

# Steam Iron Buying Guide

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## How do I choose a steam iron?

### Power and Wattage

When choosing a steam iron, remember that higher the wattage, better the performance. This means that the high-power iron will heat up really fast, and help remove creases and wrinkles with ease.

### Soleplates

You can choose from stainless steel, anodized aluminum, ceramic, and nonstick soleplates. The best gliders are often stainless steel or ceramic. Nonstick soleplates don't glide that well.

### Controls

Irons can have dials, slides, or digital controls. Make sure the controls are easy to see and adjust and that fabric settings are clearly marked. A temperature control that's clearly labeled and easily accessible, preferably on the front of the handle, is a plus. Most irons have an indicator light to show that the power is on.

### Comfort

Even an iron that's excellent at ironing may feel heavy or awkward in your hand, so hold it before you buy.

### Auto Shut-Off

Most new irons have this feature. It turns off the power if the iron is motionless for a number of seconds or minutes, whether laid flat or propped up. Some irons will also shut off when left on their side.

### Burst-of-Steam or Surge Button

This feature in a steam iron delivers an extra blast of steam to subdue stubborn wrinkles. It come in especially handy if you often press linen or heavy fabrics such as denim.

### Cord Swivels

Most manufacturers have designed steam irons with a 360-degree cord swivel mechanism. This feature lets you move the iron in any direction, but the cord stays in one place.

### Self-Cleaning System

The self-cleaning system flushes mineral deposits from vents, but is not always effective with prolonged use or with very hard water.

### Adjustable Steam

This feature lets you adjust the amount of steam or shut the steam off, as needed. An anti-drip feature, found on most steam irons, is designed to prevent leaks when you steam at lower settings.

### Easy-to-fill Water Tank

Most steam irons have a small water tank inside. You can fill the water through a small hole near the handle and cover it to prevent spillage. Some models even have removable water tanks that are easy to refill.

### Transparent Water Reservoir

A transparent chamber makes it easy to see the water level. Ensure that the water tank is marked with the water level.

### Vertical Steaming

The vertical steaming feature makes sure that you can use the iron in an upright position to remove wrinkles from hanging garments and freshen up drapes.

### Water Fill-Hole Cover

A hinged or sliding cover over the water-fill hole is supposed to prevent leaking, but it doesn't always work.

### Warranty

Warranty offered on irons differs from brand to brand. Check how many years of warranty your brand is offering. Most brands offer two years of warranty in case of any failure or damage to the product may be repaired or the product replaced.