

Dishwasher Tips:



Do not confuse scraping with washing: No one wants to wash their dishes before they wash their dishes. Scrape food bits off before loading up to help reduce particles being stuck on dishes or in the drain system once the cycle is over.



Do not overcrowd the dishwasher: This is something that is easier said than done. It is quite tempting to layer in one more bowl or plate to avoid hand washing. It is better to wash a few pieces by hand than it is to rerun an entire load because things were too tightly packed.

Clear the garbage disposal before running the dishwasher: Run the garbage disposal with the cold water running prior to turning the dishwasher on. This may avoid possibly overflowing the sink during the dishwashing cycle.

Run hot water just before starting the dishwasher: Before starting the cycle, turn on the faucet and run until the water is hot to the touch. This allows the first dishwasher fill cycle to be hot, instead of cold by starting with hot water right away.

Use the correct cycle: It can be tempting to use a shorter, lighter setting to save on time and water bills, but make sure you are washing all your super dirty dishes by hand if that is the case.

Do not double up on a rinse aid: When looking to purchase a soap for your dishwasher, make note if it includes a rinse aid. If it does, then there is no need to add any extra. If it does not, skip the extra purchase and just fill the reservoir with white vinegar. It will do the trick every time!

Do not open a steaming dishwasher: The steam can damage cabinets.

Run an empty dishwasher with vinegar: It is the same concept as running a vinegar load in your washing machine. You simply toss a cup of white vinegar into the bottom of an empty dishwasher and run a normal cycle. It cleans out old food particles to keep your dishwasher smelling fresh.



Clean the dishwasher trap: Down in no-man's land, under the lower sprayer, there is usually a part or screen that is removable. Under it you will usually find bits of food that did not make it out the drain. Sometimes the tray or screen comes out completely so it can be rinsed in the sink. Sometimes a towel is needed to remove any gunk buildup.

Clean the dishwasher seals: After a few months of use, your dishwasher accumulates a little bit of ick and stick stuff around the rubber gasket in the door and often around the soap door as well. Make sure to give them a-once-over with a damp towel to keep the grime down.

Check your water heater's temperature: Make sure the water heater is set between 120 and 125 degrees if you have one. This is the ideal temperature for washing dishes; do not be tempted to turn it higher or else it will cause water to flash dry and not roll off your dishes along with not taking dirty bits with it. Many units are shipped new set to a much lower temperature.

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