Quick Guide: Getting Drier Plastic Loads from a Bosch Dishwasher

Simple adjustments, and how to tell if something is actually wrong

Simple Adjustments to Try

1. **Use a rinse aid every cycle**
   It changes how water sheets off surfaces during the final rinse, which leaves less moisture behind on plastic in particular.
2. **Choose a drying-focused cycle for mixed loads**
   Cycles built for mixed loads add heat and time to the final rinse compared to a quick or eco setting.
3. **Unload the bottom rack first**
   Clearing the lower rack before the upper rack keeps condensation from the top shelf from dripping onto items below.
4. **Leave the door cracked open for a few minutes**
   A little extra air exchange gives residual moisture more time to finish evaporating off plastic surfaces.

Loading Habits That Help

1. **Angle plastic containers instead of laying them flat**
   Water pools less when a container is tilted, so it sheds moisture instead of holding it in a shallow pool.
2. **Keep plastics away from the center spray arms**
   Placement near the jets can affect how much residual water collects on a piece by the end of the cycle.
3. **Avoid overcrowding the top rack**
   Items packed tightly block airflow around each other, similar to an overloaded washer or dryer.

When to Ask a Technician Instead

1. **Is it only plastic, or is glass wet too**
   That distinction changes whether this is a loading habit or something in the drying system itself.
2. **Is water pooling in the tub after the cycle ends**
   Standing water in the bottom of the tub is a different issue than dishes finishing damp.
3. **Has drying performance changed recently**
   A recent change points to something worth inspecting, while a long-standing pattern is more likely the drying method's normal limits.

Small habits fix most of it. A sudden change is the one worth a second look.

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