

TAKE A LOAD OFF

Tips To Unlock The Mystery Behind The Dishwasher

(NAPSA)—The dishwasher has been a growing necessity in American homes for more than 50 years, but not everyone is getting the most out of it. The biggest benefit of the automatic dishwasher is that it does the work for you—saving you time and energy—and gives your dishes a better clean. However, what happens inside the dishwasher is a mystery to most.

The automatic dishwasher uses powerful jets of water that blast off food particles. The hot water kills germs and bacteria. Running a dishwasher also saves water and money; each cycle uses only 6-10 gallons of water and costs less than a postage stamp.

To maximize your dishwasher, the team at Cascade®, a leading dishwasher detergent, recommends keeping these four aspects of the appliance in mind: water, loading, detergent and heat.

Water Works

For optimal washing, run the hot water in your kitchen sink for a few minutes before starting the dishwasher to ensure the water that enters the dishwasher is hot. Check your hot water heater to ensure that the temperature is at 120 degrees for optimal results.

The Dishwasher Puzzle

Loading your dishwasher correctly is key. Many people overload, which prevents the water from reaching every dish. Follow these tips when loading your dishwasher:

- Load dirty dishes facing the center and open ends down for optimal cleaning and drying.
- Place cups and glassware in the rows between the tines, to prevent breakage and water spots.
- Load taller items away from the center of the spray arm to



ensure smaller items get completely clean.

A Soapy Situation

Be sure to always completely fill the detergent cup. In areas with hard water, magnesium and calcium are present, preventing the dishwasher from cleaning as effectively, causing spotting and film on dishes. Overfilling the detergent cup in these areas can help—the more detergent used, the more the hard elements are broken down, giving your dishes the cleanest clean. Soft water lacks the elements found in hard water and therefore does not require additional detergent. However, filling both cups in soft water is still recommended to maximize dish cleaning. Also, consider choosing your detergent based on what you are washing. For example, Cascade® with Shine Shield™ is specifically formulated to help prevent etched (cloudy) glasses.

The Heat Is On

While the “heat dry” cycle is often skipped, using this feature to dry your dishes is more sanitary and quicker than hand drying.

For more information on dishwashing visit www.cascadeclean.com.