

## Reducing operational running costs

There are some simple steps that you can take to help reduce your energy consumption and consequent running costs. These steps are small but similar to turning down your domestic heating by a degree or two, or switching off lights that are not being used. By following manufacturer best practice, you can make significant annual cost savings, especially if you are operating multiple machines on one site. For example, if you reduce the number of racks you are washing per day, by always filling them up before hitting the 'on' switch, it'll have a significant impact on your energy consumption.

One critical issue is looking after the machine. It's not just that a well maintained, regularly serviced warewasher will be more energy efficient, there's also the 'hidden costs' of breakdown: stress for the staff, the need to hand wash glasses and dishes, the impact on customer service and the impact on hygiene.

**Here are our top tips to help you reduce energy consumption and cut running costs.**



### Before washing

Before a washing session, ensure the interior of the machine is thoroughly clean, paying particular attention to wash jets and filters. Anything that hampers the wash or restricts the flow of water around the machine will lead to heavier energy usage and increase your bills.



### Usage and loading of baskets

Baskets play a critical and often over-looked role in achieving the best wash results and cutting energy costs. There are a plethora of plastic, wire, open and compartmentalised baskets, all designed for a specific use. Never use baskets that are rusting or damaged, as they will impact on the wash result and potentially damage the machine.



### A switch in time

Our Connected Wash data shows us that 11% of glass washers and dishwashers are switched on too early. On average, machines are switched on 173 minutes before their first wash cycle is activated. This could cost as much as £1 per day, because machines will still consume power even if they're not being operated. Significant energy savings can be made if machines are switched on no more than 30 minutes before they are required for operation. Some machines, like those that Winterhalter manufacture, can be programmed to automatically switch on at a given time each day.



### Eco setting

If your machine has an Eco setting, use it! Even if it is only used during quieter periods, it can help save money.



### Pre-rinse & remove debris

Try to remove as much soiling, liquids, and foreign objects, like lemon slices or cocktail sticks, as possible from dirties before loading the machine. Although filtration on modern machines is exceptional, the adage of "rubbish in, rubbish out" still stands. Removing as much debris and soiling as you can will reduce the need for re-washing or hand washing and the associated costs of doing that.



### Patience pays

Never open the door before the wash cycle has finished, particularly if the machine is fitted with heat recovery technology like the Winterhalter Energy machines.



### Shut that door

Try to retain heat within your machine by not leaving doors or hoods open. The heat that escapes costs you money.



### Chemical 'do's

Try to use the best quality chemicals that your budget will allow – often the warewasher manufacturer will have a recommended brand or supplier. Chemicals have a massive impact on wash results and a good quality chemical can significantly reduce your annual wash cycles, as they will eliminate the need for hand washing or re-washing and the associated costs of doing that.

Always use the correct chemicals for what you are washing (glasses, dishes, utensils and so on).

If your warewasher is indicating that salt or chemicals need refilling, do not ignore the warnings. The wash result will be compromised, leading to the need for re-washing or hand washing.



### Chemical 'don't's

Do not add any unapproved chemicals in your machine, especially hand washing liquid. They can cause havoc with your wash result, damage the machine, and waste energy. Ultimately, if it makes the machine inoperable and requires a service call out, the hidden energy cost of manual washing will have to be met by your operation.



### Shut down and maintenance

Always follow the manufacturer's shut down guidance at the end of every washing session. Some machines, like those from Winterhalter, have an automatic clean down programme with animations to guide operators. If available, also use a cleaning tablet similar to Winterhalter's A15 MC.

Following a thorough daily shut down procedure will ensure your machine is always in peak condition. If your machine is in peak condition, it will use less energy.

Hard water is prevalent in many parts of the UK, so the more TLC you show your machine, the less limescale build up you will experience. De-scaling products like Winterhalter's A 70 can produce significant savings, since less limescale equals lower energy costs.



### Service

Like a car, a regular service for your machine will ensure that it's performing at peak condition. When all the parts are working properly, without limescale deposits and with the correct chemicals, you can be assured that your glass or dishwasher will be consuming the least possible energy. Choose a service provider like Winterhalter, that adopts a Total Care approach to service. This means that service visits are proactive and are performed regularly, ensuring that immediate and potential issues are dealt with promptly, reducing the risk of machines under-performing or breaking down.

### Also see our guides on YouTube

#### Glass washing Video:

<https://youtu.be/FKExi4XXPeo>

#### Dishwashing Video:

<https://youtu.be/CR9guxMBR2w>