

## LANGARA USED APPLIANCES

4739 East Hastings Burnaby, BC 604-291-8000

# Troubleshooting Your Dishwasher

**Safety Tip:** Before making repairs, disconnect your dishwasher from the electric power supply. Turn off the hot water valve under the sink before working on the water inlet valve or disconnecting the hot water hose.

### FIRST THINGS FIRST ...

A dishwasher has many parts that can become blocked, jammed, or clogged. Very hot water (140°F to 160°F) is basic to good performance from a dishwasher.

Some dishwashers have an air gap to prevent waste water from backing up into the dishwasher. Because it collects bits of waste, the air gap must be cleaned regularly.

A dishwasher without an air gap has a high loop in the drain hose.

Make sure that the drain hose is not kinked and, when necessary, clear any obstructions from it with a length of wire.



**BELOW ARE LISTED THE MOST COMMON DISHWASHER MALFUNCTIONS  
AND TIPS TO REMEDY THE SITUATION:**

## **You Can't Get Dishwasher To Run**

### **Check for:**

- Unlocked door.
- Timer or selector button in the wrong position.
- Power not reaching the dishwasher.
- Defective door switch.
- Loose wires.
- Defective timer.

### **Remedies:**

- Relock the door.
- Make sure the setting of both the timer and the selector button are correct.
- Make sure fuse box/circuit breaker hasn't been activated.
- Replace the door switch.
- Secure the wires on all the terminals on both the timer and the motor.
- Replace the timer.

## **Water Isn't Draining Out of Dishwasher**

### **Check for:**

- Clogged or leaking drain hose.
- Defective pump motor.
- Defective timer.

### **Remedies:**

- Disconnect the drain hose and blow through it to be sure it is clear.
- Call Langara Used Appliances (604-291-8000) for service and assistance.
- Replace the timer.

## Dishes Are Still Dirty at End of Wash Cycle

### Check for:

- Water temperature to make sure it's hot.
- Incorrectly prepared dishes prior to washing.
- Incorrectly stacked dishes.
- Use of old or caked detergent.
- Properly opening detergent dispenser cup.
- Blocked spray arms.
- Presence of sufficient water in the dishwasher's tub.

### Remedies:

- Make sure the hot water setting is 140°F to 150°F.
- Scrape and rinse all dishes before loading the dishwasher.
- Stack the dishes so that they don't touch and so they face the direction of the spray.
- Begin a new cycle with fresh dishwasher detergent.
- Remove hardened detergent or mineral deposits from the detergent dispenser cup.
  - Be sure the detergent dispenser lid is not blocked and that the dispenser solenoid is working.
- Unblock the spray arms.
- See the next section for not enough water.

## Dishwasher's Tub Doesn't Fill with Water

### Check for:

- Defective water inlet valve or solenoid.
- Clogged water filter.
- Defective overflow switch.
- Defective timer.

### Remedies:

- Replace the valve or solenoid.
- If your water inlet valve has a filter, clean it.
- Replace the overflow switch.
- Replace the timer.

## **You Can't Get Water to Stop Running**

### **Check for:**

- Defective water inlet valve.
- Defective timer.
- Defective overflow switch.

### **Remedies:**

- Shut or replace the water inlet valve.
- Replace the timer.
- Replace the overflow switch.

## **Dishes Aren't Drying**

### **Check for:**

- Mineral deposits on the heating element.
- Loose heating element wire.
- Burned out heating element.
- Defective timer.

### **Remedies:**

- Remove the mineral deposits from the heating element with vinegar.
- Secure all the electrical connections around the heating elements.
- Replace the heating element.
- Replace the timer.

## Water Is Leaking Out of Dishwasher

### Check for:

- Damaged door seal.
- Defective overflow switch.
- Broken door hinges.
- Loose heating element nuts.
- Loose hose clamps.

### Remedies:

- Replace the door seal.
- Replace the overflow switch.
- Replace the door hinges.
- Tighten the nuts that attach the heating element to the tub.
- Tighten the hose connection (you may have to move the dishwasher).

## Dishwasher Is Unusually Noisy

### Check for:

- Spray arm that is hitting the dishes.
- Damaged water inlet valve (a knocking sound while the dishwasher fills).
- Presence of sufficient water in the dishwasher's tub.

### Remedies:

- Reload the dishwasher so that the dishes don't touch the spray arm.
- Replace the water inlet valve.
- Don't use other faucets while the dishwasher fills.