

Common Dishwasher Myths Debunked

One of the most common disagreements among families is whether it's better to wash the dishes by hand or use the dishwasher. Some people think they are saving time, water and energy when washing by hand, but really the opposite is true. This isn't the only myth about this popular appliance that is misunderstood by consumers.

Myth: You must rinse the dishes before putting them in the dishwasher.

Not true. Rinsing the dishes before loading them can actually hinder a dishwasher's performance. Detergent is engineered to breakdown debris. If detergent has no food residue to cling to, it could be abrasive on rinsed dishware, damaging the surface. There's a reason you use detergent in the dishwasher and the appliance has a purpose; let it do its job. A quick scrape of large food items before loading dishes into the dishwasher is all that's necessary.

Myth: Adding more detergent is better.

False. Too much detergent can actually make dishes and glassware cloudy. The cloudy appearance is often thought to be soap scum or dirt, but it's more commonly tiny abrasions caused by excessive detergent. Follow the directions on the detergent box or bottle and use only as much as directed. With our high efficiency dishwashers, we recommend using powered detergent for best results. Just one tablespoon of detergent will clean most loads. For best results, we recommend always pairing detergent with an automatic rinse agent.

Myth: All modern dishwashers are basically the same.

Not exactly. When deciding on a dishwasher, compare features to determine the greatest overall value. Consider the following factors:

* How much noise the unit makes while operating. The quieter the dishwasher, the more quality time you can spend in your kitchen. Look for models with lower decibels (dB).

* How much water and energy the unit will use per load. The more water and energy efficient a dishwasher, the more money it will save in the long run.

Look for dishwashers that use 330 kilowatt hours of electricity or less per year. To conserve water, dishwashers should use less than 5 gallons per cycle.

For example the ENERGY STAR qualified Bosch Ascenta offers high efficiency, a sleek design and is the quietest in its class. It features the EcoSense Wash Management System which customizes the water and heat consumption based

on how soiled the dishes are. It also features a half-load option and a QuickWash program to run a 30-minute cycle for smaller loads or less soiled dishes.