

EPISODE #2010 DISHWASHER DREAMS

Buying a new dishwasher?

There are two dishwasher classifications: compact capacity and standard capacity. Compact models use less energy, but they hold fewer dishes. A compact model may actually result in greater energy use if you have to operate it more frequently.

Choose a dishwasher that provides several different wash cycle selections. If your dishes are only slightly soiled, you can use a “light wash” or “energy-saving” wash cycle and save energy by using less water and operating for a shorter period of time.

Look for a dishwasher that allows you to choose between heat-drying and air-drying. Heat-drying elements draw considerable electricity; circulation fans for air-drying use very little.

If you have a choice, install your dishwasher away from your refrigerator. The dishwasher’s heat and moisture increase your refrigerator’s energy consumption.



A. Remove the sink.



B. Removing the counter top.



C. Measure the size of the dishwasher.

Helpful Hints:

As with any electrical and plumbing projects, you may need your work to be inspected, so check into your local codes.

Before installing a new dishwasher, make sure the water and electricity are turned off. Plan ahead, and order pizza, you may not be able to use the kitchen for a while.

Replacing an old dishwasher with a new one is relatively easy. Unfortunately for Leigh, George didn’t have a dishwasher, which meant that they had to cut into the existing kitchen countertops to make space to run the electrical and the plumbing.

Basic Steps to Consider when Intalling a Dishwasher

- Leigh and George installed their dishwasher beside the sink, so that meant that the sink had to be removed. Along with the sink, the cabinet doors, the counter top and the shoe molding were taken off. (fig. A, B)

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- Measure and size the opening for the dishwasher. Check the measurements twice and check again!
- Cut out the opening in the cabinet for the dishwasher and “dry fit” the dishwasher itself to make sure that it will fit. (fig C)
- Running the electrical - a dishwasher should be hardwired to its own 15 amp circuit. Leigh and George wisely decided to run the wire, but left the hook-ups to a certified electrician.
- Plumbing - it's not as complicated as it sounds, but have it installed by a plumber if you're not comfortable.
- Extend (if need be) and adapt the drain. (fig. D)
- Insert the dishwasher drain fitting (comes with a kit you can purchase at your local hardware store) (fig. E)
- Run the dishwasher feed off the T-junction (fig. F)
- Install a shut-off valve for the dishwasher feed
- Rebuild cabinets and counter tops if need be. (fig. G)
- In goes the sink.
- Now is the time to get your electrician to hook up the power. (fig. H)
- Put the dishwasher in place and hook up the hot water. (fig. I)
- The moment of truth! No more dishpan-hands, yeah!!! (fig. J)



D. Extend the drain if need be.



E. Inserting dishwasher and sink drain



F. Hotwater feed off the t-junction



G. Rebuild the counter top if need be.



H. Time for the electrician



I. Put the dishwasher in place.



J. Moment of truth!