

theBest



CLEAN YOUR FLOORS— WITH STEAM!

Toss your mop and bucket for the SteamFast Multi-Purpose Steam Cleaner (\$80)—a tool that makes floor scrubbing a cinch. Here's how it works: Fill the reservoir with water and plug in the mop; the H₂O will heat up in less than 30 seconds. Twist the dial and the cleaner will release steam that can cut through grime and disinfect surfaces—without using any detergent. When our GHRI pros tested the SteamFast against two competing models, it proved best at cleaning dried chocolate syrup, ketchup, and sticky fruit juice from vinyl, tile, and sealed-hardwood flooring. And its reservoir held enough water to last for an impressive 20 minutes. Plus, the SteamFast was the group's only multifunctional cleaner: Remove the long handle and replace the floor scrubber with one

of the many attachments—such as a wire brush that's great for scouring baked-on oven grease—and you've got a handheld tool. Try doing *that* with a sponge mop!
—Nathaniel Benforado

NEVER GET LOST AGAIN

The good old family road atlas now has some competition: the portable in-car GPS unit, a high-tech (and high-price) gadget that gives audible, step-by-step directions while you drive. At least, that's the theory—but as we discovered in our test of 24 new models from top brands, not every GPS on the market is worth your money. Many were difficult to use, some suggested making U-turns on busy roads, and others didn't give the smartest routes. In all, only a third of the models met GHRI's criteria: ease of use combined with high technical performance.

TWO TRUSTWORTHY CHAMPS: the Garmin StreetPilot c530 (\$500) and the Navman F20 (\$350). Both scored tops in our tests, and both were simple to operate. User-friendliness is important, because once you're behind the wheel, you don't want to drive and reprogram the unit at the same time. (If you really must switch destinations when you're on the road, pull over before you start fiddling.) To avoid all temptation, get the Garmin model—when in Safety mode, it won't allow you to input changes while the car is in motion. ▶

