



Dishwasher Staining

Laebon Rental Communities takes pride in having some of the newest and best maintained rental suites in Central Alberta. That being said, we need our tenant's help to keep your home looking and running like new.

The dishwasher is a must have for many renters but is often overlooked when it comes to maintenance and cleaning. The best practice to keep a dishwasher running like new is to be sure you remove all the debris from your dishes before you put them in the dishwasher and empty the strainer in the bottom of the dishwasher regularly.

Our dishwasher's interiors are designed to resist staining and sometimes despite a tenant's best efforts dishwashers could still develop stains. Should stains occur, we recommend the following solutions:

Gray and/or brown stains: Can be a calcium or iron build-up. This is a water condition and may reappear after cleaning. To remove these stains, you can treat with citric acid crystals using the steps below:

- Fill the detergent cup with three to four ounces of citric acid crystals and close the cup
- Run the dishwasher through a normal cycle
- Rinse thoroughly by running the dishwasher through another cycle without the crystals but with a full cup of detergent
- A severe mineral build up may require a second treatment to remove all of the accumulation

Red, pink, orange or yellow stains: Generally caused by tomato-based products, such as pasta sauce. Citric acid will not have an effect on red, pink, orange or yellow stains. This stain is not easily removed, but will fade over time. To keep this from happening in the future, remove any excess tomato sauce from your dishes before loading them in the dishwasher. Staining can also be minimized by

running your dishwasher immediately after loading with dishes that have tomato sauce on them.

Green stains: Typically caused by specific types of detergents that contain dye or color pigments. Some gel-type detergents have been tested and proven to cause this staining after prolonged use. Switching to a different detergent is the best way to prevent these stains.

White stains/film: Can be caused by hard water minerals or an excess of detergent residue. Over time, hard water build-up can cause damage to components of the dishwasher. You may want to consider installing a water softener. Remove mineral build-up or detergent residue with the citric acid treatment described in the "Gray and/or brown stains" section.

Note: Citric acid is available in liquid or crystal form. We recommend the crystals because they will remain in the detergent cup until it is time to dispense the product, while the liquid is likely to run out before the detergent cup opens. Citric acid crystals are sometimes called "sour salt" and are available at some drug stores and most grocery stores in the canning or spice section. Citric acid can be used in both plastic and stainless steel interior dishwashers.

This procedure should be completed in an empty dishwasher, though dishes/glassware with mineral or detergent build up can stay in the dishwasher. Do not place silverware, aluminum items or other metals in the dishwasher during this process to avoid tarnishing those items. Dishes or glasses with "patterns" should not be left in the dishwasher when doing a citric acid treatment. Some "patterns" can be damaged or washed off.