CR Consumer Reports[®]

Best Dishwashers for \$500 or Less

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

By Molly Bradley | Updated by Quentyn Kennemer Updated: February 2, 2024

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 Ciufo, 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.

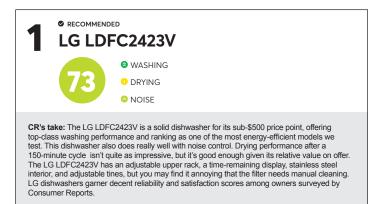
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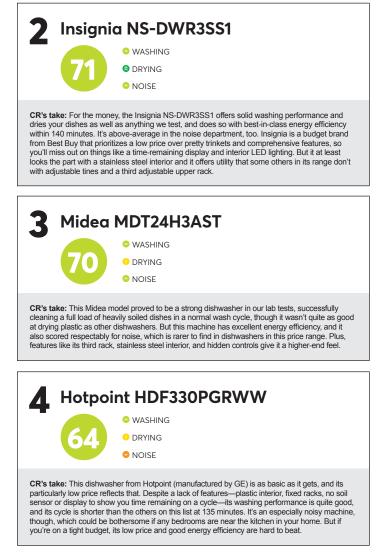
To learn more about what you should consider when shopping for a dishwasher, take a look at our dishwasher buying guide. There, we discuss what you can reasonably expect from dishwashers in different price categories, whether it's under \$500, between \$500 and \$1,000, or more than \$1,000.

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.





How CR Tests Dishwashers

CR purchases all the dishwashers we test. These include lowerpriced 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.

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