



# Washing machine tips

RWP's Contracts Team helps tenants with the maintenance of their household appliances, so they can keep going for longer and avoid damage. With that in mind, RWP's Contracts Team will be sharing a series of tips on household appliances maintenance, and for this one, they are sharing tips for looking after your washing machine.

RWP's Contracts Team helps to keep our tenants' homes safe to live in, keep communal areas clean, arrange the household appliances and furniture that tenants need, and sort out repairs for household appliances or replacements. Get to know the members of the team here: [www.residewithprogress.org.uk/support-providers-hub/our-contracts-team](http://www.residewithprogress.org.uk/support-providers-hub/our-contracts-team)

## Washing machine tips

### Register the warranty

Always register the warranty of a new appliance as soon as it arrives and keep the warranty and information in a safe place.

### How to give your washing machine a maintenance wash

A regular maintenance wash is the best way of making sure you keep getting great results from your wash. It's a deep-cleaning cycle for your machine where you add a specialist machine cleaning solution.

A maintenance wash gets rid of any bacteria, stains, sludge, and mould that might have built up inside the washing machine. Plus, it clears out any old water that might be left in the drum.

How often do you need to do a maintenance wash? We recommend doing it once a month. If you're starting to get little black spots building up inside your door seal, or you can see sludge when you gently pull the door seal back, it's time for a wash.

### To run a maintenance wash, follow these simple steps:

- Make sure your washing machine is empty.
- Add a washing machine cleaning solution. Refer to the instruction leaflet for the amount you need to use.
- Choose the 'cotton' cycle on your machine.
- Press the temperature control until it reaches the hottest setting.
- Start the cycle.
- When the cycle ends, open the door, pull back the seal and wipe away any debris or water.
- Leave the door open until everything inside dries out.

This will stop any sludge or black spots of mould building up inside your door seal, and it'll also stop any nasty smells. Perhaps most importantly, it helps increase the life of your washing machine.

**Top tip:** If you've run out of washing machine cleaning solution, you can make your own. Use two cups of white vinegar, half a cup of water, and a quarter cup of bicarbonate of soda. Mix well before you use it.

### **How to clean your detergent drawer**

It's also worth cleaning your detergent drawer after every maintenance wash, to stop old detergent deposits building up and affecting performance.



To do a proper clean, you'll need to completely pull out the drawer. It should be easy to do this. Simply pull the drawer out as far as it can go, then look for a catch to press down that lets you remove it from the machine. In most models it's right in the middle - if you can't see it, check out the manufacturer's instructions.

Now wash your drawer in a sink full of warm soapy water. Take out any compartments that are easily removeable and give everything a good scrub. Then rinse, dry and reassemble. Slot it back into your machine - but before you do this, give the drawer slot a good wipe, too.

### **How to clean your washing machine filter**

Clean your filter every four to six weeks. You should find this right at the bottom of your machine, and you might need to remove a small cover to get access to it.



Some water will leak out when you remove your filter, so put some towels down to protect your floor. Unscrew the filter and let the water flow out.

Then clean the filter by running it under hot water. Screw it back on tightly, replace the cover, and you're all done!