

# Hard Water and Your Dishwasher in Hamilton: Why It Fails Early and How to Fix It

*Quick reference guide by Max Appliance Repair Hamilton*

## Hamilton water hardness

125-140 mg/L total hardness year-round per City of Hamilton water quality reports. Anything above 120 mg/L is hard water.

## What scale damages first

Heating element, circulation pump impeller, spray arm jets, door gasket lower edge.

## Five early warning signs

White film on glassware, wet dishes after dry cycle, dirty patches on one section, gritty white debris in tub, dishwasher sounds louder.

## Heating element replacement

\$220-340 in Hamilton 2026 for most brands. Bosch/Miele integrated pumps run \$450-650.

## Circulation pump replacement

\$320-520 in Hamilton 2026 depending on assembly type.

## Spray arm jet cleaning

DIY with white vinegar soak. Service call \$140-220 if jets need replacement.

## Door gasket

\$160-250. Usually scale on tub edge, not gasket failure.

## Slow scale damage

Monthly cleaner cycle, rinse aid every cycle, whole-home softener (\$1,800-3,500 install).

## Lifespan in Hamilton

6-8 years with no softener. 10-14 years with softener. Bosch/Miele/KitchenAid last longer.

## **Repair vs replace rule**

Under 8 years and repair <50% of new: repair. Over 10 years with prior repair: replace.

*maxappliancerepairhamilton.ca*