



LIVING

Trib tested: Tried it ... liked it?

The Reviewer

Contigo Autoseal travel mug

Cost
\$19.99

Where

Target; Bed Bath and Beyond; Linens 'n Things; Costco; Caribou Coffee

Claim

Autoseal button prevents all leaks and spills. Built-in pressure release system ensures no spray upon opening. Keeps coffee hot and cold drinks cold for hours.



The Review

Finally, a hi-tech sippy cup for grown-ups. I drink a lot of coffee while driving, walking and typing. I also tend to spill stuff all the time, especially on myself. So the Contigo coffee mug, with its patented Autoseal technology, ought to be perfect for me. As it says on the label, "you finally have a mug that does the thinking for you." Great! I'm tired of thinking. The sim-

ergonomic cylinder is shiny, cobalt blue has a button on the side that you push whenever you want the fluids within. When you don't push the button, it doesn't release anything. Even if you hold it upside down and shake. That's pretty helpful. Especially if you live in a zero-gravity environment, like a space station. Alas, the Contigo is too big for the cupholder in my car.

For the most part, the Contigo locks in your beverage. The problem comes after you take a drink. There's a droop or two left over in the cap that will sneak out if you aren't careful. So don't guzzle a swallow and up-dump it to show your friends. Drillage will occur. While the Autoseal button is convenient, it takes a slight bit of effort. Someone whose hands aren't strong will find using it difficult. Only an hour and a half after I loaded it up with piping-hot

coffee, the beverage had chilled to just warm. It fared a bit better with my ice-cold pop. My guess is the Autoseal button that re-closes the drink also lets some of the heat out. But sleek and smooth, the Contigo scores high in aesthetics. The blue brushed metal exterior looks - and feels - like it would hold up well to dings and bangs. Most importantly, it felt great in my hand. I was a bit concerned that it didn't fit so snug in my cupholder, but it never moved once during my commutes.

My 35-mile commute is a bit of a headache, but it's by virtue of a grande iced skinny vanilla latte, no whip, that I make it each morning. My poor car is worse for the wear, splattered with coffee spots. But the Contigo promised to stop that. And it did. No matter how many times I - purposefully - dumped my latte, the seal remained tight. Finally, no more sticky splashes all over my gear shift. As a gal who drinks her coffee iced, I've gotta say the ice lasted quite some time, though the

metal leaves a bit of an aftertaste. Two hours later, I was still sipping ice-cold coffee. But the autoseal technology is not exactly convenient. If you don't press it in just the right spot, you're going to be sipping air. And when you do find that perfect spot, you have to apply just the right amount of pressure to get your jaws going. Definitely hard to get used to. But the good news is, if you crop it, at least your front seat won't smell like you just walked out of Starbucks.

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The Reviewers

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