



Mug Shot

It's no exaggeration to say that a thermal mug or tumbler can make or break your morning. Features or flaws in design make the difference between a comforting sip and a scalding spill on your lap. We found that with some of the insulated mugs and tumblers on the market, there's a trade-off: those that protect better against spills are sometimes more difficult to clean, with more intricate lids. Others try to reinvent the wheel, incorporating unnecessary, gimmicky details. After several test-runs, we found that the best mug was one of the most straightforward; its performance owes to attention to construction quality, not novelty. —Shoshanna Cohen

Contigo West Loop Mug

16 oz., target.com, \$19.99

PROS: Attractive, modern design; spill-proof; easy to hold.

CONS: With hot liquid inside, it becomes very hot to the touch; doesn't keep beverages warm as long as others; with many nooks and crannies, lid is difficult to clean; user must press a button before each sip.

