

theBest

11TH ANNUAL GOOD BUY AWARDS

The GH Research Institute
salutes the most innovative
problem-solving
products of the year

Choosing these winners was no small feat for our GH Research Institute experts: They evaluated more than 2,000 products last year before coming up with their first list of 46 nominees. And to find their final nine, they did 60 stain-removal tests, evaluated a refrigerator for a week straight, monitored the Daysago Day Counter (below) for 44 consecutive days, and much, much more. Roll out the red carpet...

QUICK-CLEAN PAINT ROLLER

It can take 10 minutes to wash standard paint rollers (if you don't give up and toss them first). Save time and hassle with the Premium Roller Covers (\$9 for three) from Shur-Line. They're Teflon-coated, so paint rinses off the nap fast (it took about two minutes in our tests). "You're more likely to reuse these because they're so easy to wash," says GHRI expert Stacy Genovese. "That's better for the Earth—and your wallet."



FOOD-SAFETY FAVORITE

No more debates about the half-eaten jars of sauce in your fridge. The Daysago Day Counter (\$12 for two) from Double U Products attaches to containers and times the number of days and hours your edible has been open—so you can eat it before it expires. Visit goodhousekeeping.com for our Toss It Out Table.



STRONGER SKIN PROTECTION

Guard yourself from sunburns—and cancer-causing rays—better than ever before. The new sunscreen, Anthelios SX (\$29 for a 3.4-ounce tube), from La Roche-Posay is the first brand sold in the United States to protect skin from the full spectrum of UVA and UVB radiation. It contains Mexoryl SX, which, until last year, was available only in Europe. The ingredient makes sunscreen less likely to degrade in the daylight. Apply Anthelios SX daily (put it on before your makeup; it's also a moisturizer). And remember, there's no such thing as a magic cream: Reapply every two hours when you're out in the sun or swimming. ▶

THE CAT'S MEOW

Finally, kitty litter that really gets rid of embarrassing odors. Unlike other brands, the Fresh Step Scoopable Cat Litter (\$5 to \$12) from Clorox uses carbon to kill smells, rather than ingredients that just mask them. Gushes one tester, "I've lived with cats for 20 years and this is the first product that wipes out smells without adding an unpleasant, perfumey one of its own."



NO-WRINKLE WASHER

The shirt you want to wear is crumpled and you don't have time to iron it. Throw it in the TROMM SteamWasher (\$1,599) from LG Electronics. This front loader has a special steam-only cycle that conquers creases in 20 minutes—so you can shower, say, while it's "pressing" up to five garments.

Or use the setting to freshen clothes (for example, a blazer you've worn just twice) and cut back on pricey dry cleaning. To tackle tough stains, add steam to your regular load. You'll actually use less energy than with the normal cycle alone.



COMFIER CUSHION

It's a pain in the neck—literally—when you're relaxing on the couch and you can't get the pillow behind your head to stop shifting. That's why one *Desperate Housewife*, Felicity Huffman, designed the Head's Up Comfort Pillow (\$30). It has a slip-resistant flap that hangs over the back of your seat, so the cushion stays in place while you rest your weary head. Says Huffman, "This pillow can turn any room in the house into a comfort zone." They're also great for use on airplanes. ►



MULTI-FUNCTION FRIDGE

Sometimes you need more freezer space (perhaps you've just stocked up on steaks); other times, you need more refrigerator shelves (you're hosting a party, say, and have sodas galore). The Quatro Cooling Convertible Refrigerator (\$2,600) from Samsung can suit all your needs. In addition to the standard fridge/freezer compartments, the unit has two bottom drawers, each of which can function as a refrigerator or freezer—on any given day. Push a button and the unit will quickly change modes.



IN-CAR CHARGER

It's a nightmare scenario: You're parked in a dark lot on a cold night and your battery is dead. With the Simple Start (\$60) from Black & Decker you can jump your car—without ever getting out of it. Plug the charger into your cigarette lighter and, in about 10 minutes, you'll be driving home. To be sure it's always ready to work, recharge the Simple Start once a month through your car's



TINY TOOL, BIG STAIN BUSTER

Rug looking shabby from stains? Try the Woolite Pod (\$4) from Bissell, an all-in-one spot-removal tool that fits in the palm of your hand. Squirt the pod's cleaner onto any set-in splotch and use the brush to scrub. Once the carpet dries, fluff it with the built-in grooming comb. Says expert Carolyn Forté, "This little guy is powerful enough to remove ink!" ■

MEET THE GHRI DIRECTORS

Carolyn Forté, Home Appliances & Cleaning Products
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Stacy Genovese, Consumer Electronics & Engineering
Kathleen Huddy, Textiles, Paper & Plastics
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