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Best Thermoses of 2024

By [Deirdre Mundorf](#)



Reviewed by [Marlo Jappen Porto](#)

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Thermoses keep foods and beverages hot for work, travel, hiking, or other activities when you'll be away from the house. As outdoor enthusiast and the creator of the "Dusty Trail RV" blog Amanda Benson explains, thermoses "are able to insulate by reducing the heat loss that happens through conduction, convection, and radiation." With their design, you can enjoy a hot meal or beverage several hours after it's prepared.

The right thermos for you may depend on whether you're looking for one to keep food or beverages warm. As Benson explains, "While wider mouth thermoses are easier to eat food out of, they have a larger lid, so they do not keep things hot as long. Because of this, I like to have one for food and one for liquids." Below, we've pulled together a list to help you find the best thermoses for your specific needs and preferences.

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Best Overall

Stanley Adventure To-Go Insulated Food Jar »



PROS:

CONS:

for more than 10 hours

and could get dirty

✓ Two sizes available

✗ No handle for carrying

Buy From Amazon

✓ Dishwasher-safe

The Stanley Adventure To-Go Insulated Food Jar, which is available in 24- and 36-ounce sizes, earns the top spot on our list. Baker, chef, and creator of “The Food Flamingo” blog Sara Ahmed shares that it’s her favorite thermos. “It does a fantastic job at keeping food hot for a long period of time, and it also has quite a large capacity, making it perfect for packing multi-component meals,” she says, adding “It’s also made out of stainless steel, which adds to its durability.”

Made from durable 18/8 stainless steel, this model features double-wall vacuum insulation to maintain the desired temperature for extended periods, keeping foods hot or cold for up to 15 hours for the 36-ounce size (or up to 10 hours for the 24-ounce size). It offers a leakproof lid and comes with a spork. The spork attaches to a band that goes around the body so you can make sure you’re always prepared to enjoy your packed meal.

Specs

List Price:	Starting at \$38 (24-oz)
Material:	18/8 stainless steel
Weight:	Starting at 1.2 lbs (24-oz)
Capacity:	24 or 36 ozs

EXPAND LIST ▾

Buy From Amazon »

Best Budget

Mira Insulated Food Jar »



PROS:

- ✓ Affordable price
- ✓ Leakproof design
- ✓ Bisphenol-A-free (BPA-free)

CONS:

- ✗ Small capacity
- ✗ Doesn't keep foods hot or cold as long as other models

[Buy From Amazon](#)

Those who are shopping on a budget might find the Mira Insulated Food Jar to be a suitable option. This thermos is made from BPA-free 18/8 stainless steel with a double-wall vacuum seal design to keep foods hot or cold. While it doesn't offer the same heat retention capabilities as some of the other models, it can keep food hot for up to five hours or cold for up to 10 hours. Depending on your needs, this may be sufficient, especially given the more economical price of just \$16.43.

This Mira has a 9-ounce capacity, making it a good option for smaller portions or sides. It's also lightweight at just 8 ounces, so it should be easy

to pack in a lunchbox, a work bag, a backpack, or even a purse. There are a few different color options available, including Pink, Sky, and Lilac.

Specs

List Price:	\$16.43
Material:	18/8 stainless steel
Weight:	0.5 lbs.
Capacity:	9 ozs

EXPAND LIST ▾

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Outdoor Adventures

Thermos Icon Food Jar »



PROS:

CONS:

- ✓

Lightweight
- ✓

Integrated spoon storage
- ✓

Anti-slip Griptec base
- ✗

No integrated carrying handle
- ✗

Not suitable for larger quantities

Buy From Thermos

If you’re planning an outdoor adventure, take a look at the Thermos Icon Food Jar. Sheri Nagle, a blogger who focuses on travel and the outdoors, highlighted this model as her favorite for keeping food warm. She says, “I love this thermos because it keeps food hot for hours, and the outside of it is not hot to the touch. My favorite thing is the stainless steel spoon that simply stows away in the top of the lid. Everything about it is well-designed and convenient.”

The thermos uses stainless steel vacuum-insulated technology to keep foods hot for up to 10 hours or cold for up to 24 hours. To prevent it from slipping, Thermos added a Griptec base. Choose from six colorful finish options, including Glacier, Sunset Pink, Matte Stainless Steel, Granite, Sandstone, and Saddle. This model is even dishwasher-safe for easy cleaning, though Thermos does recommend hand-washing to protect the finish.

Specs

List Price:	\$27.99
Material:	Stainless steel
Weight:	1 lb.
Capacity:	16 ozs

EXPAND LIST ▾

Buy From Thermos »

Best Portable

Hydro Flask Lightweight Mouth Trail Series »



PROS:

- ✓ Integrated handle for easy transport
- ✓ Keeps beverages hot or cold for a long time
- ✓ Three size options

CONS:

- ✗ Not designed for food
- ✗ Not very budget-friendly

[Buy From Amazon](#)

The Hydro Flask Lightweight Mouth Trail Series is a top choice for those who are on the go and want to keep their beverages hot or cold for extended periods. Choose from three size options (24, 32, and 40 ounces) to match your hydration needs during your travels. This bottle features an integrated Flex Strap carrying handle that connects to the lid, making it easy to hold. It's also lightweight, weighing about 25% less than other comparably sized

Hydro Flask bottles. In fact, all three sizes weigh less than 1 pound, with the smallest 24-ounce option weighing just more than 0.5 pounds.

Hydro Flask Lightweight Mouth Trail Series thermoses are made from 18/8 stainless steel and feature special TempShield double-wall vacuum insulation. With this design, they’re able to keep beverages hot for up to 12 hours or cold for up to 24 hours. Each size comes in a variety of color options, such as Obsidian, Quartz, Celestine, and Serpentine.

Specs

List Price:	Starting at \$44.95 (24-oz)
Material:	18/8 stainless steel
Weight:	Starting at 0.62 lbs. (24-oz)
Capacity:	24, 32, or 40 ozs

EXPAND LIST ▾

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Kids

Thermos Funtainer Food Jar »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Comes with adhesive name labels
- ✓ Spoon folds and stores in lid
- ✓ Dishwasher-safe

CONS:

- ✗ Doesn't keep food hot or cold as long as other models
- ✗ Smaller capacity

[Buy From Amazon](#)

If you're looking for a thermos to pack school lunches or meals for the kids on camping trips or picnics, consider the Thermos Funtainer Food Jar. With its 16-ounce capacity, it offers plenty of space to pack a variety of items for your child to enjoy. The author of this piece, Deirdre Mundorf, recently purchased two of these to use for her daughters' school lunches. She has used them to pack macaroni and cheese, soup, and other foods and appreciates how it makes it possible for her children to enjoy a warm, home-cooked meal while they're at school. Mundorf also likes that the lid offers a slot to store the integrated spoon, which features a convenient folding design for compact storage.

The Thermos Funtainer Food Jar is made from stainless steel and offers a vacuum-insulated design that keeps foods hot for up to seven hours or cold for up to nine hours. It’s available in several fun colors and patterns that’ll make a child smile. You can even wash it in the dishwasher for easy cleanup, though hand-washing is recommended to maintain the finish and appearance.

Specs

List Price:	\$19.99
Material:	Stainless steel
Weight:	0.45 lbs.
Capacity:	16 ozs

EXPAND LIST ▾

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Coffee

Stanley Classic Legendary Bottle »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Lid doubles as a cup
- ✓ Integrated handle for holding and pouring
- ✓ Keeps beverages hot or cold for up to 48 hours (depending on the size)

CONS:

- ✗ Heavier (especially for larger sizes)
- ✗ Pricey

[Buy From Amazon](#)

Coffee drinkers will appreciate the design of the Stanley Classic Legendary Bottle. The thermos's insulated lid can also serve as a cup, so you won't need to keep a separate mug with you or try to drink out of a large bottle. Stanley offers this model in four different capacity options: 1.1, 1.5, 2, and 2.5 quarts. Each is made from BPA-free 18/8 stainless steel and features double-wall vacuum insulation for maximum heat and cold retention. The smallest capacity model (24-ounce) can keep beverages hot or cold for up to 24 hours. As the capacity increases, so does the amount of time that this thermos can keep beverages hot or cold. For example, the 2.5-quart model can keep beverages hot or cold for up to 48 hours.

The Stanley Classic Legendary Bottle features an integrated handle to make it easier to hold or pour from the bottle. Each size option comes in a variety of colors, allowing each shopper to find something that suits their personality and preferences. This thermos is also dishwasher-safe for easy cleaning.

Specs

List Price:	Starting at \$36 (1.1-qt)
Material:	18/8 stainless steel
Weight:	Starting at 1.85 lbs. (1.1 qt)
Capacity:	1.1, 1.5, 2, or 2.5 qts

EXPAND LIST ▾

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best Large-Capacity

Stanley Adventure Stay Hot Camp Crock »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Holds up to 3 quarts of food
- ✓ Integrated handle for carrying
- ✓ Leakproof latching lid

CONS:

- ✗ Expensive
- ✗ Heavy

[Buy From Amazon](#)

With the Stanley Adventure Stay Hot Camp Crock, you can pack food for several people for a picnic, camping trip, or other outing. It offers a generous 3-quart capacity and can keep food hot for up to 12 hours or cold for up to 16 hours. With its double-wall vacuum insulation and 18/8 stainless steel design, it can even be used as an ice bucket for tailgating or other outdoor parties.

This thermos is designed with convenience in mind. It has a very wide opening, which makes it easier to scoop and serve food. The wider opening also allows for easier cleaning. With the locking lid design and the silicone gasket, you don't need to worry about soups or liquids leaking when transporting the thermos. When you're ready to serve food, you can use the

hook on the bottom of the lid to hang it from the side of the thermos and keep it from rolling away or getting dirty.

Specs

List Price:	\$70
Material:	18/8 stainless steel
Weight:	3.4 lbs.
Capacity:	96 ozs

EXPAND LIST ▾

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

The Bottom Line

When shopping for a thermos, consider how and when you plan to use it, whether you’ll be packing foods or beverages (or both), and your budget. As Nagle notes, “Purchasing a good thermos is an investment so it needs to check all the boxes.” We chose the Stanley Adventure To-Go Insulated Food Jar as our top pick. We like that it comes in two different sizes, can keep food hot for 10 to 15 hours, and includes a spork that attaches to the unit for storage and travel.

Things To Consider When Buying Thermoses

Materials: Common materials for thermoses include plastic, glass, and stainless steel. Of these three, stainless steel is generally seen as the best choice. Stainless steel is known for its durability, helping extend the thermos’s lifespan. As Nagle points out, “Thermoses made of interior and exterior stainless steel will provide

maximum durability to withstand being dropped or bumped.” Stainless steel also doesn’t absorb odors, so you won’t need to worry about lingering smells or transferring odors between food items.

Plastic and glass thermoses may be cheaper to purchase, but you shouldn’t expect them to perform as well as models made of stainless steel. These materials are more fragile and could break or become damaged more easily. They also can’t match the heat retention properties of stainless steel, so these thermoses won’t be able to keep your foods or beverages warm for as long. Odor absorption can also be an issue, particularly for plastic models, so that’s something else you’ll want to keep in mind as you shop.

Capacity: “Consider the capacity of the thermos and how much liquid you typically need to carry. Choose a size that fits your needs,” says Ahmed. Will you only need to bring a meal for yourself, or are you looking for a larger-capacity option that’ll keep several cups of coffee or tea warm for two or more individuals?

While it may seem best to just choose the largest-capacity option you can find, this isn’t always going to be the case. Thermoses work best when they’re full. So if you purchase a large-capacity model but only fill it halfway with food or liquid, the contents will cool more quickly than they would in a smaller thermos that was filled up all the way.

Size and Weight: Beyond the capacity of the thermos, you should also consider its overall size and weight. Think about when and where you plan on using the thermos. If you’ll need to be able to pack it in a backpack, then a smaller and lighter model might be a better fit for your needs. If you’ll be keeping the thermos in your car or on your [desk](#) at work, size and weight may be less of an issue.

When thinking about the size of each thermos, also consider its overall design. Is the base narrow enough to fit in your car’s cup holder? Does the thermos have a wide or narrow mouth? Benson says to “consider whether you plan on mostly carrying hot beverages or food. Thermoses that are food jars have wider mouths and are easier to eat out of and frequently come with cutlery.”

Insulation Performance: “The most important aspect to consider when choosing a thermos is its insulation capability,” explains Nagle. After all, the reason you’re searching for a thermos is that you want to be able to keep food or beverages hot for

an extended period. According to Nagle, you should look for models that use double-wall vacuum insulation. She explains, “That means it will maintain optimal temperature retention for both hot and cold beverages or food. It also means the bottle will remain sweat-free.”

Other thermoses may have foam insulation. However, foam insulation doesn’t perform as well as vacuum insulation, so thermoses with foam aren’t going to be able to keep your food or beverages hot for as long. Each manufacturer should share information about the performance of their products. Ahmed recommends checking for this information to “ensure [the thermos] can keep your beverages at the desired temperature for an extended period.”

Lid Type: Pay attention to the lid type and design of each model you’re considering. If you’re looking for a thermos to keep beverages warm, think about how you’ll drink out of the lid. Does it have a spout or a straw? Is the opening wider or narrower? Does the lid design integrate a cup that you can pour the beverage into for even easier and more comfortable sipping?

When shopping for a thermos that you plan to use for food, you shouldn’t overlook the design of the lid. For example, some models may feature integrated storage to hold a folding spoon. These models can make it easier to ensure you always have utensils with you to enjoy your meal. Other models may integrate a handle into the design of the lid, making it easier to carry them.

When evaluating the lid, be on the lookout for leakproof seals to prevent food or beverages from spilling out in your bag when you travel. Choosing a model with an insulated lid can also help keep your foods hotter or colder for longer.

Additional Features: Think about whether or not there are any extra features you’d like to see in the thermos you select. For example, if you’re frequently on the go, then you might want to look for a thermos with a handle, a strap, or a carrying pouch. As mentioned earlier, some thermoses offer a lid that can double as a cup, which you might be interested in if you prefer to drink from a smaller container.

When you’re looking for a thermos for food, you’ll notice that some models come with spoons, forks, or sporks. They may offer convenient ways to store and carry the utensils with the thermos, such as attaching them to the side of the unit or folding

them down to fit in the lid. Choosing one of these models can be appealing as you won't have to worry about how to pack your spoon or fork.

Care: Before finalizing your decision, take note of how easy – or difficult – it may be to clean the thermos. Ahmed says, “Consider a thermos with a wide mouth or removable parts for easy cleaning.” Products with a narrower neck can be more challenging to clean. If you choose one of these, consider purchasing a bottle brush to help you more thoroughly clean the interior.

Some manufacturers state that their thermoses are dishwasher-safe, while others recommend hand-washing. This could impact your decision about which model is best for you. You'll also want to keep in mind that some materials are easier to clean or less likely to absorb odors than others. Stainless steel, for example, doesn't pick up odors from foods, minimizing the amount of time you may need to spend cleaning the thermos.

How We Chose the Best Thermoses

Amanda Benson, an outdoor enthusiast and the creator of the “[Dusty Trail RV](#)” blog; Sara Ahmed, a baker, chef, and the creator of “[The Food Flamingo](#)” blog; and Sheri Nagle, the creator of “[Sheri Nagle](#),” a blog covering the outdoors and traveling, shared their insights and recommendations to help us put together our list of the best thermoses. In addition to considering their insights and pointers, we also looked at feedback from customers and professional reviewers. We sought to include different options to match the varying needs of our readers relating to budget, intended use, capacity, and other factors.

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Our contributors and editors have years of experience researching, testing, and reviewing products. [Deirdre Mundorf](#), the author of this piece, has five years of experience covering the home niche. She previously worked as an elementary school teacher for more than a decade, so she understands the importance of having the right tools and devices – whether it be for school or the workplace – to succeed. Mundorf regularly contributes to U.S. News 360 Reviews and has also written for several other online publications, including Bob Vila, USA Today, and House Digest.

FAQ

How do thermoses work?



How long do thermoses keep food hot?



What's the best way to keep thermoses hot?



How do I clean thermoses?



About Our Team



Deirdre Mundorf

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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,



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