

Why Your Washing Machine Smells: Fix Guide

The 5 most common causes

Cause	What you smell	Fix
Biofilm in drum	Musty, sour	Hot drum clean cycle monthly
Door gasket mold	Mildew, damp	Wipe gasket after every wash
Detergent residue	Soapy, sour	Switch to HE detergent, use less
Clogged drain filter	Sewage, rotten	Clean filter every 2 to 3 months
Stagnant drain hose	Rotten egg	Re-route or clean drain hose

Monthly maintenance checklist

- Run a drum clean cycle on hot (empty drum, no detergent)
- Wipe the door gasket with a damp cloth, check for mold in the folds
- Clean the drain pump filter (usually behind a small door at bottom front)
- Leave the door ajar after every wash to let the drum air out
- Use only HE detergent and never exceed the recommended amount
- Pull out the detergent drawer and rinse it under hot water

When to call a tech

If the smell persists after 2 to 3 full cleaning cycles, the issue may be a faulty door seal that needs replacing, a blocked internal drain hose, or a pump that is not fully draining. These require a service visit.

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