

We tested...

CarPlan Triplewax Extendable Water Fed Wash Brush

2 MORE than a passing resemblance to our Halfords Best Buy (right), but the fittings on the CarPlan aren't as big or tough — and that proved its downfall. Due to a stripped thread, if you used it energetically, water sprayed everywhere. A real shame, as this has a keen price, a hose connector and a neat brush with a drying blade.

Hozelock Rotating Car Brush

3 UNIQUELY here, this product does some of the work for you. The rotating head sees the bristles spin with the flow of water, reducing the amount you need to move them. It works pretty well and the brush also has the usual Hozelock switchole car wash dispenser and slow flow control. But there is no rinsing jet and it's hard to justify that high price.

Kent Universal Telescopic Flow-thru

4 CAR care specialist Kent has revamped the pole on this brush, but there is still work to do. While an on/off switch has been included, there is no flow control and we had trouble hooking it up to our standard Hozelock hose connector. A loose fit meant the water supply was restricted, although when held in place the jet was powerful and easily got enough to rinse with.

Hozelock Professional Cleaning Brush

5 NEXT to our other extending brushes, this Halfords-sourced Hozelock feels rather short, and makes cleaning harder work. But there's a lot to like about it. The dispenser can be turned on and off, and uses normal car wash, not soap sticks. Yet although the brush rotates, it's smaller than most rivals and we'd have liked some sort of rinsing jet.

Kent Professional Telescopic Flow-thru

6 PAY £2.50 more for Kent's Universal (above), and you get a head with bristles on a side — ideal for tall cars. But the extending pole suffers the same connection problem, with partial water flow unless the hose is held in place. There's no pressure control, but the on/off switch is handy. And with the hose

Halfords Heavy Duty Extending Wash Brush

1 BEST BUY Full water control, soap dispenser, hose connector — this Halfords brush has it all. And crucially, it makes cleaning your car quick and easy. It effortlessly reaches just about every panel, including sills and bumpers. At the full 1.7-metre stretch it became less wieldy, but the comfortable grips are adjustable and the jet powerful enough to be used for rinsing as well as washing. Brilliant.



HOSE DOWN

Which brush or spray gun should you fix to your hosepipe to make the best job of cleaning your car? We pick from 12 top products...



Homebase 9 Pattern Spray Gun

7 FOR around one-third of the price of the other spray guns, the chain store's offering is well put together and does the job. It has a plastic casing and connector, but uses a similar soft grip handle to the Aqua Gleam (right), and its nine jets are labelled in the same way as the best

Aqua Gleam Spray Gun

8 WITH its super-solid feel, this spray gun sold by Ultimate Finish is a delight to use. It has a grippy, yet soft, handle with plenty of grooves to let water run off to the metal casing and connector. The eight patterns on the head are neatly marked and easy to select with the soft rubber bezel. Great value. But at this price you'll have to

Draper 4 Piece Car Washing Kit

9 RECOMMENDED You get a lot for the money with Draper's budget kit — and for many car cleaners it does it all. The gun delivers a strong jet, the brush is small enough to tackle simple alloy wheels and the window cleaning pad and drying blade work well. If you can manage without water control or

CarPlan Triplewax Water Fed Wash Brush

10 WASH brushes don't come much more basic — or cheaper — than this. The bargain price buys the brush and a quick-fit connector only, but they are surprisingly effective. The head is small enough to tackle alloy wheels with big sills and shifts road grime quickly. Wellies are a must as there is no water

Hozelock Ultra Metal 14

11 RECOMMENDED Sourced from B&Q, this is our pick of the spray guns, and it's well worth the money as it covers all the bases. Metal parts gain a weighty, quality feel and, like its rivals here, it has labelled spray tags. Yet unlike the other guns, this locks in the on position, for more comfortable use. Plus, you can control the flow to suit the

Hozelock Jet Brush

12 USE this and you soon see the advantage of a long pole: The veteran Hozelock Jet Brush scores well in its switchole car wash dispenser, flow control and half-decent rinse spray. But it's nowhere near as simple to use as its extendable rivals. The weight of the hose restricts movement, and as it's so close to the brush, it's easy to

Rin Adams

A HOSE makes washing your car a lot easier than messing around with buckets. What's more, there's a huge range of attachments designed to take the strain out of the job. And quick-release, water-stop connectors mean you can plug them in to the end of your hose without having to make repeated trips to the tap.

Your choice ranges from simple spray guns to extending brushes, which clean big off-roaders and MPVs — and there's a raft of combinations in between. So which hose attachment is the quick and easy solution? We set to work with 12 to find the real deal.

The test

TO clean up in this test, a product needed all our essential features: a quick-release connector, controls to stop and slow water flow and a soap dispenser. Extra marks went to those devices which could control the soap and came with a connector for the hose.

We rated each attachment for its cleaning ability, and looked for strong build quality, too. Finally, we factored in cost — although the prices here do not include any delivery charges.

Verdict

OUR Halfords Best Buy had all our essentials, and made shifting grime easy. But if the Heavy Duty brush is beyond your budget hunt down the Draper kit. It's really capable for a great-value £7 price tag. Our pick of the spray guns is the flexible Ultra Metal 14 from Hozelock — this simply offers quality and is a dream to use.

- 1. Halfords Heavy Duty Extending Wash Brush
- 2. Draper 4-piece Car Washing Kit
- 3. Hozelock Ultra Metal 14



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