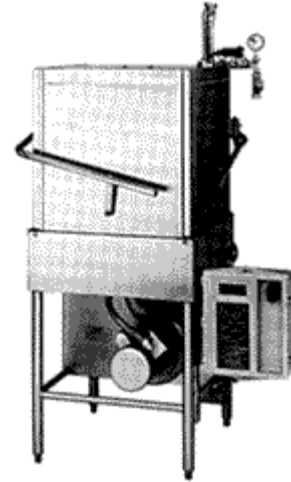


Dishwashers

- **If your operation requires a dishwasher, you should know that the dishwasher is one of the biggest energy users in the kitchen.**
- **Fill every rack. The cost to wash a rack of dishes is the same whether it's one plate or thirty plates--get your money's worth.**
- **Most high-temp dishwashers have built-in burners or elements to keep the water in the tank hot. Save money by turning your dishwasher off at night!**



The commercial dishwasher (or warewasher) does an amazing amount of cleaning and sanitizing in the blink of an eye, thanks to hot water, soap, rinse chemicals--and lots of energy. It's worth looking at your dishroom to see if it is costing too much to operate--and to see how much you can save.

The two basic strategies for washing and sterilizing dishes are high-temp and low-temp. Low-temp dishwashers use the hot water supplied by the kitchen's existing water heater--typically this hot water is supplied at 140°F. These dishwashers use a chemical sanitizing agent in the final rinse cycle, and sometimes a drying agent. Energy costs are usually lower than the cost of chemicals for low-temp dishwashers.

High-temp dishwashers use a "booster heater" to raise the rinse water temperature to 180°F, hot enough to sterilize the dishes and help them dry quickly. There is also a heater in the dishwasher that keeps the wash water up to temperature. Energy costs are typically higher for this type of machine than for the low-temp dishwasher.

Your choice of high or low temperature depends on your operation; each offers certain advantages and disadvantages. Dishwasher type, dish volume, water consumption and fuel choice will all play a role in your energy costs.

The FSTC has tested dishwashers and has reports pending on several models. You can get a customized look at what appliance energy is costing you in your operation by contacting your PG&E Marketing Representative. If you want to look at actual performance figures from our laboratory trials or our Production Test Kitchen monitoring, check out the list of published Reports for a title that matches your interests, or browse through the Abstracts for a more detailed summary.