Dishwashers – Frequently Asked Questions

Functionality of dishwashers

1. What is a dishwasher?
   A dishwasher is a machine that cleans, rinses and dries the dirty dishes.

2. How does a dishwasher work?
   After loading & switching on the programme the dishwasher draws water & sprays water through jets to rinse the dishes. It then releases the detergent & the dishes are cleaned with soapy hot water. Once the cleaning process is done the dishwasher rinses the dishes again. Post this cycle the dishwasher dries the dishes.

3. Is a dishwasher suited for Indian style cooking (greasy, oily, etc)?
   Yes, it is suited for Indian style of cooking & cleans all types of grease and oil which we encounter in our Indian cooking.

4. Does it have the capacity to hold our type of cooking utensils?
   Yes, it holds Stainless Steel cookers and kadhis, pots, pans and glassware.

5. Can it remove the oil, grease and spice (e.g. haldi stains) left behind by our kind of cooking?
   Yes, it removes stain and residues of Indian cooking. Apart from normal programmes, one can select an ‘Intensive’ programme, which ensures that the dishes are cleaned at 70 degree high water temperatures.

6. How many utensils can a dishwasher hold?
   A normal dishwasher has 12 place settings, this means it can hold:
   - Dinner plate – 12 nos.,
   - Dessert plate - 12 nos.,
   - Glass tumbler – 12 nos.,
     Tea cup and saucer – 12 nos.
   - Knives, forks, soup spoons, dessert spoons and teaspoons - 12 nos. each.
   - Serving plates and serving spoons – 3-4 nos.
   - Bowls – 12 nos.
   For a mixed load - it can accommodate pots, pans, plates, kadhai, cooker & 30 to 40 standard size spoons & forks.

7. How much time does it need to wash the dishes?
   Depending on the wash cycle, it may take between 30 minutes to 2 hours to clean and dry the dishes. During this time, you do not need to be around the dishwasher as it goes through all steps of the washing programme automatically and it is safe to leave it operating alone.
8. **Does it also dry the dishes after the wash?**
   Yes, after draining out the excess water, it also dries the dishes. Hence, when the wash cycle is over, you get dry clean dishes.

9. **Is soap residue left behind in dishwashers?**
   No soap residue is left behind in the dishwasher.

**What to put into a dishwasher**

10. **What can I put into a dishwasher?**
    You can put utensils that are made out of steel, ceramic, glass, plastic which is suitable for microwaves and porcelain items that are suitable for dishwashers.

11. **Does glass break or get chipped when we clean it in dishwashers?**
    No, glass does not get chipped or broken in the dishwasher if you have placed them properly.

12. **Can it clean steel?**
    Yes, it cleans steel utensils.

13. **Can it clean plastic?**
    Yes, as a rule, it cleans plastic utensils, which can be used in microwave.

14. **Can I put metals in it like silver, brass and aluminium?**
    We do not recommend washing silver, brass, gold and aluminium utensils in the dishwasher as they may discolor.

15. **Can I put wood in it?**
    Unvarnished wooden objects such as wooden spoons which have not been glued can be washed in the dishwasher. Varnished wood is not suitable for washing in the dishwasher. The wood can swell and cause the varnish to flake.

**How to utilize a dishwasher**

16. **How do I put the dishes into the dishwasher?**
    In a dishwasher, there are 2-3 baskets to hold the dishes. These baskets have tines which are used to hold the dishes upright and have flexibility to fold to adjust the dishes better. The upper basket can be used to hold small plates, bowls, glass tumblers, wine glasses etc. It can be height adjusted to accommodate taller utensils. The lower basket can be used to place cooking utensils like kadhais, pots, pans or bigger plates. It comes with a cutlery holder to hold the cutlery.

17. **I heard that we need to pre-rinse dishes before we put it in the dishwashers. Then, why is a dishwasher needed?**
    No, you do not need to pre-rinse the dishes before putting them into the dishwasher, just scrape the leftovers from the dishes and stack it in the dishwasher. The dishwasher will wash it.
18. Do I need to manually supervise the dishwasher while it is running?
    No, once you switch on the dishwasher, it will wash it on its own and automatically follow the steps of a washing cycle and stops once it’s finished.

19. Do I need to be around during the wash time?
    No, the dishwasher runs the whole washing programme automatically.

20. Can I open the dishwasher when dishes are getting washed and I have forgotten something? Will I have to start all over again?
    It is not recommended to open the dishwasher while it is running. But if you do, it will start from the point it is stopped and you do not have to start all over again.

    If I open a running dishwasher will it flood my kitchen?
    We do not recommend opening of running dishwasher. But if you have to, first switch off the machine, wait for 30 sec for the spray arms to stop rotating. Then open the Dishwasher there will be no flooding.

21. Does the dishwasher have to be cleaned after washing the dishes?
    No, the dishwasher does not need to be cleaned after washing the dishes; however the filter can be removed and rinsed once every fortnight depending on the degree of soiling.

22. What detergent is to be used? Can I use my regular detergent here?
    One needs to use dishwasher detergent and regular detergents cannot be used. These detergents can be found in the super markets near you. OR you can order online (eg. ‘Finish’ detergent can be ordered at www.buyfinishonline.com or one can place the order on 1800-102-2299).

23. You recommend “Finish” as a dishwasher detergent. Is there any other detergent you recommend when using your dishwashers?
    Apart from Finish, one can use any other brand of auto dishwashing detergents (of course, the products should be suitable for dishwashers).

24. Apart from detergent, is there anything else that I have to add for receiving good results?
    Apart from the dishwashing detergent, the dishwasher needs dishwashing salt (and not the ordinary table salt or rock salt) and Rinse Aid to give superior wash. This is done initially once and lasts for many washes, unlike the detergent which needs to be added every time. The dishwasher automatically indicates when the salt is over and needs to be refilled. The dishwashing salt protects the dishwasher from damaging limescale and acts as a water softener. Rinse Aid is added to prevent ‘spotting’ on glassware (caused by droplets of water) and to improve drying performance.

25. Can I use the dishwasher every day? More than once a day, after every meal?
    Yes, you can use it every day or even multiple times a day.

26. In case of power-cuts do we leave the half-washed utensils inside the machine? How does it work?
    The machine will continue working from the point it was stopped due to electricity failure. There is no need to remove the utensils.
Hygiene

27. How hygienic are the washing results of a dishwasher, compared to manual washing?
Dishwasher is better than manual because:
1. Manual wash is usually done with cold water whereas a dishwasher uses hot water to wash the dishes; this helps to kill harmful germs during the washing cycle.
2. The dishes come out dry which means that there is no need for drying them manually afterwards or leaving them out for drying them – which reduces dust accumulation on the dishes.
3. The sponge used in the manual wash accumulates and breeds germs, which is not hygienic.

28. Can I wash baby bottles and other utensils which require hygienic wash?
Yes, you can wash baby bottles and chopping boards in the dishwasher. It has the option of ‘Hygiene’ which means that the last wash is at a temperature of 75 degrees which reduces the number of germs even more than the normal washing cycle.

Water and energy consumption

29. How much water does a dishwasher consume compared to hand wash?
A dishwasher uses on average 10-14 litres of water (depending on the model) whereas hand wash requires 30-40 litres.

30. Will my electricity bill shoot up after using the dishwasher?
A dishwasher is quite energy efficient as it uses only 1-2 kW of energy every wash (depending on the chosen programme).

31. Why is the water consumption of the 14 place settings lower compared to the 12 place settings?
In our 14 place setting dishwasher we have an advanced technology wherein we ensure an even better utilization of the water and thus it results in lower water consumption.

Further questions

32. How long does the dishwasher last?
Depending on the usage, it runs for 10-12 years.

33. Is a smaller version of a dishwasher available, since I have a space constraint?
There are slimline dishwashers which are 45 cm wide instead of 60 cm. Also, there are compact table top dishwashers.

34. It’s just two of us. Some 4 plates and glasses. Why do I need a dishwasher?
Dishwasher makes life simpler; one can stack the dishes in the dishwasher every time after using dishes and then run it after 2-3 meals, when the dishwasher is full. An alternative is using the half-load option which can be run in case of less utensils.
35. I have heard that installing a dishwasher is very difficult as complicated plumbing work is required (as opposed to a washing machine where only a tap is required). When installing a dishwasher you need similar plumbing work as a washing machine. It requires a tap for inlet and an outlet for water to disperse.

36. Isn’t a dishwasher too expensive? I pay my maid Rs. 500 for the same work!
You must consider that a dishwasher is a long-run investment - on average a dishwasher runs for 10-12 years. Besides this there are more advantages of having a dishwasher. E.g. Less dependency on the maid, Hygiene, convenience, no breakages of expensive crockery, quality time for yourself, etc.