

RATINGS
GOOD: ★★★

FAIR: ★★

POOR: ★

RATING NONSTICK GRILL PANS

We tested eight nonstick aluminum grill pans (square shaped, whenever possible) and evaluated them according to the criteria listed below. When manufacturers offered more than one grill pan that satisfied our rubric, we chose their best-selling or recommended model. Tests were performed over gas burners on the professional-grade ranges in our test kitchen. The pans are listed in order of preference.

PRICE: Prices paid in Boston-area stores, national mail-order catalogs, or online stores.

MATERIAL: Materials from which the pan is made.

WEIGHT: As measured in the test kitchen, rounded to the nearest ounce.

RIDGE WIDTH: As measured in the test kitchen.

PERFORMANCE: We pan-grilled hamburgers; flank steaks; swordfish steaks; skinless, boneless chicken breast cutlets; glazed salmon; thick panini sandwiches; and sliced fresh zucchini. For each test, the color, evenness, and quality of the grill marks were most important. Scores of good, fair, or poor were assigned for each test, and the aggregate score determined the overall performance rating.

CLEANUP: After each test, we cleaned the pans by hand, with hot water and liquid dish detergent. Pans that washed up with little effort were rated good.

RECOMMENDED
Simply Calphalon Nonstick 13" Round Grill Pan
PRICE: \$39.95

MATERIAL: Anodized aluminum with nonstick coating, steel handle

WEIGHT: 2 lb 11 oz
RIDGE WIDTH: 3/8"
PERFORMANCE: ★★★
CLEANUP: ★★★

TESTERS' COMMENTS: The wide-body of the lineup turned out an impressive flank steak, with wide, nicely developed grill marks. Best-in-class pricing and generous cooking area pushed it to the top slot.

Pampered Chef Professional Cookware 11" Square Grill Pan
PRICE: \$95.00

MATERIAL: Anodized aluminum with nonstick coating, phenolic handle

WEIGHT: 3 lb
RIDGE WIDTH: 5/16"
PERFORMANCE: ★★★
CLEANUP: ★★★

TESTERS' COMMENTS: Gorgeous swordfish emerged from this pan, drawing a crowd of admirers, forks in hand and poised to pounce. Nary a misstep in any test. Available only from Pampered Chef sales reps.

Anolon Advanced 12" Covered Deep Round Grill Pan
PRICE: \$49.95

MATERIAL: Anodized aluminum with nonstick coating, silicone rubber-coated stainless steel handle

WEIGHT: 3 lb 6 oz
RIDGE WIDTH: 5/16"
PERFORMANCE: ★★★
CLEANUP: ★★★

TESTERS' COMMENTS: An even-tempered performer that won't break the bank. Impressive showing on the burgers, swordfish, chicken cutlets, and zucchini.

Swiss Diamond 11" Square Grill Pan
PRICE: \$129.99

MATERIAL: Cast aluminum with nonstick coating, phenolic handles

WEIGHT: 3 lb 14 oz
RIDGE WIDTH: 5/16"
PERFORMANCE: ★★★
CLEANUP: ★★★

TESTERS' COMMENTS: A heavy-searing star that produced beautiful grill marks. Its weight helped it overcome the cast design (we generally preferred hollow ridges).

All-Clad LTD. 11" Square Grille Pan
PRICE: \$69.99

MATERIAL: Complete aluminum core with anodized aluminum exterior and nonstick interior, stainless steel handle

WEIGHT: 3 lb 6 oz
RIDGE WIDTH: 3/8"
PERFORMANCE: ★★★
CLEANUP: ★★★

TESTERS' COMMENTS: Matched the other recommended pans in most ways, but stood out in none. Unevenly marked zucchini cost it a crucial performance point.

RECOMMENDED WITH RESERVATIONS
Berndes 12" Square Grill Pan
PRICE: \$99.95

MATERIAL: Cast aluminum with nonstick coating on interior and exterior, phenolic handle

WEIGHT: 3 lb
RIDGE WIDTH: 3/8"
PERFORMANCE: ★★
CLEANUP: ★★★

TESTERS' COMMENTS: Closely spaced ridges are to thank for faint, uninspiring grill marks—and utter lack of charred flavor—in nearly every test.

Look Nonstick Square Grill Pan, 10 1/2"
PRICE: \$90.00

MATERIAL: Cast aluminum with nonstick coating, phenolic handle

WEIGHT: 3 lb 12 oz
RIDGE WIDTH: 3/16"
PERFORMANCE: ★★
CLEANUP: ★★★

TESTERS' COMMENTS: Grill marks? Pass the magnifying glass, please. Choked on both heavy and light searing tasks, with grill marks as disappointing on the fish as they were on the zucchini.

Scanpan Classic 10 1/2" Nonstick Square Grill Pan
PRICE: \$104.95

MATERIAL: Cast aluminum with nonstick coating, phenolic handle

WEIGHT: 3 lb
RIDGE WIDTH: 1/16"
PERFORMANCE: ★★
CLEANUP: ★★

TESTERS' COMMENTS: Tall, tight ridges made it harder to clean than some, and for what? Faint grill marks and a significantly lightened wallet.