



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS



IFHE Programme Committee
Household Technology & Sustainability –
the experts in household management

Best Practice FAQs in Manual Dishwashing[©]

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

- 1. Why should I add the cleanser after the water let-in?
Why should I avoid foam production?**
When you add the cleanser afterwards, there is less foam emerging.
The foam is not important to clean the dishes, on the contrary, the foam restrains soil residuals and a fat film on the dishes.
- 2. But, isn't foam emerging while washing up?**
Yes of course, but the rinsing after cleaning the dishes washes of any foam and soil residuals.
- 3. Won't there be a lot of foam in the rinsing sink as well, that will make the following items dirty?**
Normally, there won't be because you are already avoiding to produce foam in the sink with the detergent.
- 4. If I wash in sinks or bowls filled with water, I am afraid that my dishes do not become clean because all the dirt is summing up in the sinks.**
Rough soil is therefore removed before cleaning the dishes. And if you yet feel that your dishes do not become clean anymore because the water is too dirty, you have the option to change the water.
- 5. Aren't my dishes getting cleaner if I rinse them with running tap water?**
- 6. How can I rinse dishes that don't fit into the rinsing sink?**
You can rinse them shortly under running tap water.
- 7. Why should I generally avoid washing up under running tap water?**
If you wash up in a sink, you can use the same water for more than one item.
For washing up under running tap water you need new water for every item.
- 8. When is the right moment to change the water in the sinks?**
It can be taken as a guiding principle to change the water when the foam which is emerging while washing up collapses.
- 9. Why only fill the sinks up to the half?**
It is not necessary to fully fill your sinks up to the top with water. This water can be saved and in addition you have enough space in the sink to soak some items while you are cleaning others.
- 10. My glasses are getting water stains when they are air-drying.**
If these water stains disturb you too much towel dry the glasses.
- 11. I have too many dishes and there is not enough space to let them all air-dry.**
In this case, towel-dry some of the items which are cleaned first.

12. I don't like the dirty dishes piling up.

For only a little amount of dishes it is not efficient to fill two sinks with water. Therefore you should wait until you have a proper amount. If it disturbs you too much, you can change to the washing up way as recommended in 1.2.

13. I don't like the dishes piling up while air-drying.

Normally, your dishes are air-dried after one hour, then you can put them away. If you don't like it at all, you can of course also towel-dry them.

14. Why should I not towel dry?

Let the dishes air dry saves you time and resources because you do not need to wash the towel. Additionally, it is more hygienic.

15. What is the best way to let the dishes air-dry?

That depends on the dishes you have:

For plates a dish rack is the most comfortable whereas for a pot a flat surface is more handy.

16. What can I do to save time when I'm doing the dishes?

For example, you can save time if you

- soak some items while you are cleaning others
- collect items and wash them up together
- avoid towel drying.

17. What utensil is best used for doing the dishes?

That depends on the dishes to be cleaned and on the soil. For example, the rough side of a sponge is most suitable for pots and hard burnt soil. Whereas the rough side of the sponge is not suitable for plates. They are more gently cleaned with a cloth. The same is valid for glasses.

18. So far I have washed up with cold water. Won't I be wasting a lot of water when I open the tap and wait for the water to heat up?

If it takes very long for your tap water to become hot you can heat it up with a water boiler.

19. Why do I need hot water for the main washing?

You need hot water for the main wash because the soil can be easier removed.

20. Why don't I need hot water for rinsing? I thought that soil could be removed easier with hot water.

The soil is already removed and must only be washed off. Therefore no hot water is necessary.

21. Should I prewash all my dishes?

No, prewashing is only necessary with really dirty dishes.

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