

Tonka Tough

Samsung's also going back to basics, with a ruggedised phone, their M110 - designed for tradies and outdoor enthusiasts.

You don't really have to be a builder or mountain climber for Samsung's M110 to appeal, in many ways it's a great weekend or second phone. Swap your SIM card out from the business mobile after work and head for a bike ride or day on the water without fearing damage.

Many people drive 4WD vehicles around the city without taking them off road, similarly Samsung's M110 offers the security of greater protection.

Look & Feel

The M110 is a low fuss handset, resistant to water, dust, drops and bumps, due to its reinforced housing and rubberised seals.

Its keypad is made from a one-piece membrane, with no gaps to let moisture or dust in. Buttons are a decent size and raised, so they can be operated by 'builder's thumbs' or with gloves on.

A relatively basic 1.52" colour screen is included, more than enough to support calls and SMS. Samsung say they used a special hardened coating to help protect the screen from bumps and scratches.

Even though protective elements house the product, Samsung's M110 is still a pretty small phone - easily tucked away or taken jogging.

Performance

A dedicated rear speaker helps amplify alerts, so you can hear them from a distance or when the phone's packed away.

Downloadable MP3 and poly ringers can help spice things up, but there's only standard SMS tones to choose from.

Fonts are relatively large, so you can see what's going on at a distance, and out in sunlight.

Extras

There's an inbuilt LED torch and VGA camera, both handy inclusions for when you least expect to need them. The torch has a dedicated key, next to the red end button.

Integrating an FM radio is also a good idea - for people to listen to while working, training or enjoying the great outdoors. News, music, weather and traffic information are all freely available.

Bluetooth is another extra. Owners might want to use a headset, leaving both hands free. An inbuilt hands-free speakerphone is ideal for multi-tasking. Photos can also be shared with other phones over Bluetooth.

Impression

It's surprising how many times the request for simple but robust phones comes up in everyday conversation. Most just want them for calls and SMS. Plus if affordable enough, the whole thing can be replaced if it suffers a major mishap.



Actual size