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5 Best Cheap Mattresses of 2024

By [Nina Derwin](#) and [Lauren Allain](#)



Edited by [Marlo Jappen Porto](#)

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Save

Shopping for a new mattress may give you sticker shock, with some models costing thousands of dollars. Whether you're on a budget, furnishing a guest room, or shopping for a mattress for a growing child, there are plenty of low cost options that still deliver on quality.

We found the Cocoon by Sealy Chill Memory Foam Mattress to be a dependable option when it comes to cheap mattresses. In a queen size, the bed costs under \$1,100 at full price. [When we tried it out in our lab](#), we were impressed by the bed's strong motion isolation, cooling abilities, and overall comfort in all sleeping positions. That said, our list includes other budget-friendly options to suit a range of sleepers.

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Our Top Picks

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Best Budget: [Zinus Green Tea Memory Foam Mattress](#) »

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Best Cooling: [Bear Original Mattress »](#)[Jump to Review ↓](#)**Best for Side Sleepers:** [Nectar Memory Foam Mattress »](#)[Jump to Review ↓](#)**Best for Couples:** [Layla Memory Foam Mattress »](#)[Jump to Review ↓](#)**Best Overall****Cocoon by Sealy Chill Memory Foam Mattress »****4.1** ★★★★★☆ **U.S. News Rating**

The Chill Memory Foam Mattress is designed to stay cool while you sleep.

PROS:

- ✓ Perfect Fit Memory Foam offers pressure-relieving comfort

CONS:

- ✗ Only one firmness level
- ✗ Shorter sleep trial

Special Deal:
35% Off All
Mattresses +

- ✔ Supportive for multiple positions
- ✔ Strong motion isolation
- ✔ Cooling materials

Free Sealy Sleep Bundle

Buy From Sealy

Costing less than \$1,100 for a queen size, the Cocoon by Sealy Chill Memory Foam Mattress delivers value at a budget price. The all-foam mattress is designed with cooling materials and Sealy’s Perfect Fit Memory Foam adapts to each sleeper’s body to provide pressure-relieving support.

In our lab, our testers found the bed to excel at isolating motion, a welcomed trait for couples who are easily disrupted by their partner's movements. “This mattress is wonderful for sleeping with a partner because I felt minimal movement,” said tester Melinda Yeaman, who is 5 feet, 7 inches tall, and 165 pounds. She added, “This is a bed I could put my coffee cup on without fear of spilling.”

Sealy considers the Cocoon Chill mattress to have a medium feel, but only one of our panelists agreed with that rating. The others rated it as either medium-firm or firm, so it might not be ideal for sleepers who prefer a soft mattress.

At full price, the Cocoon by Sealy Chill Memory Foam Mattress is listed at about \$1,100 in a queen size, but the brand offers frequent sales that can bring the price close to \$700. Plus, Sealy often includes free [pillows](#) and [sheets](#) with the purchase of a mattress.

Specs

List Price (Queen): \$1,079

Sizes: Twin, twin XL, full, queen, king, California king

Height: 10 in.

Sleep Trial:

100 nights

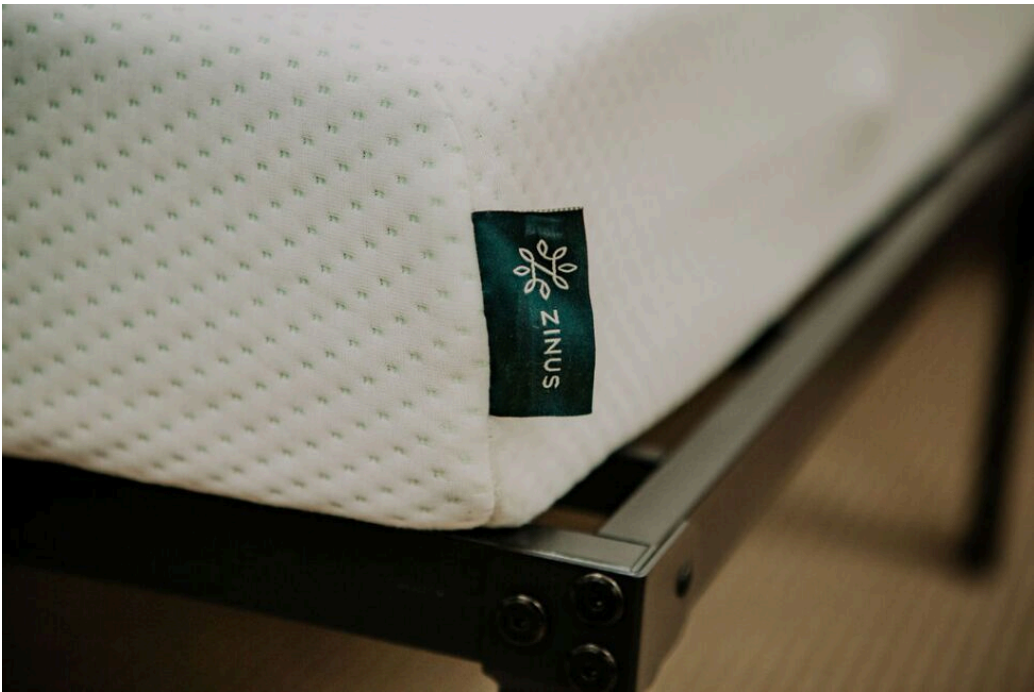
[EXPAND LIST](#) ▾

[Buy From Sealy »](#)

Best Budget

Zinus Green Tea Memory Foam Mattress »

3.6 ★★☆☆☆ U.S. News Rating



PROS:

- ✓ Affordable
- ✓ Available in multiple thicknesses
- ✓ Strong motion isolation makes it a good pick for couples
- ✓ CertiPUR-US certified

CONS:

- ✗ Return policy only applies to purchases made through the company's website
- ✗ May be too firm for some

[Buy From Target](#)

You'll be hard-pressed to find a mattress that's more budget-friendly than the Zinus Green Tea Memory Foam Mattress. The mattress is available in multiple thicknesses and even non-standard sizes, like a short queen, which is ideal for [RVs](#). In our lab, we tested the 6-inch version, which we found to be much too firm to be supportive for side sleepers. However, the majority of our testers felt it had strong motion isolation, a perk for couples. "I feel very little of my partner's movements," said tester Melinda.

The Green Tea Memory Foam Mattress is made up of three layers: a base foam foundation for structure and edge support, a foam layer, and a top layer of green tea- and charcoal-infused memory foam. Most of our testers liked this bed's edge support. "I could both sit and lay on it feeling secure of not falling off," said Catalina Arndt, who is 5 feet, 8 inches tall, and 146 pounds. However, tester Huston Evans, who is 5 feet, 11 inches tall, and 200 pounds, didn't find it to be a good match. "This mattress is very firm but if you're over a certain weight you will touch the bed frame when sitting," he said.

Each Green Tea Memory Foam Mattress comes with a 100-night trial only if you buy the mattress through [zinus.com](#). The mattress is CertiPUR-US certified, though it's worth noting that it isn't GreenGuard Gold certified.

Specs

List Price
(Queen):

Sizes:

Height:

Sleep Trial:

EXPAND LIST ▾

Starting at \$293.43 (8-in.)

Twin, twin XL, full, short queen, queen, king, California king

8 in., 12 in.

100-night trial

Buy From Target »

Best Cooling

Bear Original Mattress »

4.1 ★★★★★☆ U.S. News Rating



- PROS:

✓

 Cooling features
- CONS:

✗

 Lacks edge support for average-weight and heavy

8/7/24, 3:35 PM

Best Cheap Mattresses of 2024 | U.S. News

Buy From Bear

✔ Lifetime warranty

✔ GreenGuard Gold certified and CertiPUR-US certified

✖ May be too firm for lightweight side sleepers

The Bear Original mattress is 10 inches tall and is made of three layers of foam. The base of the mattress is made from high-density support foam for durability, and it features two layers of additional foam: one for pressure relief and another made from cooling gel memory foam to help [dissipate body heat](#) throughout the night. The mattress is encased in a breathable Tencel cover to further ensure a cool and comfortable sleep. In our 360 Lab, we found the mattress to remain temperature-neutral, but there was no cooling sensation on the surface. “I couldn't notice a change in temperature at all,” said tester Lincoln Bailey, who is 5 feet, 11 inches tall, and 160 pounds.

Bear considers the mattress to have a medium-firm feel. Our testers said it landed between a medium-firm and firm, so it might not be great for lightweight side sleepers who like a softer bed. We also found the bed to isolate motion well, which is appealing for [couples](#). “I couldn't feel anything when my partner moved around,” said tester Evans.

Bear offers a 120-night sleep trial as well as free shipping and free returns, giving you the chance to try the Bear Original mattress before committing.

Specs

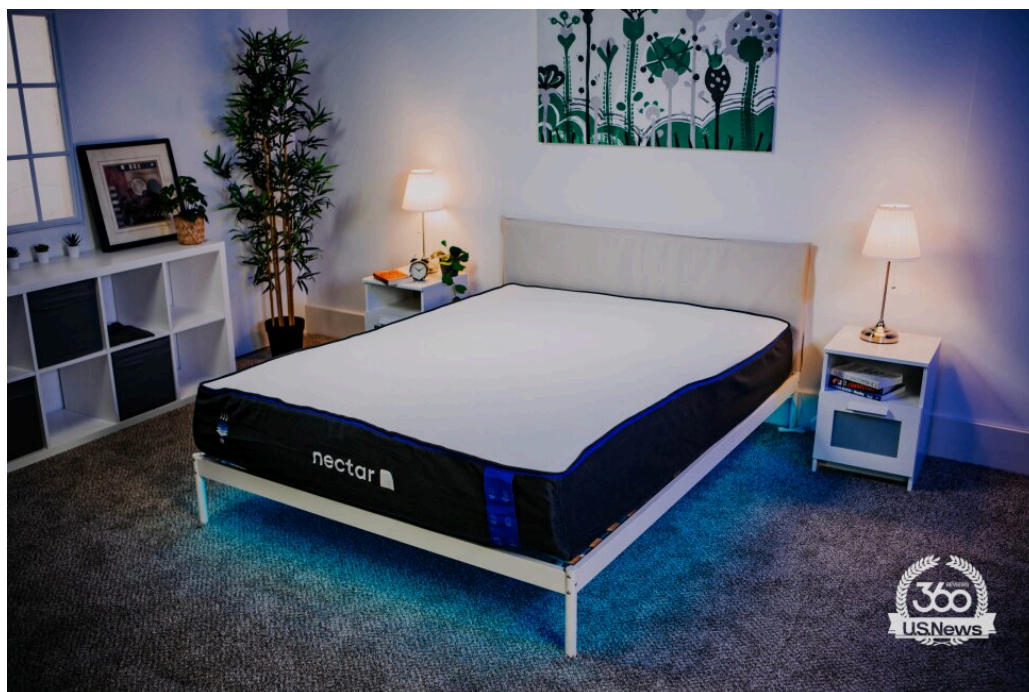
List Price (Queen):	\$998
Sizes:	Twin, twin XL, full, queen, king, California king, split king
Height:	10 in.
Sleep Trial:	120 nights

[EXPAND LIST](#) ▼

[Buy From Bear](#) »

Best for Side Sleepers

Nectar Memory Foam Mattress »



PROS:

- ✓ Gel memory foam helps with pressure relief
- ✓ Supportive for most sleeping positions
- ✓ Cooling
- ✓ CertiPUR-US certified

CONS:

- ✗ Not GreenGuard Gold certified
- ✗ Only one level of firmness

[Buy From Nectar](#)

The Nectar Memory Foam Mattress is made up of five essential elements designed to deliver a comfortable night's sleep not only to [side sleepers](#) but for back and stomach sleepers as well. In our consumer survey, about 84% of people sleeping on the Nectar Memory Foam Mattress said it was

comfortable for side sleeping and about 81% said it was good for back sleeping.

The 7-inch base layer made of CertiPUR-US certified foam is encased in a shift-resistant lower cover that helps keep the mattress in place, and on top of it sits a 3-inch layer of foam that helps minimize motion transfer. The top layer of the mattress is made of 2 inches of gel memory foam that helps relieve pressure and has cooling effects, as does its cooling cover. In our 360 Lab, we did notice a cooling sensation when we first got onto the mattress.

Nectar offers an impressive 365-night home trial and free shipping and returns within the contiguous United States. Nectar’s Forever Warranty covers impressions of 1 1/2 inches or more for the lifetime of the mattress. While the foam used in the mattress is CertiPUR-US certified, it’s worth noting that the mattress isn’t GreenGuard Gold certified.

Specs

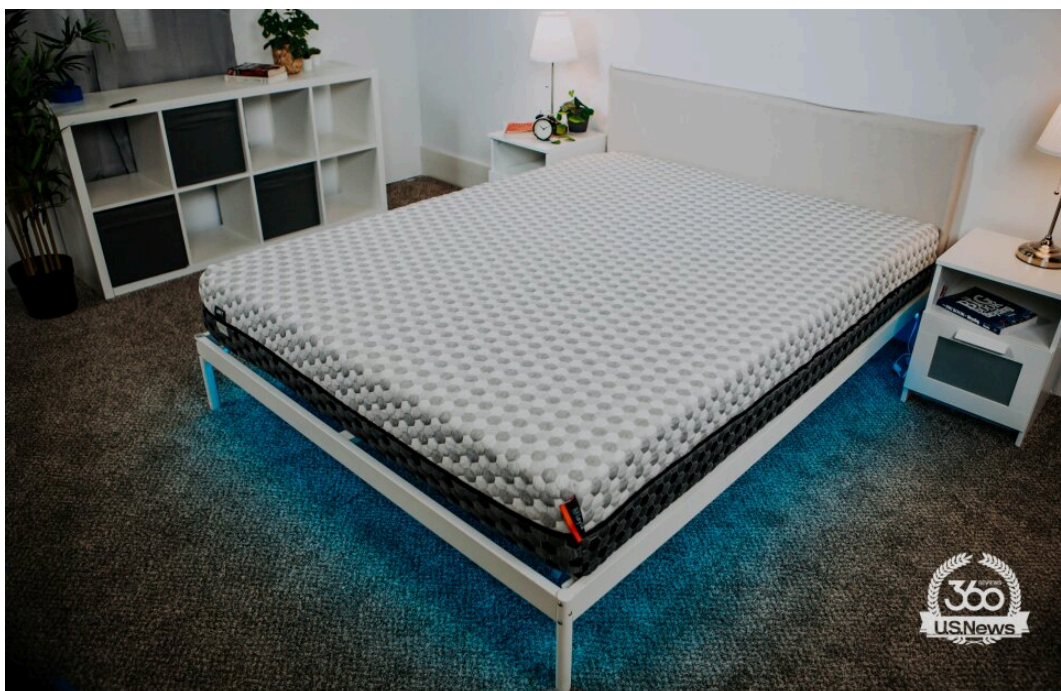
List Price (Queen):	\$1,099
Sizes:	Twin, twin XL, full, queen, king, California king, split king
Height:	12 in.
Sleep Trial:	365 nights

EXPAND LIST ▾

[Buy From Nectar »](#)

Best for Couples

Layla Memory Foam Mattress »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Flippable
- ✓ Lifetime warranty
- ✓ CertiPUR-US certified

CONS:

- ✗ Shipping costs apply to Canada, Hawaii, and Alaska residents
- ✗ Slight initial smell from off-gassing

Exclusive U.S.
News Offer: \$160
OFF + 2 FREE
Pillows (code:
USNEWS)

Buy From Layla

Buy From Amazon

Buy From Walmart

The Layla Memory Foam Mattress is flippable and double-sided, offering two different firmness levels and giving you a choice between soft and firm. In our 360 Lab, our testers noted that this mattress felt supportive on the soft side for back and [stomach sleepers](#). On the firm side, our average-weight testers found support when on their backs. The mattress is CertiPUR-US certified, meaning it's free of thousands of harmful chemicals, though it isn't GreenGuard Gold certified.

For all of its mattresses, Layla offers a 120-night sleep trial and a lifetime warranty that covers all material and workmanship defects.

Specs

List Price (Queen):	\$1,099
Sizes:	Twin, twin XL, full, queen, king, California king
Height:	10 1/2 in.
Sleep Trial:	120 nights

EXPAND LIST ▾

[Buy From Layla »](#)

The Bottom Line

A [quality mattress](#) doesn't have to come with a steep price tag. If you're on a budget and shopping for a new bed, you'll have many options that cost about \$1,000 or less. The lowest-priced mattresses tend to be all-foam models and come with plenty of favorable features like strong motion isolation and body-contouring layers that support all sleeper types.

We found the Cocoon by Sealy Chill Memory Foam Mattress to be the best option if you're looking for a lower-priced mattress. The 10-inch all-foam mattress performed well in testing with motion isolation, cooling, and overall support. Sealy often offers free pillows or sheets with the mattress, making it an especially sweet deal.

Things To Consider When Buying a Cheap Mattress

Price: For many people, price is one of the most significant factors when shopping for a mattress. [Foam mattresses](#) are typically the least expensive and are often the best choice for shoppers on a tight budget.

Not only does the cost of the mattress itself factor into the decision-making process, but shipping and delivery costs as well as the cost of removing your old mattress are worth consideration.

“Finding the best mattress is a very personal choice,” says Dr. Ana Krieger, a sleep medicine expert at New York-Presbyterian. “There are reasonably priced mattresses that can be very comfortable and help you sleep better.”

Support: When choosing a mattress, finding one that provides the right support is key. Many people conflate firmness and support, but they aren’t one and the same; firmness is used to describe how a mattress feels, whereas support is used to describe a mattress’s ability to keep your spine properly aligned.

The goal when shopping for a new mattress is to find one that offers the right amount of “pushback” so that your spine is aligned in a neutral position. A mattress that provides the right amount of support and pressure relief based on your preferred sleeping position and weight is ideal for a good night’s sleep.

“Sleeping surfaces that promote a neutral spine alignment can also reduce low back pain by reducing stress on the spinal structures,” says Dr. Angelie Mascarinas, a physiatrist at the Hospital for Special Surgery. For those who are suffering from back pain, support is one of the most important factors to consider when choosing a new mattress.

Temperature Regulation: Finding a mattress that keeps you cool throughout the night is important to getting a good night’s sleep, especially for those who run warm. Overheating can negatively affect the quality of your sleep so you’ll want to look for a mattress with cooling features to help wick away unwanted warmth.

“Studies have shown that high-thermal-capacity mattresses help regulate skin temperature and core body temperature and promote deeper sleep,” says Dr. Mascarinas.

A mattress’s breathability, or its ability to dissipate heat, is determined by how the mattress is made and the materials from which it’s constructed. Memory foam, the

material from which many cheap mattresses are made, is traditionally not known for being particularly cooling, as the dense and conforming material doesn't allow much room for heat to dissipate. However, some types of foam, like that in the Bear Original Mattress, are infused with cooling gel, and the result is a balance between an affordable mattress and one that doesn't feel too warm.

Motion Transfer: For those who share a bed with a partner, child, or pet, finding a mattress that reduces motion transfer – or how much movement is felt through the surface of the mattress – is key for light sleepers. People who experience insomnia, restlessness throughout the night, or partners with different sleep schedules should also prioritize motion isolation in a mattress.

"Couples should look at mattresses that limit excessive motion on the other side of the mattress to reduce sleep disturbance of your sleeping partner and also mattresses that are quiet so that your movements do not wake your sleeping partner," says Dr. Mascarinas. "Usually, memory foam mattresses can help isolate motion since their foam layers can absorb movement."

However, even the firmest foam mattresses will likely not deliver the same level of support as [hybrid](#) or [innerspring mattresses](#). Memory foam mattresses, which are often the cheapest, are typically less bouncy and have less airflow as a result of the denser layers.

Trial Period: The majority of mattresses on the market come with a sleep trial period. During this time, you can sleep on your new mattress to make sure it provides the right amount of support, cooling, and motion isolation. Sleep trial periods usually range between 100 nights to an entire year. If at any point during the sleep trial window, you decide that you would like to return the mattress, you can contact the manufacturer to determine how to move forward.

While most mattress retailers offer some type of home sleep trial and accept returns, most also require sleepers to try the mattress for at least 30 nights before initiating a return or exchange.

Warranty: For many, a mattress is a significant investment, and the purpose of a warranty is to give buyers peace of mind. Warranties typically cover issues related to a product's performance during a designated period of time. Some of the most common problems covered by mattress warranties include sagging and issues

pertaining to craftsmanship, like broken seams, torn handles, or bunching. Most warranties don't cover normal wear and tear or accidental damage, and it's important to be mindful of what can void a mattress warranty, like removal of the tag or liquid damage.

Different mattresses come with different warranties, but the price of a mattress isn't always indicative of the scope or duration of its warranty. Be sure to read through the terms of any warranty thoroughly before purchasing a mattress.

How We Chose the Best Cheap Mattresses

We tested and reviewed a wide range of mattresses, thoroughly researched customer reviews, and spoke with [Dr. Ana Krieger](#), a sleep medicine expert at New York-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine, and [Dr. Angelie Mascarinas](#), a physiatrist at the Hospital for Special Surgery, to create this list of the best cheap mattresses.

We then considered factors like cost, support, temperature regulation, and motion isolation, which we used to narrow down our selection to reflect our top picks. Overall, we found that you don't have to break the bank to bring home a supportive, cool mattress that suits your sleep preferences.

WHY SHOULD YOU TRUST US?

Our contributors and editors have years of experience researching, testing, and reviewing products. [Nina Derwin](#), the author of the piece, has written extensively about mattresses and other sleep products for Digital Trends. Co-author [Lauren Allain](#) has more than six years of experience with reviewing sleep products, particularly mattresses and sheets. [Marlo Jappen Porto](#), U.S. News 360 Reviews editor, is an experienced commerce editor who focuses on sleep and fitness products.

FAQ

What is a soft mattress?



How much does a soft mattress cost?



What is the best soft mattress?



How long does a soft mattress last?



Can you make a firm mattress softer?



About Our Team



Nina Derwin

Contributor



Nina Derwin is a Brooklyn-based writer with a passion for home decor, cleaning and organization, and food. In addition to contributing to publications including The Kitchn, Reader's Digest, Beyondish, and U.S. News 360 Reviews, Nina has written several episodes of scripted television for networks including Starz and Fox.

[Read more](#)



Lauren Allain

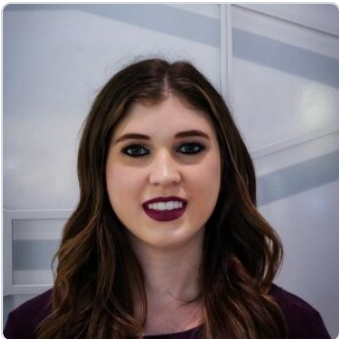
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Former Editor



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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