

**RATINGS**
**GOOD:** ★★★

**FAIR:** ★★

**POOR:** ★

# RATING 13 x 9-INCH PANS

We tested twelve 13 x 9-inch cake/baking pans in the test kitchen by baking four *Cook's Illustrated* recipes in each—cornbread, raspberry squares, gingerbread, and simple lasagna—and evaluated the pans according to the following criteria. Two brand new, freshly calibrated ovens were used for all tests, and all like food items were baked in the same oven—that is, one oven was used for all of the cornbread, one oven for all of the lasagna, and so on. For

the cornbread and gingerbread, all pans were coated with 1 tablespoon butter; a buttered parchment paper sling was used for the raspberry squares; and the pans were not prepared or greased at all for lasagna. Performance differences between the pans that did well were minor enough to let us recommend any of them. Within the Recommended and Not Recommended categories, pans are listed in ascending order by price.

**PRICE:** Prices paid in Boston-area stores, in national mail-order catalogs, and on Web sites.

**MATERIAL/FINISH:** Material from which the pan is made and the color of the baking surface.

**DISHWASHER-SAFE:** Dishwasher-safe pans preferred.

**PERFORMANCE:** Pan scores on the cornbread, raspberry squares, gingerbread, and lasagna tests were averaged to determine an

overall performance rating. Of the four tests, cornbread carried the most weight because it provided the clearest illustration of each pan's browning characteristics.

**RESTRICTIONS:** Warnings noted in a pan's use and care guide that might influence the decision to purchase, regardless of performance.

**TESTERS' COMMENTS:** Observations regarding the pan design, features, performance in specific tests, care, and cleaning.

**FAVORITE PAN**
**Pyrex** Bakeware 13 x 9 Baking Dish

**MATERIAL/FINISH:** Ovensafe glass/clear

**RESTRICTIONS:** Breakable; no severe temperature changes, contact with flame or direct heat source (stovetop, broiler, or toaster oven), harsh cleansers, or scouring pads. Cool pan before submerging in water.

**PRICE:** \$8.95  
**DISHWASHER-SAFE:** Yes  
**PERFORMANCE:** ★★★

**TESTERS' COMMENTS**

Produced deep and evenly golden brown cornbread and slightly dark edges on raspberry squares and gingerbread. The latter were by no means unacceptable, and the clear glass makes it easy to monitor browning.

**RECOMMENDED PANS**
**Baker's Secret** Non-Stick Oblong Cake Pan

**MATERIAL/FINISH:** Tinned steel/medium-gray nonstick

**RESTRICTIONS:** No metal utensils, steel wool, abrasive pads or cleansers, aerosol cooking spray, long-term food storage, direct contact with flame, or microwave.

**PRICE:** \$6.29  
**DISHWASHER-SAFE:** Yes  
**PERFORMANCE:** ★★★

Browns deeply and evenly, cleans up easily, and it's inexpensive. Not the sturdiest pan, but cheap enough to replace if need be.

**Chicago Metallic** Professional Bake N' Roast Pan

**MATERIAL/FINISH:** Aluminized steel/medium-gray nonstick

**RESTRICTIONS:** No metal utensils, cutting in pan, steel wool, abrasive pads or cleansers, or exposure to oven temperatures above 550 degrees.

**PRICE:** \$18.99  
**DISHWASHER-SAFE:** Yes  
**PERFORMANCE:** ★★★

Pan produced handsome dark golden brown cornbread and raspberry squares. Water collected in, then oozed out of, folded interior corner seams after washing and drying.

**KitchenAid** Sheet Cake Pan 13 x 9

**MATERIAL/FINISH:** Carbon steel/black-brown nonstick

**RESTRICTIONS:** No cutting in pan, steel wool, or abrasive pads or cleansers.

**PRICE:** \$24.99  
**DISHWASHER-SAFE:** No  
**PERFORMANCE:** ★★★

Oversized rims/handles make for especially easy handling. It is safe to use metal utensils, excluding knives, forks, and other pointed items.

**Calphalon** Commercial Nonstick Bakeware Rectangular Cake Pan

**MATERIAL/FINISH:** Aluminized steel/dark-gray nonstick

**RESTRICTIONS:** No metal utensils, steel wool, abrasive pads or cleansers.

**PRICE:** \$25.99  
**DISHWASHER-SAFE:** No  
**PERFORMANCE:** ★★★

Absence of rims or handles made it a bit tricky to grab with oven mitts. Items baked in this pan, however, were very deep golden brown and evenly cooked.

**Kaiser** Backform Noblesse Quadro 13 x 9 Springform Pan

**MATERIAL/FINISH:** Chromium-plated steel/light-gray nonstick interior/dark-black nonstick exterior

**RESTRICTIONS:** None listed.

**PRICE:** \$29.99  
**DISHWASHER-SAFE:** No  
**PERFORMANCE:** ★★★

Despite super-easy release owing to the springform design, we recommend this pan with a caveat: We wouldn't use it for dishes that might produce juices, for fear of leakage. Strictly for baking.

**Pampered Chef** Family Heritage Stoneware Rectangular Baker

**MATERIAL/FINISH:** Unglazed stoneware/light matte beige

**RESTRICTIONS:** Breakable; no sudden temperature changes, contact with flame or direct heat source, contact with soap, detergents, or cleansers of any kind. Cool pan before submerging in water. Requires initial seasoning.

**PRICE:** \$30.75  
**DISHWASHER-SAFE:** No  
**PERFORMANCE:** ★★★

The browning, especially on cornbread and gingerbread, was good, and it's OK to cut foods with a knife right in the pan. Did not retain food odors, as might be expected from unglazed ceramic.

**NOT RECOMMENDED PANS**
**Wilton** Performance Pan 13 x 9 x 2 Sheet

**MATERIAL/FINISH:** Anodized aluminum/matte silver

**RESTRICTIONS:** Not recommended for tomato-based recipes.

**PRICE:** \$7.69  
**DISHWASHER-SAFE:** No  
**PERFORMANCE:** ★★

Cooked raspberry squares less thoroughly than other pans and not as easy to clean as nonstick pans.

**Doughmakers** 13 x 9 Cake Pan

**MATERIAL/FINISH:** Aluminum/shiny silver, textured "Pebble Pattern"

**RESTRICTIONS:** No steel wool, abrasive pads or cleansers, aerosol cooking spray, high-acid foods, or long-term food storage.

**PRICE:** \$19.99  
**DISHWASHER-SAFE:** No  
**PERFORMANCE:** ★★

On the pro side, solidly constructed with generous handles. On the con side, the crust of the cornbread and the base of the raspberry squares were lighter than examples baked in darker nonstick pans.

**Wearever** CushionAir Covered Oblong Baking Pan

**MATERIAL/FINISH:** Two sheets of aluminum with an air layer in between/medium-gray nonstick

**RESTRICTIONS:** No soaking in water, dishwasher detergent tablets, steel wool, abrasive pads or cleansers, or knives or other sharp-pointed utensils.

**PRICE:** \$22.99  
**DISHWASHER-SAFE:** Yes  
**PERFORMANCE:** ★

Produced pale, spongy cornbread, raspberry bars ranging from pale to raw, and leaden, underbaked gingerbread. Additional baking time may have helped (as the use and care instructions state), but other pans performed better within prescribed baking times.

**Emerilware** 13 x 9 All Purpose Pan

**MATERIAL/FINISH:** Aluminum/shiny silver, textured "Diamond Surface"

**RESTRICTIONS:** No steel wool, abrasive pads or cleansers, detergents with chlorine, or aerosol cooking spray.

**PRICE:** \$24.99  
**DISHWASHER-SAFE:** No  
**PERFORMANCE:** ★★

As in the other textured-aluminum entrant, cornbread crusts and raspberry square bottoms were lighter than we prefer, and the bottom of the gingerbread was soggy.

**All-Clad** Rectangular Cake Pan 13 x 9, #9004

**MATERIAL/FINISH:** Aluminum core with stainless steel exterior and light-gold, stick-resistant interior

**RESTRICTIONS:** No steel wool, abrasive pads or cleansers, or cleansers with chlorine bleach.

**PRICE:** \$94.99  
**DISHWASHER-SAFE:** Yes  
**PERFORMANCE:** ★★

Browning of the cornbread crust and raspberry squares was acceptable but not stellar. Given the price, this pan should slice and butter your cornbread for you.