consider this model from Sterilite. It retails for just \$38.99, making it the least expensive option on this list. The bin offers a slim profile, allowing it to fit in tight spaces more easily. Its 11-gallon capacity is a bit smaller than many of the other models we reviewed, but it's still large enough to fit standard-size, 13-gallon trash bags.

You can open the lid by stepping on the foot pedal. When you need to change the bag, there's no need to remove the lid; it can stay open, allowing you to remove the old bag and insert a new one.

This model is made from white plastic. While plastic isn't as odor-resistant as stainless steel and may show dirt more easily, Sterilite includes a

Wholesalehome washcloth with each purchase to help you clean the bin whenever it starts looking dirty.

Specs

Price:	\$38.99
Capacity:	11 gallons
Opening Mechanism:	Foot pedal
Material:	Plastic

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[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Small Spaces

SimpleHuman 18-Liter Butterfly Step Can »



PROS:

- ✓ Compact footprint
- ✓ Fingerprint-resistant silver-ion coating
- ✓ Slow-close lid

CONS:

- ✗ Smaller capacity means it'll need to be emptied more frequently
- ✗ SimpleHuman custom-fit liners are recommended for this model

[Buy From Amazon](#)

If you don't have a large kitchen and require a more compact trash can, then you might like the SimpleHuman 18-Liter Butterfly Step Can. The footprint of this unit is just 23.3 inches long by 10.4 inches wide, allowing it to fit where larger garbage cans won't. It's also just 26 inches tall, so it may even fit under counters or in other tighter spaces in your kitchen.

Stepping on the foot pedal opens the butterfly lid – split panels on the top that open out toward the side. This design gives the can maximum clearance, which is a plus if you do choose to store the unit under low countertops. The SimpleHuman 18-Liter Butterfly Step Can has a sleek stainless steel finish with a fingerprint-resistant silver-ion coating. This is a feature that Betsy Fein, president of Clutterbusters, a company that helps businesses and individuals organize their spaces, looks for when choosing a kitchen trash can. She says, "I prefer fingerprint- and stain-resistant finishes." The silver-ion coating on this model also helps reduce the spread of germs in the kitchen.

Specs

Price:	\$100
Capacity:	18 liters
Opening Mechanism:	Foot pedal

Material:

Stainless steel

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Best With Recycling Compartment

Songmics 2 x 8 Gallon Trash Can »



PROS:

- ✓ Two compartments allow you to separate garbage and recyclables
- ✓ Foot pedal for touchless opening
- ✓ 15 trash bags included with each purchase

CONS:

- ✗ Smaller capacity to hold trash if you use one compartment for recyclables
- ✗ Relatively expensive

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Separate trash and recyclables with the Songmics 2 x 8 Gallon Trash Can. This model features two separate compartments, each with an 8-gallon capacity, making it easy to dispose of trash and collect bottles, cans, and other recyclable materials. Each compartment features a separate pedal and lid, so you can just open the section you need without having to use your hands. When you're ready to take out the trash or transfer the recyclables to your curbside bin, each bucket can be removed to provide convenient access to the contents. This removable design also makes it easier to clean the components when necessary.

This dual-compartment trash can from Songmics has a sleek and durable stainless steel body. Both internal buckets are made from polypropylene plastic (PP), which is strong and resists the growth of mold, mildew, and bacteria. The ABS plastic lids are designed with a built-in buffer to provide a soft, quiet close to reduce disruptions in the kitchen. The lids are also engineered to open to 80 degrees, preventing them from hitting walls or cabinets behind them.

Specs

Price:	\$129.99
Capacity:	16 gallons (two 8-gallon compartments)
Opening Mechanism:	Foot pedal
Material:	Stainless steel, PP plastic inner bucket, and ABS plastic lid

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[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Large Families

Ninestars 21.1-Gallon Automatic Trash Can »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Larger capacity
- ✓ Nonskid base protects floors against scratches
- ✓ Removable ring liner keeps bags in place and ensures a neat appearance

CONS:

- ✗ Batteries aren't included
- ✗ Doesn't have an AC adapter power option

[Buy From Amazon](#)

If there are a lot of people living in your home, chances are that you generate more trash than smaller households. The 21-gallon capacity of the Ninestars Automatic Trash Can might make it a good match for your home's needs. This model features sensor technology, allowing users to open the can without touching the lid. If you have younger children in the home, this feature may make it easier for them to open the lid compared to models with a foot pedal. Three D batteries are needed to operate this model. While the batteries aren't included with each purchase, Ninestars designs the units

with infrared technology to minimize battery consumption and reduce the number of times they'll need to be replaced.

If you want the lid to stay open for an extended period, you can manually open it by pressing a button. To protect your kitchen floors against scuff marks and to keep the can from sliding around, it's designed with a nonskid base. This model is made of commercial-grade stainless steel, which is both durable and fingerprint-resistant.

Specs

Price:	\$89.99
Capacity:	21.1 gallons
Opening Mechanism:	Sensor
Material:	Stainless steel

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[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Style

Brabantia 36-Liter Bo Touch Bin »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Variety of finish options available
- ✓ Adjustable legs
- ✓ Removable inner bucket for easy cleaning

CONS:

- ✗ Soft-touch opening still requires touching the lid to open it
- ✗ Expensive

[Buy From Amazon](#)

For those looking for a trash can that will complement their kitchen's modern design, the Brabantia 36-Liter Bo Touch Bin may be the ideal choice. This stylish model offers a unique appearance with its four nonskid lids that elevate it off the ground. Its legs are adjustable, allowing you to set the height to a comfortable level for your preferences. You can even choose from eight different finish options to coordinate with the colors and design of your space. Choose from more traditional finishes, such as White, Matte Steel, or Matte Black, or make a statement with options like Metallic Gold, Platinum, or Pine Green.

The Brabantia 36-Liter Bo Touch Bin has a capacity of 36 liters (or 9.5 gallons). To open the lid, all you need to do is gently touch it with your hand.

Once you touch the lid, it will stay open so that you can deposit all of your trash. This unit’s inner plastic bucket is removable for easy cleaning.

Specs

Price:	Starting at \$196
Capacity:	9.5 gallons
Opening Mechanism:	Soft-touch
Material:	Steel

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Best Hands-Free

EKO Mirage-T 13.2-Gallon Motion Sensor Trash ...



PROS:

- ✓ Touchless opening
- ✓ Sensors detect the continued presence of objects and extend the length of time the lid remains open
- ✓ Soft-close lid

CONS:

- ✗ Without an inner bucket, cleaning the trash can may be more complicated
- ✗ The batteries aren't included

[Buy From Amazon](#)

The EKO Mirage-T 13.2-Gallon Motion Sensor Trash Can may be the ideal choice for those who are seeking to open their kitchen receptacle without using their hands – or their feet (like with step trash cans). Instead, you can wave your hand over the sensor to open the lid. It'll then automatically close itself a few seconds later.

Deirdre Mundorf, the author of this piece, owns the EKO Mirage and appreciates that the sensor detects when hands or objects are still close to the lid. This means that the lid won't close on you when you're in the middle of throwing something out. You can also press a button to leave the lid open for extended periods.

The trash can has a 13.2-gallon capacity and offers a fingerprint-resistant stainless steel finish. It requires six AA batteries, which may last for up to eight months before requiring replacement. This model also features a quiet, soft-close lid and an inner plastic rim to keep the bags in place and keep them from being visible when the lid is affixed – another feature that Mundorf values.

Specs

Price:	\$79.99
Capacity:	13.2 gallons

Opening
Mechanism:

Sensor

Material:

Stainless steel

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[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best Plastic

Rubbermaid Classic Step-On 13-Gallon Trash C...



PROS:

- ✓ Allows for hands-free opening
- ✓ LinerLock bag arms to hold trash bags in place
- ✓ Seamless construction for durability

CONS:

- ✗ No sensor technology
- ✗ Plastic material may absorb odors

[Buy From Amazon](#)

The Rubbermaid Classic Step-On 13-Gallon Trash Can With Lid is constructed from a durable plastic resin material. It’s a covered model with an integrated foot pedal. Simply step on the pedal to open the lid and dispose of garbage, then release the pedal to close the lid again. With this design, there’s no need to touch the trash can and risk spreading germs or bacteria around your kitchen.

This trash can has a 13-gallon capacity, making it compatible with standard-size kitchen trash bags. The unit’s LinerLock bag arms work to keep each trash bag in place, preventing it from slipping off the rim and dropping into the can.

Specs

Price:	\$54.99
Capacity:	13 gallons
Opening Mechanism:	Foot pedal
Material:	Plastic

EXPAND LIST ▾

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

The Bottom Line

Every kitchen needs a trash can. However, the right model will depend on your specific needs and preferences. There are different size options, opening mechanisms, and material choices on the market that you’ll want to compare before making a final decision. Betsy Fein, president of Clutterbusters, explains, “When choosing a material for a kitchen trash can, you can consider factors like cost,

durability, and ease of cleaning." We chose the iTouchless 13-Gallon Automatic Trash Can as our top pick. We like how this model's sensors detect motion to open the lid without requiring you to physically touch it, and we appreciate the carbon filter for odor absorption. Plus, its 13-gallon capacity should be a good fit for many homes.

Things To Consider When Buying Kitchen Trash Cans

Size: The size, or dimensions, of each kitchen trash can will impact how well it'll fit in the available space in your kitchen. "Consider your kitchen space too; you'll want a trash can that fits comfortably in your designated area without obstructing traffic," says Samantha Odo, chief operating officer of Precondo, a real estate company in Toronto, Canada. Even receptacles with a comparable capacity may have different dimensions – with some being wider or taller than others. Start by determining the ideal location for your kitchen trash can. It may be under the sink, against a cabinet or wall, or under a table.

Once you've decided where to put the unit, measure the length and width of the space to see what will fit in it. You'll also want to measure the available height, especially if you'll be placing the can under a table or other surface. After gathering these measurements, you can compare them against the length, width, and height of the various models that you're looking at.

Capacity: The capacity of kitchen trash cans, which is generally measured in gallons or liters, refers to the amount of trash the bin will be able to hold. It goes without saying, but the greater the capacity, the more trash you'll be able to put in the can before needing to change the bag. Kitchen trash bags have a 13-gallon capacity, so they'll work with units of a comparable size.

Fein of Clutterbusters shares, "For homes with few people, a 10- to 14-gallon trash can should work just fine." However, if you have a lot of individuals in your home or generate a lot of trash for whatever reason, you might find that a larger-capacity model is the best choice for you. Similarly, if you live alone or work to conserve waste by recycling and composting as much as possible, a trash can with a smaller capacity may be suitable for your needs.

Material: “Material choice is crucial for kitchen trash cans,” says Odo of Precondo. Stainless steel and plastic are the two materials that are most commonly used for kitchen trash cans, and each has its own set of pros and cons that will help you determine whether or not it’s the best fit for your needs. Odo notes that “Stainless steel is a popular option because it’s durable, easy to clean, and it complements most kitchen decor.” However, keep in mind that stainless steel models are typically more expensive.

Plastic trash cans are typically more budget-friendly options. While plastic is generally easy to clean, it can also absorb more odors than metal. Plastic trash cans are also not as durable and long-lasting as their metal counterparts.

Compartments: One thing you’ll want to think about before deciding which trash can you want to purchase is whether or not you want a model with multiple compartments. Trash cans with separate bins make it possible to collect both refuse and recycling in the same unit. In some models, both bins have the same capacity, while in others one side may have a larger capacity than the other. If you want the convenience of collecting both trash and recycling in the kitchen without dealing with the hassle of keeping a second bin, then a dual-compartment model may be the right choice for you.

Opening Mechanism: The way to open a kitchen trash can will vary based on the model you select. Some models have a swing-top lid or one that you’ll need to open by hand. While these options may be less expensive, they may also make it more likely for germs and bacteria to spread.

Odo recommends looking for a model with a foot pedal or touchless sensor. She explains that either of these features can “be a game-changer, allowing you to dispose of items without having to touch the lid. It’s a hygienic and convenient option, especially when your hands are full or messy.” If you’re interested in a trash can with a sensor, keep in mind that most models require batteries, which aren’t always included with your purchase. Some models also offer the option of powering them through an outlet.

Additional Features: Some kitchen trash cans are designed with additional features to provide a better user experience, minimize odors, and more. For example, some models feature quiet, slow-close lids to reduce noise in the kitchen. Other options offer integrated activated carbon filters to absorb VOCs and odors from food and

other sources. This is a feature that Eryn Donaldson, founder and CEO of The Model Home, a home organizing company, highlights as beneficial in a trash can. She says, “I would look for a trash can with odor-sealing features such as a tightly sealed lid, deodorizer compartments, or carbon filters.”

How We Chose the Best Kitchen Trash Cans

Assembling this list of the best kitchen trash cans involved consulting feedback from professional reviewers, reviewing ratings from past customers, and considering the needs of a variety of readers. For example, we aimed to include products available in a range of prices, looked for options that would fit different household sizes, and sought out options to coordinate with individual design preferences. We also reached out to industry experts, including Samanta Odo, chief operating officer of [Precondo](#), a real estate company in Toronto, Canada; Eryn Donaldson, founder and CEO of a home organizing company called [The Model Home](#); and Betsy Fein, president of [Clutterbusters](#), a company that helps businesses and individuals organize their spaces.

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FAQ

What size trash can should I get for my kitchen?



What's the best way to clean a kitchen trash can?



How often should I clean my kitchen trash can?



How long do kitchen trash cans last?



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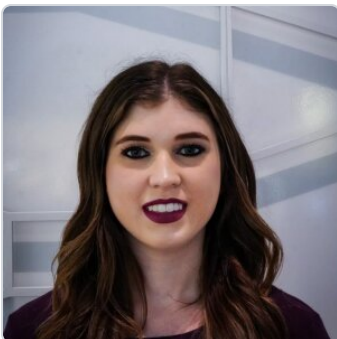
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Mundorf is a freelance writer who specializes in home goods, family, and pet content. She has more than three years of experience as a professional writer and her work has been featured in [Bob Vila](#), [Discover Magazine](#), and [House Digest](#). Prior to her freelancing career, Mundorf was an elementary school teacher for more than a decade.

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Marlo Jappen Porto is a former editor for U.S. News 360 Reviews, focusing on home goods. Prior to joining the team, she was a researcher at NBCUniversal, where she gathered compelling and relevant archival content for live broadcasts. In addition, she has spent years working as an editor and community journalist.

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