



Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews 2016

Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews

Which Portable Ice Maker is BEST? That's what we're talking about today in these portable ice maker reviews.

Updated: April 7, 2016 – Square ice cubes, round cubes, small ice cubes... even pellet ice cubes like Sonic has... all of those options are available on certain best-rated brands of portable ice makers these days.

And those are just the options as far as what KIND of ice cubes you want your portable ice maker to make.

There are MANY more available features and options available that is can be mind-boggling.

So WHICH portable ice making machine is right for YOU?

That's what this Portable Ice Maker Buying Guide is for – to help you figure out, compare inexpensive models and high-end portable ice maker models, see current sale prices to get the best price, etc.

This Buying Guide is designed to help you compare the brands and the choices on the market in 2016 to ensure YOU buy the perfect and most *affordable* portable ice maker for YOUR needs.

If you're in a rush...

==>> [See only the best-rated portable ice makers on Amazon here](#)



Alright – let's jump in and get started.

Best Portable Ice Maker

First step... what/where/how do you plan to use a portable ice maker?

Review of My Portable Ice Maker

There are many specific needs, but for me, I simply wanted my ice maker to be portable, lightweight, easy to carry, simple to use, and VERY easy to clean – that way, I could use it anywhere and EVERYWHERE.



We not only do a lot of entertaining at home... cook outs,

backyard parties, birthday parties, holidays like Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter – and ALL require me to come up with LOTS and LOTS of ice.

I also plan and throw baby showers, bridal showers, birthday parties, fundraiser events, house warming parties, church events, receptions, reunions, etc AWAY from home – so my little ice cube maker machine HAD to be portable and easy to ME to take from place to place.

I had one more requirement for my choice of a portable ice maker – **it had to have a freezer type storage compartment to keep the ice frozen.** That frozen storage ability was a MUST HAVE for me.

in the picture: [the portable ice maker I chose](#)

I did NOT want to HAVE to tote a [cooler](#) around with me everywhere just so I'd be sure to have a place to keep my fresh ice frozen.

→ Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews & Buying Guide 2016

Portable ice makers that do NOT have that freezer storage option, well... sure, they *make* ice cubes, but they start melting right away unless you move the cubes to the freezer or a good cooler.

I have a [nice YETI cooler that I love](#) – and good golly, it certainly DOES [keep ice for a long time](#) – but I didn't want to HAVE to *bring* that with me.

Instead, I wanted a portable ice maker that would *also* keep my ice cubes frozen.

Short story – [this is the portable ice maker that works best for me.](#)

Portable Ice Maker Review Video

I love it! It might be considered more of a **[high-end, luxury portable ice maker](#)**, but it really wasn't that expensive. Plus, having the PERFECT portable ice maker/freezer combo was absolutely worth the money! If you're interested, you can [read all consumer reports, reviews, and feedback here.](#)

Here are other affordable portable ice makers with freezer combo models we considered.

So, that's my story of the best portable ice maker for my needs – now, let's talk about YOU.

Portable Ice Maker Uses

First, let's start with WHERE you want to use your portable ice maker. This will help narrow down your choices dramatically.

→ Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews & Buying Guide 2016

Best For Camping

A portable ice maker is a GREAT thing to have when you're camping. You'll need some sort of power supply, from either your campground or from your vehicle.

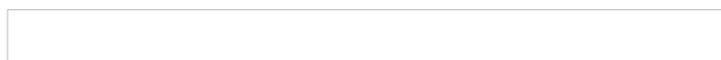
[Here are some of the best-rated portable ice makers for camping.](#)

Best For RV

There are different needs for a portable ice cube making machine for an RV motor home than there are for having one in your own home kitchen.

For many, needing a smaller ice maker is ideal so you save space on countertop areas. No one needs a big, bulky ice machine when you have limited space to begin with.

[This is the favorite portable ice maker for RV use according to consumer reports, reviews, and feedback – they LOVE it!](#)



★★★★★ **Very much worth the investment, superb machine!**
Super addition to our RV! Works great! Looks Great! I am very satisfied with this purchase. I was very surprised at just how much ice it could make from just one gallon of... [Read more](#)
Published 12 days ago by Frank Edwards

★★★★★ **Easy-to-use**
Put water in. Plugged it in. Started making ice.
Published 13 days ago by dono

★★★★★ **Five Stars**
Exactly what I wanted!
Published 17 days ago by Amazon Customer

★★★★★ **Five Stars**
Great machine.
Published 21 days ago by Jimmie

★★★★★ **It worked great every time we have used it**
We are using it in our RV. It worked great every time we have used it. Will try it out more this summer when we go on a longer trip. [Read more](#)
Published 21 days ago by maxine wise

It comes in red, white, and a silver/stainless steel color. Great little

→ Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews & Buying Guide 2016

It makes 27 pounds of ice cubes per day, AND it makes a cycle of ice in about 7 minutes. It also has a choice of THREE types of ice cubes where the other one above only had a choice of 2 kinds of ice cubes.

I did a lot of research on RV and Motor Home forums and the over-whelming majority love [their Magic Chef portable ice maker](#). When other “fancier” units broke, their Magic Chef was still going strong.

Best For Boat

I sure wish we had a portable ice machine in our boat last summer – how NICE that would’ve been to have freshly made ice as opposed to almost melted ice from the cooler (yuck!)

The over-whelming majority of boat owners swear by [their U-Line Marine Ice Maker](#). They are truly awesome, make a ton of ice really fast, and the machines last for years. BUT, they tend to be a little on the expensive side and out of many boat-owners budgets. [You can check current prices on U-Line Marine Ice Makers here.](#)

Below are some other less-expensive portable ice makers for boat and pontoon use.

Best For Car

If you’ve ever traveled long distances in your car with your family/kids and or friends, I won’t need to prove just how awesome a portable ice maker would be in your car.

→ Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews & Buying Guide 2016

Using a portable ice maker in your car or truck requires special power supply cords, etc, so make sure you buy one that actually does what you need.

Here are some good deals on some highly-rated portable ice cube maker machines for car use.

Best For Outdoors

Since I've already covered camping use and RV use, let's talk about having a portable ice maker on your patio or deck.

We entertain quite often and the first thing we always run out of is ICE.

Buying a portable ice maker for outdoor use is at the top of our list for our backyard entertaining this year.

These are the outdoor use ice makers we are choosing between:

Best For Office

My sister-in-law works in a small office with a handful of employees.

Get this, they still use those plastic ice cube trays to make ice!

But guess what? No one ever bothers to *refill* them.

She and her boss are now choosing between these portable ice makers for office use.

Best For Home Bar

→ Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews & Buying Guide 2016

Some day, when we completely finish [our home bar in our basement](#), I WILL have one of these portable ice makers.

Best For Home/Kitchen

If I weren't getting an ice maker for our outdoor use, I would just get one specifically for my kitchen. I'd want it to be smaller with less of a 'footprint' on my counter – and if it's portable, I can take it anywhere I want/need.

Note: if you are looking for an excellent **under counter/built-in ice maker for your kitchen**, [take a look at this one and read the reviews](#) . It's awesome!

Popular Portable Ice Maker Brands

There are MANY brands and styles from various ice maker manufacturers.

Some of the best portable ice maker brands to compare are: Dometic, Danby, Emerson, GE, Greenway, Frontgate, Kenmore, KoldFront, KitchenAid, Magic Chef, VinoTemp, Viking, AquaPort, Avantic, Nemox, Bellini, and Maximatic.

Needless to say, that's not a complete list of portable ice maker machine brands, but it's a good place to start your ice maker comparisons before you buy.

Portable Ice Maker Buying Tips:

→ Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews & Buying Guide 2016

Below are some things you need to consider before you buy a portable ice maker.

Price

Yes, price is the first consideration when comparing these portable ice making machines.

Sure, you want a great deal and you want the lowest price, but cheap is not the best option for a GOOD portable ice maker.

There are lots of high-end portable ice makers... and then there's ones that cost less than \$99 – \$100 or so.

Be sure that you are getting the exact portable ice maker model you want with the WARRANTY you need to get the best value.

Energy Star

□

Obviously, an ice maker installed at home won't be as concerning energy-use wise as one that is plugged in via a 12volt plug to your car or RV – or draining the battery on your boat.

Be mindful of energy and power consumption for the model you choose.

Ice Maker Options

→ Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews & Buying Guide 2016

You can get portable ice makers with refrigerated storage, water filters, space-savers, 12 v, 220 volt, 240v, gas-powered ice makers – even propane-powered ones.

There are portable ice makers with a water dispenser, some with a freezer compartment, some of these portable ice makers also have an ice crusher option – some are meant to be installed and other portable ice makers are free-standing and are truly portable. There's even fancy, high-end portable ice makers with LED screens and all kinds of 'whistles and bells'.

As you can see from just that short list of options, there is a LOT of choices to be made. You are certainly not limited by options – most are only limited by their budget.

Size

For almost all uses, a smaller sized ice maker machine is ideal. Easier to travel with and will save space on your counter tops at home or office.

Be sure to review the size specs before buying to make sure it will fit your needs.

Speed of Ice Making

This was a big one for us – how FAST does the portable ice maker actually make ICE? To be truly useful for us, it needed to make ice cubes quickly.

Amount of Ice Cubes

Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews

Another important consideration before buying a portable ice maker is to decide how MUCH ice you need it to make each cycle and the maximum amount of ice cubes it can make in a day.

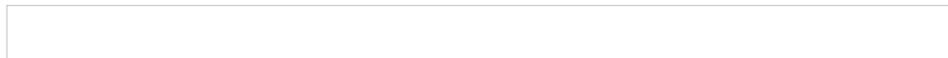
Some people really want a portable ice maker machine that makes 50 pounds of ice cubes... other folks choose 35 lbs or 30 lbs.

Again, lots of option here as well.

Ice Cube Size/Shape

Another important factor for many people comparing portable ice makers, is the type/size/shape of the ice cubes the machine makes.

Here is a simple graphic to show the 5 different types of ice cubes.



Source: <http://hoshizakiamerica.com/ice-calculator/>

As you can see, there are crescent ice cubes, square ice cubes, flaked ice (the kind of ice cubes that Sonics restaurants have – my personal favorite) – there are ‘Top Hat’ ice cubes, and ‘Cublelet’ ice (the softer small pellet shaped ice cube pieces).

If you’ve never even thought about the shape of your ice cubes and really don’t care, you might want to ask your family, friends, and/or co-workers. I guarantee that someone DOES have a preference!

→ Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews & Buying Guide 2016

If you REALLY want your ice maker to make **ice cubes like Sonic**, [check out this highly-reviewed under-counter/stand alone ice maker machine](#). Everyone LOVES the ice it makes!

No one wants a complicated appliance to deal with. Who has time to keep reading the manual for directions to learn how to use a portable ice maker?? No one, right!

Make sure your ice maker is easy to CLEAN as well. There is nothing worse than getting a fancy new gadget – and THEN learning how to clean it is harder than you ever anticipated.

Make sure it's simple to use AND simple to clean.

Color/Style

There are MANY colors of portable ice makers available... from black to stainless steel to red to teal and back around the rainbow.

If you plan to install your portable ice maker in your home or anywhere else the decor matters, be sure the color and style you choose will blend and match well so it's an accent – not an eye-sore.

Where to Buy

Amazon

→ Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews & Buying Guide 2016

Personally, I buy virtually EVERYTHING from Amazon – and they have an excellent selection of portable ice makers with all sorts of options here.

The Free Shipping alone lets me know I am getting a great deal and I've found the prices to be consistently competitive.

Here are other well-trusted sites online that have good deals and sales on portable ice makers.

Walmart

I was looking through the portable ice maker deals at Walmart and came across [this great little unit](#) that currently costs a little more than \$100 ([check current price here](#)).



This ice cube maker

→ Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews & Buying Guide 2016

Best of all, this ice maker doesn't need directions or an instruction manual – it's THAT easy to use.



[Walmart Here.](#)

[Kmart Here.](#)

This top-rated

NewAir AI-215R portable ice maker **makes 50 POUNDS of ice** per day... and makes a cycle of ice cubes in just **7 minutes**.

Super easy to use – just plug it in, add water (bottled or tap), and press start on the LED screen and you'll have fresh ice in just a few minutes.

Has lots of storage room for ice and keeps ice frozen, too. Also has an 18 hour timer to let you plan ahead to have ice cubes ready and waiting when you'll need them.

==>> [See this NewAir 50 lb Portable Ice Maker Here](#)

→ Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews & Buying Guide 2016

This is a [good deal on a high-quality portable maker](#) (shown in picture below)



This portable ice
ites to go through an

See the [New Air Stainless Steel Portable Ice Maker Here](#)
cuber maker cranks out a cycle of ice cubes every 10 minutes and makes up to a POUND of ice an hour and 35 pounds of ice in a day.

OverStock

Great for kitchen/home/mini-bar use or for on the go use (camping, RV, boat, etc).

It has a nice LED screen, and 18-hour timer (that's a great feature for portable ice makers to have).

Best of all – [this portable ice maker is SELF-CLEANING!](#)

All around, a great portable ice making machine. [See this self-cleaning](#)

→ Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews & Buying Guide 2016

Yes, it works great for home use as well, but it is extra “portable” making it perfect for outdoor use.

Produces up to 26 pounds of ice a day and only takes a few minutes per ice cube making cycle.

==>> [See the current deal on this Mr Freeze Portable Ice Maker on BestBuy Here.](#)

Camping World

I was thrilled to [see this deal on a teal blue colored small portable ice maker](#), isn't it unique?



g use, and/or in your

It's not the fastest

→ Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews & Buying Guide 2016

The deals change every day, but I've seen many of these ice maker deals for under \$100.
OK to Buy Refurbished?

If you [go to this page on Amazon](#) and see a deal on a CERTIFIED refurbished portable ice maker, yes, it's a good idea to grab it up as soon as you see it.

Not only can you see a LOT of money and get a really cheap portable ice maker, if there is the "Prime" logo next to it, Amazon will have your back in the off chance something is wrong.

I have never had a problem with a Prime purchase that [Amazon](#) didn't correct very quickly for me, so I would totally trust a refurbished appliance from them.

Which Portable Ice Maker is BEST?

I took a stroll around the internet to some trusted product comparison and reviews sites to see which portable ice maker they say is best.

Here's what I found out...

Consumer Reports Says:

Found buried in the [Consumer Reports](#) website, was some info saying that even after a year of heavy use, [this portable ice maker turned out to be the best](#).

I really never took a good look at that model before, but [the consumer reviews are pretty good](#), so might be worth a deeper look.

It's a good-looking stainless steel portable ice maker that would look great in the kitchen on the counter. Oh, and it makes clear ice, too, like the ice you get in bars and restaurants – that's kinda cool.

There is a helpful and pretty [interesting video on Amazon about this ice](#)

→ Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews & Buying Guide 2016



[See this portable ice maker here.](#)

Home Depot Says:

I took a peek to see what the good folks at [Home Depot](#) had to say.

They say that [this portable ice maker from Magic Chef is best](#) – and it looks like a good one.

Makes 30 pounds of ice and each ice cube cycle is complete in 7 minutes – that's really good.

It also offers the option to create 3 different sizes of ice cubes, with the

→ Best Portable Ice Maker Reviews & Buying Guide 2016

Best-Sellers

There are new models and brands of portable ice makers coming into the market every day. If you're looking for the best-selling and most popular portable ice makers, check this page on Amazon (updated daily). [Check this page to see the newest models available.](#)

Top 5 Portable Ice Makers New for 2016

To sum up all I've learned while doing lots of research online, the following list is the "short story" of the current Top 5 best-rated portable ice makers.

#1 – – [Magic Chef MCIM22TS 27lb Ice Maker Stainless](#)

#2 – – [NewAir AI-100BK 28-Pound Black Portable Ice Maker](#)

#3 – – [Luma Comfort IM200SS Portable Clear Ice Maker](#)

#4 – – [Gourmia GI500 Electric Compact Professional Stainless Steel Ice Maker](#)

#5 – – [Newair AI-215SS Stainless Steel Portable Ice Maker with 50 Lbs. Daily Capacity](#)

Portable Ice Maker Deals

Need the best price? [Check this sale and deals page on Amazon.](#)