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How to Load and Run a Dishwasher

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It seems like an easy task, but do you know the proper way to load and run your dishwasher?

Steps:

1. Scrape off big chunks of food before you put dishes in the dishwasher, but don't worry about rinsing them off. Most washers are designed to handle food particles. (Don't expect the dishwasher to remove burnt-on foods, though.)
2. Position cookie sheets and large platters along the sides so they don't prevent the water from reaching the other dishes.
3. Reserve the top rack for plastic items, glasses and mugs. (Make sure that plastic items are dishwasher-safe.) Set plates and bowls in the bottom rack.
4. Be sure that glassware is put on the prongs. Loose glasses might break and make a dangerous mess.
5. Put pots and dishes with baked-on food in the bottom rack facing down toward the sprayer arm.
6. Set silverware handles down, except for knives, which should be handles up in the silverware basket.
7. Fill both dishwasher cups with dishwasher detergent.
8. Add rinse agent to rinse agent dispenser; replace top of dispenser.
9. Close door securely.
10. Choose a wash cycle appropriate to the load.
11. Choose a dry cycle. Air drying saves energy, but may cause spotting.
12. Start dishwasher.

Tips:

- Make sure that pot handles, knives and other items don't poke down to obstruct the sprayer arm.
- Never wash fragile items on the bottom rack.
- Always separate silver from stainless steel utensils. Most silver manufacturers recommend that you not wash silver in a dishwasher.
- The water temperature in your dishwasher should be at least 130 degrees F.
- A dishwasher runs more efficiently if you wait until you have a full load to run a cycle.

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Warnings:

- ◆ Keep dishwasher detergent and rinse agent out of the reach of children.
- ◆ Not all items are dishwasher-safe. If you are not sure, look for instructions printed on the item, or read instruction pamphlets or tags.
- ◆ Don't use regular dish soap in your dishwasher, or you'll be cleaning up suds from your kitchen floor.

Tips from eHow Users:

- ◆ **Clean or unclean** by *Bob Frankenberger*
Some people in my house like to wash the dishes before putting them in the dishwasher. This makes it difficult to determine if all of the dishes in the dishwasher are clean. To keep track, I place a shot glass in the silverware holder. If I open the dishwasher, and the shot glass is full of water, I know that the dishwasher has been used. I will dump the water out of the shotglass, place it back in the dishwasher, and it's ready to use again.

Rate this tip: ✓✓✓✓✓

- ◆ **Silverware Trick** by *Cindy*
Putting the same utensils (all forks, for example) in the same compartment makes unloading a lot easier and faster!

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Things You'll Need:

- ◆ [Dishwashers](#)
- ◆ [Dishwashing Detergent](#)
- ◆ [Dishwasher Rinse Agents](#)
- ◆ [Heavy-duty Scouring Pad](#)
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Free information and resources about cleaning dishwasher
Dishwashers.big.com

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Dishwasher Information. All you need to know and more.
Dishwasher.HomeProjects.org

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We've Found the Best 4 Sites About Cleaning Dishwasher
Cleaning.Best4Sites.net

Under-Dishwasher Mat

Prevent water and mold damage from slow unseen leaks
saveyourfloors.com

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Project Details:

Skill Advisory: **Easy**

Questions Answered and Topics Addressed:

- What is the best way to load a dishwasher?
- How can I get the most stuff in one dishwasher load?
- Running the dishwashing machine
- Properly loading a dishwasher
- Dishwasher loading order
- Getting cleaner dishes from your dishwasher cycles

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