

# The Best Food Dehydrators of 2024, Tested by the Taste of Home Kitchen



## Best Upgrade For Experienced Dehydrators

The Nesco dehydrator features a sleek stainless steel frame with a rear-mounted fan and a front window with interior light for easy viewing. Setting the unit up was very simple—I just set the temperature and time, and it dings and turns off when finished. No tray rotation is required. The tested food was well-dried and had a nice crunch and good flavor.

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# The Best Vacuum Sealers for Sous Vide Cooking and Long-Term Food Storage



## Best affordable vacuum sealer: Nesco Deluxe Vacuum Sealer VS-12

This vacuum sealer very nearly made our top spot. If it had a built-in handheld sealer, it probably would have. It was almost identical in performance to the FoodSaver, but even quieter. Just like the FoodSaver, it had wet and dry modes as well as pulse for fragile items. It similarly had built-in bag roll storage and a cutter to make it easy to make your own custom bags.

An extra feature we liked was its digital display that counted down, so we knew just how long it the vacuuming and sealing would take. It also

gave the option of selecting a double seal for extra protection, and the unit is lower profile than the FoodSaver too.

Overall, it's a solid machine that performs as well as our top pick. It lacks a few of the FoodSaver's details but offers others, and it's quite a bit cheaper. If you can live without the handheld sealer, or would rather purchase one separately, get the Nesco VS-12.

What we didn't like about the Nesco VS-12

There was really nothing not to like about this one. It lacked a handheld feature, but that's more of a bonus for the FoodSaver than a drawback of the Nesco.

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# The 8 Best Vacuum Sealers for Keeping Your Food Fresh in 2023



The Nesco VS 12 Deluxe is our pick for the best vacuum sealer overall because it gets most of the jobs done quite well at an affordable price. It's not going to be the tool you use to seal up bags of liquid, but that's not the intended use for external vacuum sealers in the first place. For most home-kitchen vacuum sealing jobs, the Nesco is both affordable and reliable.

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## These Editor-Approved Vacuum

# Sealers Will Help You Prep and Preserve Food Like a Pro in 2023



Although you'd be set regardless of which machine you choose, the [Nesco version](#) won our top seal of approval thanks to how easy it is to use. Since vacuum sealers tend to be a new machine for many, it pays to have a version that's easy-to-use with various control options for more customization.

Testers found this machine to be the simplest to maneuver, since it comes with different power and preservation settings that help control the pressure and seal depending on what you're preserving. That means you can save delicate, finer foods like fruit with less suction to help preserve their whole shape. We specifically tested raspberries to compare each machine, and this was the only machine that could keep the shape of the



raspberries intact, and keep them fresh.

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## The 7 Best Vacuum Sealers To Preserve Your Favorite Foods



Easy to use with multiple sealing settings and the durability of models costing several times its price, the Nesco VS-12 Deluxe Vacuum Sealer is our best overall choice for vacuum sealers. With a straightforward control panel featuring five simple options to choose from (wet, dry or double sealing for more difficult jobs, and either normal or vacuum pressure), this model is perfect for vacuum sealers with any level of experience. It's powerful enough for your larger portions while

the pulse button allows for the manual control of air extraction to precisely suit more unique or fragile vacuum sealing needs.

It has a hidden storage area for a full roll of sealing bags (comes with two full starter bags in two sizes) as well as a cutting tool for making each bag your ideal size. It works with any brand of bags, too, not just Nesco's. There's also the option for double air extraction when you've got extra large or heavy portions to get sealed. Best of all, it's a breeze to keep clean and the controls light up when activated so you always know what the machine is doing.

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# **The 5 Best Vacuum Sealers of 2023**



The [Nesco VS-12 Deluxe Vacuum Sealer](#) is our favorite vacuum sealer of the bunch. This countertop model is sleek and not too big to keep out on display or store. The button panel on the top is designed simply for ease of use. One of our test kitchen's favorite features was how delicate this sealer was when dry sealing the Chex Mix. Without breaking any of the cereal pieces, it was able to seal the bag tightly.

It does have some trouble moist sealing if there's a good amount of liquid in the vacuum bag. However, this was the only issue we encountered, so our experts advise being cautious when using the moist seal option. The bags maintained a sturdy seal throughout testing, even the halved avocado hardly showing signs of ripening. Versatile and user-friendly, this vacuum sealer is perfect for anybody's kitchen. We recommend it for somebody who's just starting to work with vacuum sealing or as a thoughtful gift for the home cook in your life.

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# The 10 Best Vacuum Sealers of 2023

Best Overall: Nesco VS-12 Deluxe Vacuum Sealer

★★★★★ 4.8



Amazon

The Nesco VS-12 Deluxe Vacuum Sealer is intuitive to use, features several settings to ensure the best results for a variety of foods, and its capabilities equaled or surpassed that of models double its price. There are sealing settings for dry foods (like cereal) and moist foods (like raw meat), as well as an option to create a double heat seal on any bag. A double vacuum pump extracts every last bit of air from your sealed package. Even with irregularly shaped items, we saw almost no air pockets or bubbles after sealing.

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# Best food dehydrator in 2023



If you frequently purchase dried snacks like banana chips and beef jerky, or need to preserve your garden harvest, a food dehydrator could be a practical and cost-saving investment. Using a fan and heating element to circulate warm air, these handy appliances extract excess moisture from food items placed inside, extending their shelf life and allowing them to be stored safely without a refrigerator or freezer. They come in a wide variety of sizes and prices too, so there's one out there that should suit your specific needs, whether that's drying tomatoes or preparing piles of meat.

After researching the most popular dehydrators online, we put 11 models to the test, dehydrating a variety of food items to get a sense of their overall ease of use, speed and – most importantly – ability to dehydrate evenly. In the end, we finally selected the [Nesco FD-1018A Gardenmaster](#) as our top choice for most people's needs.

# Our Favorite Food Dehydrator for Preserving



As hard as it is to believe, spring is on its way, which means produce lovers across the country are gearing up for another abundant season. Herbs are one of the first plants to pop up, and for those of us who know just how plentiful they can be, a food dehydrator seems like a better idea each and every year.

It's the perfect way to extend the life of those aromatic leaves and sprigs, and now's the best time to buy one. [One of our tried-and-tested favorites](#) is on sale: Score the [Nesco Gardenmaster Food Dehydrator](#) while it is 43% off at Amazon. The

biggest bonus? It's our top choice for dehydrating those delicate herbs.

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# KITCHEN These 28 Kitchen Tools Have Our Seal of Approval—and They're on Sale for Amazon's October Prime Day

## Nesco Gardenmaster Food Dehydrator



**\$86 (was \$160) at Amazon**

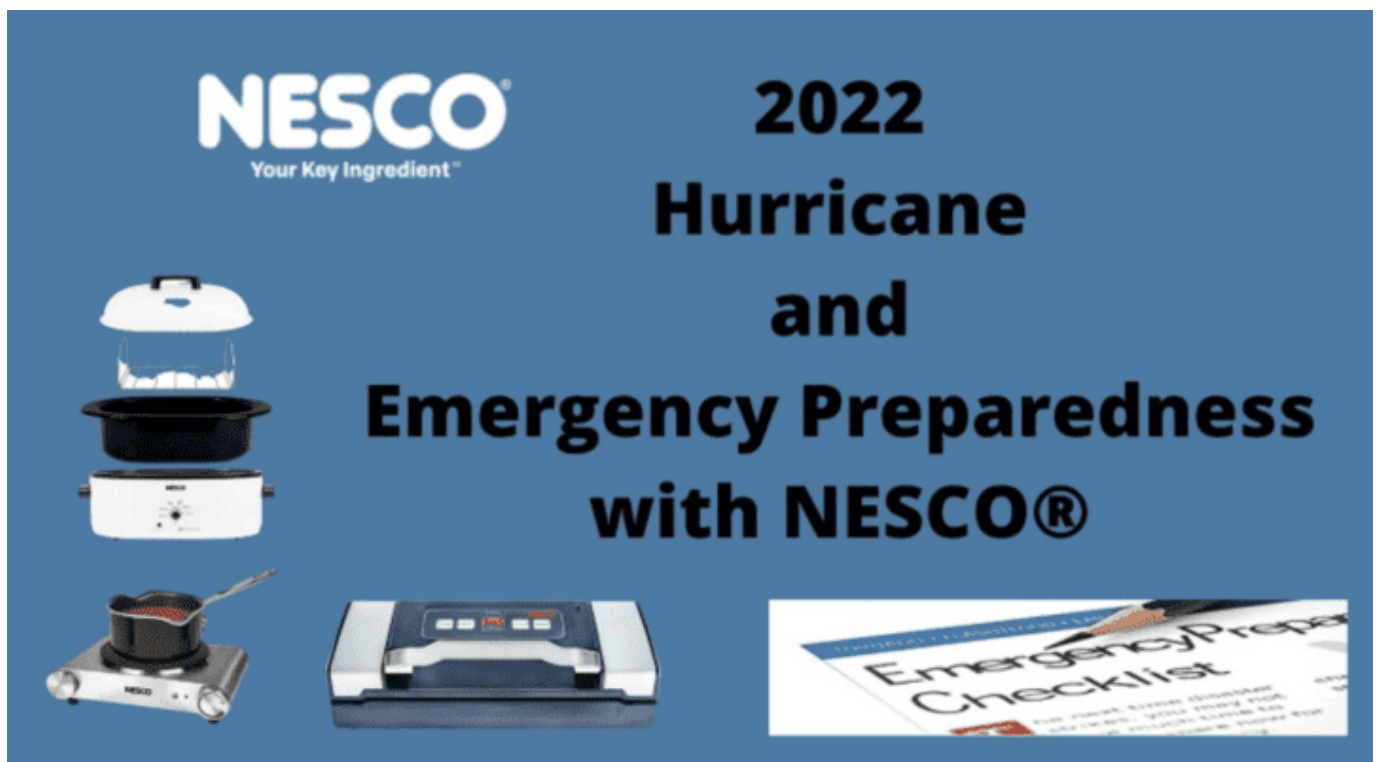
Using a dehydrator opens up a whole new world of culinary possibilities and is a space-saving way to preserve herbs and produce from the farmers market or your garden while at their

peak. The Nesco Gardenmaster earned top marks during our intensive tests with its simple-to-use design and customizable tray options.

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## 2022 Hurricane and Emergency Preparedness with NESCO®



Preparedness comes about in more than one way. You may purchase items to use during and after an emergency. You might also prepare for a *disaster*, with items that you've purchased. NESCO® can be part of your preparedness in both ways!

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# NESCO Electric Canner



I'm a big fan of beef jerky, I've made it for years. And as good as it always was, I was always searching for a way to perfect my technique. More flavor. More tender...

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# Sous Vide Pepper and Garlic

# Jerky on the Nesco Snackmaster Pro



I'm a big fan of beef jerky, I've made it for years. And as good as it always was, I was always searching for a way to perfect my technique. More flavor. More tender...

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## The Best Vacuum Sealers of 2022



If you're into sous vide cooking or want to extend the shelf-life of ingredients or ensure the ground beef you bought (but aren't looking to use quite yet) doesn't get freezer burn, a vacuum sealer is a worthwhile investment. In short, vacuum sealers keep food fresher, longer...

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## How to Preserve Raspberry Leaves



Red raspberry leaf tea benefits are many, and raspberry leaf tea is good for both male and female health. Learn how to make this delicious tea and start reaping the many benefits...

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# Nesco Roaster Oven Cooks Anything





An 18qt Electric Roaster Oven from Nesco that can cook anything. A porcelain enamel removable cookwell with a baking rack creates a "Circle of Heat" to roast foods more evenly.

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## How to Pick the Perfect Wedding Gift





It can be tough to pick the perfect wedding gift. After all, you want to choose something that the bride and groom will love, but you also don't want to spend too much money or get something they already have. If you're feeling lost when it comes to choosing a wedding gift, don't worry! We're here to help. In this blog post, we'll give you some tips on how to..

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**Dehydrating                      Maraschino**  
**Cherries      with      the      Cutest**

# Dehydrator Ever



Can you judge a dehydrator by how cute it is? Sure – but does it work? You bet! Dehydrated maraschino cherries in the new Nesco Snackmaster, Jr.

[View Video on YouTube](#)

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## Cook Turkey Quicker with the NESCO High Speed Roaster



The NESCO High Speed Roaster can cook up to an 18-pound tasty turkey without taking up an inch of oven space.

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**All-In-One Versatility Makes  
NESCO Smart Canner & Cooker  
the Ultimate Kitchen Appliance**



The NESCO Smart Canner & Cooker provides unmatched versatility—allowing you to do more with one appliance.