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## BEST BIKES FOR A SMOOTH COMMUTE

PLUG IN OR PEDAL IN COMFORT

Biking to work saves money, and the right set of wheels makes the ride a breeze. The **SCHWINN 2010 WORLD GS** (\$450) has 24 speeds and comes with fenders (you'll appreciate them on wet-pavement days), a rear rack (for hauling thick reports), a kickstand and a bell. The full chain cover stops grease from ruining your clothes, and the gel seat makes for a comfy ride.

Looking to add more zip to your commute? Go electric. **CURRIE TECHNOLOGIES' ZIP ECRIDE** (above) is a great way to jump on the electric-bike bandwagon. The \$999 e-bike goes up to 15 miles per hour and has a range of 15 to 20 miles on a single charge.

## BEST WAY TO FIND YOUR WAY

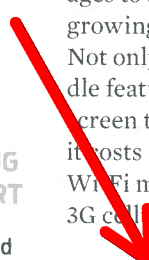
A GPS WITH EASY-TO-SEE MAPS

Your cell phone may provide directions, but can you read the maps on its dinky screen? A dedicated device, such as the **MAGELLAN ROADMATE 3065** (\$220), is a smarter traveling companion. Its 4.7-inch touch screen is easy to view, and the device is packed with all the best GPS features.

## BEST TECH GADGETS

SMARTEST WAYS TO READ, PHONE, VIEW AND STORE

- 1 What weighs 8.5 ounces and holds 3,500 books? The **KINDLE**, of course, Amazon's slender e-reader that manages to stay a step ahead of a growing list of competitors. Not only does the latest Kindle feature a higher-contrast screen than its predecessor, it costs less, too: \$139 for the Wi-Fi model; \$189 for the 3G cellular edition.
- 2 Data backups don't have to be dull. Iomega's line of **EGO PORTABLE HARD DRIVES** bring attitude to your archive. Featuring eye-grabbing cases with funky designs, an eGo drive brings you an extra-large, 500 gigabytes of storage for \$120.
- 3 The **MOTOROLA DROID X** (\$200 with a two-year Verizon Wireless contract) leads in a crowded field with its dazzling 4.3-inch touch screen and excels as a portable media player for Web videos and Verizon's VCast shows. The 8-megapixel camera shoots sharp still shots and high-def videos.
- 4 Apple's multitalented media player, the **IPOD TOUCH** (8GB model, \$230; 32GB, \$300; 64GB, \$400), keeps getting better. The latest model adds two cameras: a front-facing one for video chat and a rear-facing eye for shooting HD videos and still pictures.



## BEST WAYS TO SAVE ON WATER AND ENERGY AT HOME

**HIGH-EFFICIENCY TOILET**  
Replace an older toilet (1980 to 1994) with a WaterSense-labeled model. (WaterSense is an EPA-sponsored partnership program.) Savings: 4,000 gallons of water and \$25 annually per person in your home. We recommend the American Standard Cadet 3 (\$198 at [www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com)).

**LOW-FLOW SHOWERHEAD**  
Swap out an older showerhead with a WaterSense model that will provide a satisfying shower. Savings: 900 gallons of water and at least \$12 to \$15 annually per family member. Check out the Alsons Fluidics Shower Head (\$26 at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)).

**SMART THERMOSTAT**  
A programmable thermostat with preset temperatures to adjust the heating and cooling in your home when you don't need it as much. Typical savings are about \$180 annually. A good one is Honeywell's Touchscreen 7-Day model (\$84 at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)).

**FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS**  
Replace your five most-used light fixtures with Energy Star-rated CFLs, which use 75% less energy and last up to ten times longer than standard incandescent bulbs. Savings can total more than \$65 annually. You'll find a wide variety of styles at [www.1000bulbs.com](http://www.1000bulbs.com). CFLs run from \$2 to \$15 (for specialty bulbs).