

Best Dishwashers for \$500 or Less

These Consumer Reports-tested models skimp on price but not on performance

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High inflation rates make it hard for many to justify spending a premium on appliances, especially something largely nonessential as a dishwasher. Consumer Reports tests two dozen dishwashers that cost \$500 or less, which typically lack premium features like a stainless steel tub and adjustable upper racks. Many top-rated dishwashers have moved out of reach in this price range, but some strong gems remain. For example, the only CR-recommended pick in this price range has a stainless steel interior, an adjustable upper rack, and a time-remaining display.

For dishwashers, inflation means some of CR's top-rated machines have moved out of reach if you're looking to spend \$500 or less – but there are still a number of strong options. Dishwashers at this price tend to come with only basic features and usually have plastic tubs, which don't resist stains as well as stainless steel tubs. Consumer Reports' tests have also found that these dishwashers are relatively noisy.

But if you're just looking for a machine that gets dishes clean, "you can still find a dishwasher that might be right for you," says Larry Ciufu, who oversees CR's dishwasher tests. We found four that cost \$500 or less and that wash and dry quite well, and some even have a few extra features that you'd typically only find on more expensive models.

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To learn more about what you should consider when shopping for a dishwasher, take a look at our dishwasher buying guide. There, we discuss what you can reasonably expect from dishwashers in different price categories, whether it's under \$500, between \$500 and \$1,000, or more than \$1,000.

Read on for ratings and reviews of the best dishwashers that still usually cost less than \$500.

Best Dishwashers for \$500 or Less

These dishwashers are the least expensive models that still perform reasonably well in our lab tests. They're slim on features and far from quiet, but some have strong points that may suit your needs.

1 RECOMMENDED
LG LDFC2423V

73

- WASHING
- DRYING
- NOISE

CR's take: The LG LDFC2423V is a solid dishwasher for its sub-\$500 price point, offering top-class washing performance and ranking as one of the most energy-efficient models we test. This dishwasher also does really well with noise control. Drying performance after a 150-minute cycle isn't quite as impressive, but it's good enough given its relative value on offer. The LG LDFC2423V has an adjustable upper rack, a time-remaining display, stainless steel interior, and adjustable tines, but you may find it annoying that the filter needs manual cleaning. LG dishwashers garner decent reliability and satisfaction scores among owners surveyed by Consumer Reports.

2 **Insignia NS-DWR3SS1**

71

- WASHING
- DRYING
- NOISE

CR's take: For the money, the Insignia NS-DWR3SS1 offers solid washing performance and dries your dishes as well as anything we test, and does so with best-in-class energy efficiency within 140 minutes. It's above-average in the noise department, too. Insignia is a budget brand from Best Buy that prioritizes a low price over pretty trinkets and comprehensive features, so you'll miss out on things like a time-remaining display and interior LED lighting. But it at least looks the part with a stainless steel interior and it offers utility that some others in its range don't with adjustable tines and a third adjustable upper rack.

3 **Midea MDT24H3AST**

70

- WASHING
- DRYING
- NOISE

CR's take: This Midea model proved to be a strong dishwasher in our lab tests, successfully cleaning a full load of heavily soiled dishes in a normal wash cycle, though it wasn't quite as good at drying plastic as other dishwashers. But this machine has excellent energy efficiency, and it also scored respectably for noise, which is rarer to find in dishwashers in this price range. Plus, features like its third rack, stainless steel interior, and hidden controls give it a higher-end feel.

4 **Hotpoint HDF330PGRWW**

64

- WASHING
- DRYING
- NOISE

CR's take: This dishwasher from Hotpoint (manufactured by GE) is as basic as it gets, and its particularly low price reflects that. Despite a lack of features—plastic interior, fixed racks, no soil sensor or display to show you time remaining on a cycle—its washing performance is quite good, and its cycle is shorter than the others on this list at 135 minutes. It's an especially noisy machine, though, which could be bothersome if any bedrooms are near the kitchen in your home. But if you're on a tight budget, its low price and good energy efficiency are hard to beat.

How CR Tests Dishwashers

CR purchases all the dishwashers we test. These include lower-priced dishwashers (like those in this article) and expensive ones (such as those from Miele, Thermador, and Viking), plus many in between. This breadth of price enables us to track whether the priciest dishwashers are, in fact, the best dishwashers.

We spend 28 hours evaluating each dishwasher in our lab. Our testers load each model with 10 place settings of white ceramic dishes with baked-on food, then run it on the normal cycle or its equivalent. When the cycle is complete, we use a photo-imaging machine to determine precisely how clean each dish is.

We also test how well each machine dries plastic. (Plastic is more difficult to dry than metal, glass, and ceramic materials because it cools faster and doesn't allow water to evaporate as easily.) We record cycle time and energy and water use. And we judge noise levels.