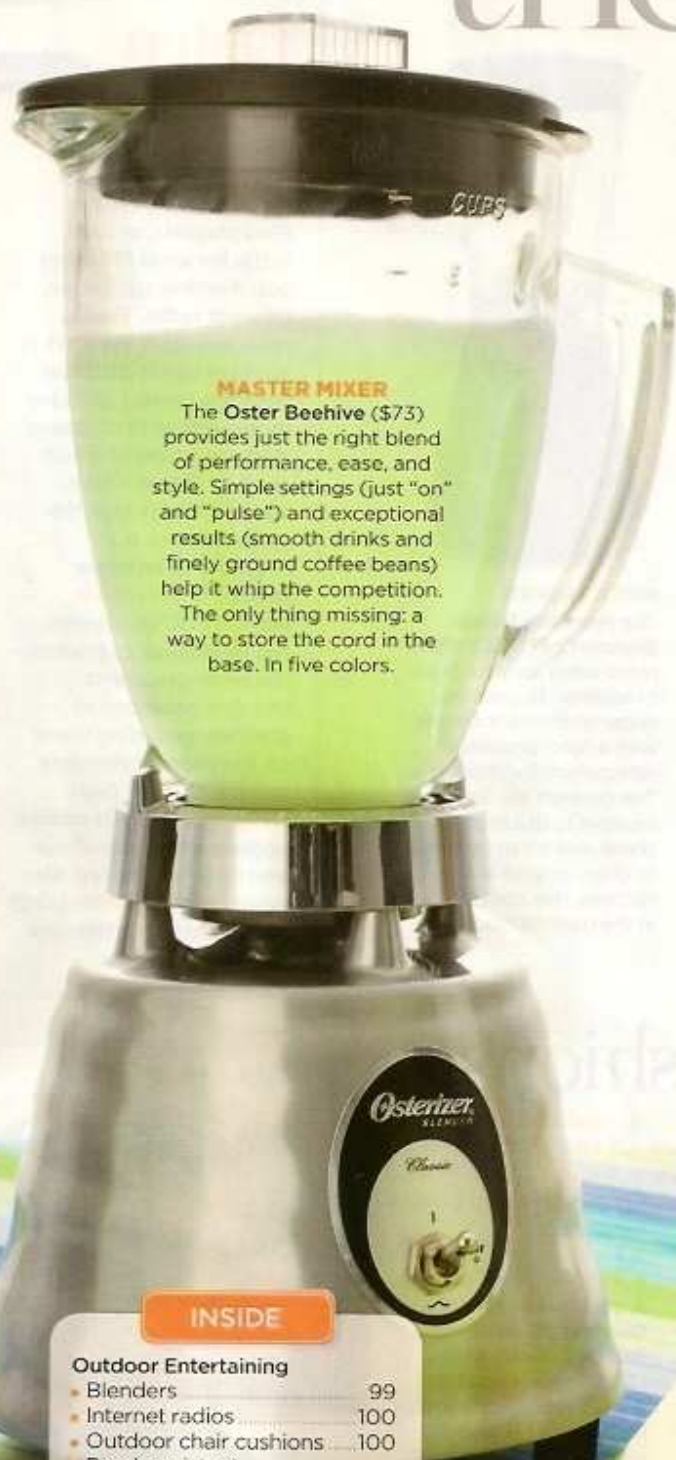


Testing from the  
Good Housekeeping Research Institute

# the goods

WHAT TO BUY, SKIP & KNOW



#### MASTER MIXER

The Oster Beehive (\$73) provides just the right blend of performance, ease, and style. Simple settings (just "on" and "pulse") and exceptional results (smooth drinks and finely ground coffee beans) help it whip the competition. The only thing missing: a way to store the cord in the base. In five colors.

## Dining OUT!

Your best bets for easy backyard entertaining

TESTING YOU CAN TRUST

#### TOP BLENDERS

Nothing has the summer chill-out appeal of a frosty margarita or smoothie. We tested 42 blenders to see how well they made these drinks (and put them to work grinding coffee beans and chopping onions). We also looked at how easy they were to use and clean (most jars are dishwasher-safe), and how helpful manuals and customer service were. What we learned: Complicated controls, high wattages, and steep prices don't always mean peak performance. →

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##### Outdoor Entertaining

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**MODERN** The unexpected square shape and low profile of Zak Callaway (\$5 per dinner plate) caught our eye. The plates' durability won us over. They stood up to falls on wood and slate and multiple runs in the dishwasher. Only a sharp steak knife caused any noticeable scratching. Like all melamine, they're not microwave-safe. In four colors.

**SOPHISTICATED**

A design innovation in the 1960s, Heller's stacking MAX 1 Dinnerware (\$10 per dinner plate) has up-turned sides that handily contain food if you're mingling while eating. The melamine washed beautifully and resisted breaking and chipping, though cutting on it left scratches. In white only.

# Break-Resistant Plates

Durable, dishwasher-safe dinnerware is a smart investment—you'll save money (and the Earth) over time by not using wasteful disposables. We stained, washed, scratched, and dropped 29 sets to serve up these four for your consideration.

**CLASSIC** First introduced 40 years ago, the proprietary glass of Corelle's Livingware (above, \$40 for a 16-piece set) is still the gold standard for versatility in casual dishes. Dishwasher- and microwave-safe, it's also scratch- and chip-resistant. Plates survived falls onto a wood floor, but one sample shattered on slate. Individual plates, bowls, and mugs also available. In 28 patterns.

**GHRI INSIGHTS**

**ALFRESCO LIGHTING**

For dinners after dark, candles are an ambience go-to. They are also easily blown out by the wind—and can be a fire hazard. Luckily, the latest battery-powered faux candles and lanterns look like the real thing, and long-lasting LED bulbs and lithium batteries mean many hours of burning time. For a review of the offerings, go to [goodhousekeeping.com/outdoorlighting](http://goodhousekeeping.com/outdoorlighting).



**ELEGANT** For sheer "wow" factor, Le Cadeaux Melamine Collections (\$14 to \$17 per dinner plate) is worth a look. In fact, at first glance, it's difficult to tell that it's not real china. The 22 stunning patterns—from traditional Provençal to graphic prints—won't fade in the dishwasher or become stained from food, but knives may scratch them. The pieces may also chip or break if dinged or dropped.



Click Here Watch the test—and see which plates break!—at [goodhousekeeping.com/plates](http://goodhousekeeping.com/plates)

# GHRI

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and magazine advertisers deliver on their promises.



# 1,160

That's how many times we scraped forks and knives across break-resistant dinnerware to see if it would scratch. To test the durability of dishes, we dropped them up to three times onto wood and slate (some survived six falls) and bumped their edges on a stone slab (checking for chips)—all possible backyard-party mishaps. Go to page 99 for the top plates, and other picks for dining alfresco.

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