

Best Dishwashers for \$500 or Less

These models tested by Consumer Reports skip on price but not on performance, earning good scores for washing and drying

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Inexpensive dishwashers may have only basic features, but they can still clean impressively well.
Photo: LG

The price range for dishwashers is wide, from less than \$500 to more than \$2,000. While some models have risen in price over the last year, there are still many highly rated, inexpensive models to choose from.

While many top-rated dishwashers carry a price tag well above \$1,000, our tests reveal there are strong performers priced at \$500 or less. These models typically lack the premium features that come with higher prices, though. For example, only one of our picks in this price range has a stainless steel interior, an adjustable upper rack, adjustable tines, and a time-remaining display. But if you're just looking for an appliance that gets dishes clean, "you can still find a dishwasher that might be right for you," says Larry Ciufio, who oversees CR's dishwasher tests.

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 usually cost less than \$500. Those with a little more wiggle room might consider additional models in our comprehensive dishwasher ratings. It includes more than 130 rigorously tested models from 25 brands, and you can filter them according to features that meet your needs.

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These dishwashers are the least expensive models that still perform reasonably well in our lab tests. Some of them even have a few extra features that you'd typically find only on more expensive models. All the models that we've highlighted come with Energy Star certification from the Department of Energy.



LG LDFC2423V

✓ CR RECOMMENDED

UPPER WASH PERFORMANCE

LOWER WASH PERFORMANCE

DRYING

75

The LG LDFC2423V is a solid dishwasher for its price. It offers top-notch washing performance in both the lower and upper racks. It's incredibly energy-efficient and has an Energy Star certification. 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.

The model also comes with many features seen in more premium dishwashers, such as ample flatware slots, adjustable tines, an adjustable upper rack, a time-remaining display, a delayed start feature, and a stainless steel interior. It doesn't have WiFi connectivity, however. LG dishwashers earn very good reliability scores and passable owner satisfaction scores among owners surveyed by Consumer Reports.



Midea MDF24P2BWW (Lowe's)

✓ CR RECOMMENDED

UPPER WASH PERFORMANCE

LOWER WASH PERFORMANCE

DRYING

74

If budget tops your concerns, the Midea MDF24P2BWW (sold exclusively at Lowe's) is one of the least expensive dishwashers in our dishwasher ratings. For its low price, you're getting a lot of value with a model that is impressive at washing dishes and stellar at making sure your dishes come out dry at the end of the cycle.

One drawback is that this model is definitely noisy. But it's easy to use and comes with handy functions, such as a delayed start feature, an indicator light that shines during a cycle, a lighted interior, and a time-remaining display.



Insignia NS-DWR3SS1

✓ CR RECOMMENDED

UPPER WASH PERFORMANCE

LOWER WASH PERFORMANCE

DRYING

73

For the money, the Insignia NS-DWR3SS1 offers solid washing performance and dries dishes as well as anything we've tested, doing so with best-in-class energy efficiency within 140 minutes. Insignia is a budget brand from Best Buy that prioritizes a low price over flashy features, but this model still brings a third rack, hidden controls, and a stainless steel interior.

How CR Tests Dishwashers

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

We spend around 30 hours evaluating each dishwasher in our lab. Our testers load each model with 12 place settings of white ceramic dishes coated 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. While we used to evaluate how well dishwashers washed dishes only from the lower rack, which is typically where you'd load your larger dishes, we recently expanded our testing to include the washing performance on the upper rack as well.

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 also record cycle time and energy and water use, and judge the dishwashers on their noise levels. For ease of use, a newly incorporated category in our testing, we look at how easy it is to use the dishwasher's control panel and how many convenience features the dishwasher offers, including an adjustable upper rack, a third rack, ample flatware slots, adjustable tines, a self-cleaning filter, and more.