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Consumer reports printers

The Consumer Electronics Show, also known as CES, is one of the largest fairs around. It is far larger than Comdex, and may even be larger than other computer-related programs such as CeBit or Computex. The exhibitions span a wide range of technologies, ranging from simple digital clocks to sophisticated satellite TV. This year's CES filled up the Las Vegas Convention Center, including the sprawling new South Hall, which debuted at this year's event. Unlike computer-related shows, the diversity of businesses represented is staggering. Here are the old consumer electronics companies, such as Phillips, Panasonic and Harmon Group. Here are semiconductor companies like Cirrus Logic and Intel. Here are companies that only make accessories, such as brackets to mount the TV on the wall or companies that make shelves for home theater equipment. Here is a huge selection of wild equipment for cars. It's heaven for a tech addict like yours really. We have to spend four days walking around the show and still don't feel like we covered everything. We met some interesting companies, and talked about all sorts of cool things. Now it's our turn to try to share what we saw and heard. Themes and trendsThere seemed to be several major thematic elements that emerged from this year's show. I certainly can not say what the official themes were, but from reading the goods on the floor, there were some interesting trends:Page 2 By Loyd Case on January 11th, 2002 at 5:07 pm This site can earn affiliate commissions from the links on this page. Terms of Use. Viewsonic Shifts GearsOn the first day we swung off the Viewsonic booth. Viewsonic showed off a couple of very interesting new products. One was a 36-inch, rear projection video screen, called VX3600, based on LCoS (liquid crystal on semiconductor) technology. The model on the screen was a prototype, and we saw some visual objects. The final version, which goes into production, has none of the minor visual issues we noted, according to Marc McConnaughey, Viewsonic's Senior Vice President of Advanced Technologies. Viewsonic has all intentions to enter the heated market for home theater monitors. This special screen is aimed at home theater enthusiasts and video gamers. The SX3600 has an original resolution of 1280x768 native, using a three-panel, 0.907-inch LCoS module made by JVC. This special iteration of the screen has a contrast ratio of 350:1 – good enough for most standard TV shows, but not quite high enough for the serious movie buff. McConnaughey, however, sees this go up to a very respectable 1000:1 by next year. Another cool aspect of the screen is the large number of connections, shared between a front panel and the back of the screen. In fact, the list of contacts reads as a veritable alphabet soup by standards. It has three USB connectors, three DVI-V plugs, two RGB (VGA) inputs, two component video connections, three S-Video inputs, three composite video connections, three audio and an optional 1394 (FireWire) connection. Easily connect a PC, multiple game consoles, and vx3600 home theater outboard and have connections again. The built-in sound is probably best suited for regular TV. The first release of the VX3600 may be on order of \$6000, but will come down to probably 1/2 that price in six months. The next versions will be even cheaper. The second Viewsonic product was a very low price (\$1,895), LCD projector that Viewsonic aims for the home theater market. They offer a similar, 1024x768 data-oriented device for \$2,495. We will look into these projectors in the future. Plus Moves Beyond the OfficePlus is one of a number of manufacturers of office projectors. The classic office projector is relatively compact, quite bright and not always well suited for movies. On the other hand, decent home theater projectors have generally been out of reach for most consumers. Projectors that deliver sufficient image quality usually cost \$5,000 and up. Even projectors that use digital technology (that is, LCD or DLP projectors) have been expensive – and quite massive. Although they have rich, they do not mesh well with the normal living room or family environment. Enter Plus, which has developed a very compact, DLP projector de dubbe Plus Piano. The piano sits comfortably on a coffee table or can be mounted in a ceiling bracket. It comes in five different colors, to mesh easily with the home environment. Internally, it uses a Texas Instrument DLP chip that can run at 848x480 or 800x600. Although it lacks a zoom function, it has keystone correction, composite video, component video, S-Video and a DVI connector. It also has a key feature: a Silicon Images line doubler chip - the same one used in Silicon Images' highly regarded DVDO line doubles product. For more information, check it out at www.plushometheater.com.The projector also has an 800:1 contrast ratio and very respectable black level. The net result is amazing image quality for most DVD movies. All this visual goodness weighs in at a list price of \$2,999. This is still not as cheap as we would like to see, but it is in the same price range as a large screen, rear projection screen - even if you factor in the price of a screen. It takes up very little space, making it a viable solution for relatively cramped spaces, but can generate an image that looks startlingly gorgeous, even on an 80-inch diagonal screen. « Previous 2 of 10 Next » RD.COM Money SavingEvery editorial product is independently selected, although we may be compensated or receive an affiliate commission if you buy something through our links. Ayman alakhraas/ShutterstockConsumer Reports has been one of the leading sources of reliable product reviews for generations. The American nonprofit is dedicated to objective product testing, so when they have something to say about everything from a washing machine to a stroller, you should listen! Recently, Consumer published a list of the 15 worst-rated items they've tested, and you might be surprised who made the list. While none of these products landed here for security reasons (these products earn a Do Not Buy designation), they did not perform as well as they should have, and as a result, earned the lowest overall scores in their respective categories. Here are the appliances, gadgets and gizmos you should skip – along with 15 you should check out instead. And when you take home the new purchase, make sure you don't make these 12 mistakes that shorten the life of your household appliances. [via walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com)The Greenworks 26022 is the worst snow thrower, according to Consumer Reports. It lacks the power to plow snow quickly, remove a bunch of snow, or even spread snow very far from where you plow, earning a poor rating in all three tests, they explain. When it comes to handling, it also does not go well. It is difficult to turn around and lack freewheel steering. A better option: the Troy-Bilt Two-Stage Gas Snow Blower, which has a self-propelled electric start, will last you through the seemingly endless winters. Home Depot reviewers claim it is easily manoeuvrable, durable and half the price of many competing models. Of course, even the perfect snow thrower can not be used on everything. This is the safest (and fastest) way to remove snow from your car. [via bestbuy.com](http://www.bestbuy.com)This gorgeous Viking Professional 7 Series refrigerator costs more than \$10,000, but it's not worth the money. Consumer Reports testers found that the internal temperature does not always match the thermostat setting, and earn it a fair assessment for thermostat control. In addition, it scored low in terms of predicted reliability and owner satisfaction. Consumers who buy Viking refrigerators may experience higher than normal break prices during the first few years of ownership, and they are unlikely to recommend Viking refrigerators to others, according to the review. The good news is that you don't have to pay \$10,000 to get a great refrigerator. The Whirlpool French Door Refrigerator in fingerprint-resistant stainless steel looks as elegant as models quadruple the price and has compiled an almost perfect rating from Home Depot buyers. When you get the new model home, make sure you don't do one of these 7 things that shorten your fridge life. [via amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)Another expensive appliance that doesn't live up to its price tag, this \$3,900 range from Fisher & Paykel earned a poor rating in Consumer Reports' cooktop low temperature tests. Why? The burners were unable to maintain low heat settings for tasks requiring simmering and melting. It also got low marks for baking, as the cakes and cakes we baked on different racks had uneven. If you want your kitchen creations to come out as perfectly as possible, try the Samsung Gas Range stainless steel range with self-cleaning and fan convection oven. This affordable model is one of Depot's highest-rated and best-selling series. Page a big-ticket item like this is an investment, you want to make sure that the one you choose works for as long as possible. Take a look at these 13 appliances that last for 10 years or more. [via amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)Uldigvis, this Amana washing machine is not going to get stains out of your clothes. Consumer Reports gave it a fair assessment for washing performance because there were plenty of red wine, blood, and carbon stains left on swatches we washed on a normal cycle. It scored even lower for water efficiency since it used 25.5 gallons to wash a single load. The Speed Queen TR3000WN 26-inch Top Load Washer may not look fancy, but several publications have chosen it as the most reliable washing machine on the market. You should also be aware of these 10 laundry mistakes you didn't know you were making. [via amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)Consumer Reports says this 3 Squares blender is ok on making smoothies, but it really lacks the ability to puree, as it was unable to mix raw vegetables to make soup. It also scored extremely low for durability because it actually broke before completing 45 test sessions of crushing ice. Yikes.Of course you can't go wrong with a Vitamix or a NutriBullet, but if you want one of the latest and most innovative blenders on the market, invest in Breville's Super Q. You can put almost any fruit or veggie in it, and within 30 seconds you'll sip the most velvety smoothie you've ever had. When you shop for groceries, these are things your merchant won't tell you. [via amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)If you like to start your day with a cup of goodsmaking coffee, avoid this Proctor-Silex Single Serve model. The cheap price tag may make it seem like a good deal, but it just makes ok-tasting coffee, say the testers at Consumer Reports. It is also rated low for temperature consistency (which means that each cup of coffee varies in how hot it is) and speed. It is slow to brew another cup of coffee because the device needs to be cooled between brews, they point out. A good single-serve coffee maker usually brews a cup faster than the first. It is a better idea to invest some money in the morning java-it will pay off in the long run. This OXO Brew 9-Cup Coffee Maker has a microprocessor-controlled brewing cycle, which basically replicates the fancy pour-over method you see at high-end coffee shops. In addition, each brew can produce two to nine cups of SCA certified coffee. And don't miss these tricks to make the perfect cup of coffee. [via amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)Sometimes you get what you pay for, Consumer Reports points out about Amazon's uber cheap Pinzon sheet. Our testers note that these sheets do not fit on a queen after less than a year's worth of washing. However, you can achieve comfort on a budget. Amazon users love Brushed Microfiber 1800 Bedding from Mellanni. With more than 70,000 reviews, the hypoallergenic queen-size sheets - which are wrinkle, fading and stain resistant - have compiled an almost perfect assessment. Av Way, if mounted sheets still give you grief, check out this hack that will help you fold a mounted sheet in seconds. [via walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com)Consumer Reports claims that the biggest problem with Shark Steam Pocket is that it doesn't have a motorized pump, which means you have to pump this mop yourself to get the steam going. In addition to failing to clean well, the steam speed is not great, due to the fact that the steam level varies depending on how much you pump. It also has the shortest cord in its category, limiting how far you can take it from a withdrawal. Bissell's PowerFresh Steam Mop, on the other hand, is Amazon's choice of steam mop – and for good reason. It has a 23-foot wire, it's super easy to maneuver because of the turn steering, and it's ready to go in 30 seconds. [via amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)If you are looking for an additional set of eyes at your front door, avoid the Netvue Belle A.I. video doorbell, warns Consumer Reports. According to testers, the video quality is poor, so you will not be able to see much from video taken in plain light, much less dim light. It also failed in response time tests because it takes nearly 13 seconds from someone pressing the doorbell to get a notification on the smartphone app — and then the UPS driver with your signature-demanding signature package will be long gone. But for less than \$100, you can own Alexa-compatible Ring Video Doorbell, which has received positive reviews from more than 42,000 Amazon customers. Here are other great options for the safest smart doorbells for your home. [via amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)This door lock from Weslock will not keep your home safe as it can't withstand kick-ins. We use a custom 100-pound steel framing that hits the door eight times at increasing heights until the lock fails, consumer reports said. It is also easy to pick or drill through. For a keyless offering that will keep your home accessible to your family but still protected from intruders, try Google Nest x Yale Lock, which connects to your entire Google Nest system. It has a keyless deadbolt and a design that cannot be picked. And don't miss these 13 sneaky ways FBI agents protect their homes. [via target.com](http://www.target.com)Experts at Consumer Reports love other Graco strollers, but not this one! In our safety tests, therotch belt part of the harness tore at the anchor point in not one, but two tests, they explain, pointing out that if the strap breaks completely, your child can slip out of the seat and potentially fall to the ground. In addition, the padded strap covers for the harness make it difficult to adjust the fit, and the fabric cup holder is not removable, so you can't clean it. If you're on the market for a stroller, check out Baby Jogger's City Mini GT2, one of the latest releases from the popular stroller company. It was recently selected as BabyList's Best Overall Stroller in 2019. Do you rely on online reviews to make your big purchases? Make sure you know these 16 red flags that an online review is a fake. 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