

## Loading Basics

- Rinse dishes and scrape off excess food before placing in the dishwasher.
- Ensure dishes are separated and not doubled together in one space to allow water to reach those surfaces
- Cups and bowls should be slanted downward or laid face down so the water jets clean them from underneath.
- Never place sharp knives with blade pointed up, but down with the point of the knife secured in the cutlery basket

## Bottom Rack

- Load plates and bowls so that the dirty side faces the water spray. Pots, pans and casseroles should angle down for the best cleaning results.
- Watch out for utensils with long, thin handles. They might slip through the rack and prevent the spray arm from spinning freely.
- Tuck flat pans and platters along the sides and back of the rack. Never place them in front, by the door — they'll keep the detergent from reaching the dishes. (Tip: For extra side space, move your flatware basket to the center if possible.)
- Make sure the forks and spoons don't nest together. Place some handles up and others down so that all surfaces get washed. Mixing the cutlery instead of grouping together can allow more space and a better washing
- Place cookware face down on the bottom rack for best pressure washing

## Top Rack

- Place glasses and mugs between the tines — never on top. The tip of the prong can leave a water spot.
- Angle cups (as much as the rack design will allow) in order to keep water from pooling on the base of the upside-down cups. Still got puddles? Unload the bottom rack first to avoid the drip-down.
- Arrange delicate glasses carefully. To help prevent breakage, don't let them bump against one another or the top of the dishwasher.
- Plastics should be on the top rack only, otherwise they may melt.

## Detergent

Ensure you are using a good-quality laundry detergent. In the past few years, the government has mandated that dishwasher detergents can no longer contain phosphates. This has led to complaints that some detergents are not doing a good enough job of cleaning the dishes—leaving fingerprints, spots, and even a white film on dishes. If you are experiencing these issues, you might consider trying a different brand of detergent.

While the off-brand detergents are less expensive, they can sometimes cause these problems. The more expensive name-brand detergents have seen better results and generated less complaints.

There is a cap inside the door of your dishwasher that unscrews. **This is not for liquid detergent.** It is for rinse aid. Never put liquid detergent into the rinse aid dispenser, as this will cause permanent damage to the unit and it cannot be repaired. For best results rinsing the dishes clear, use a rinse aid in this dispenser (one fill lasts several months).

## Starting the Cycle

Before you start the dishwasher cycle, turn your kitchen sink on to HOT and let the water run until it is fully hot. This cycles the hot water through the pipes so the water that immediately goes into the dishwasher is at the proper temperature. Without doing this, the unit may fill up with colder water before the hot water finally reaches it.

## Drying Problems

Plastic does not usually dry properly in the dishwasher. Water pools wherever it can, and since plastic does not conduct heat like glass, metal, or porcelain, it does not dry properly. This is a limitation of all dishwashers. Likewise, if you have cups, bowls, or any other items angled so water can collect, they will not dry properly either. Water must be able to fully drain off of each item.

**If you have questions about the proper operation of your dishwasher, please contact Housing Services at (773) 325-7196.**