

Hard Water and Halifax Appliances: What Well Water and HRM Tap Water Are Doing to Your Dishwasher and Washer

Quick reference guide by Max Appliance Repair Halifax

Pockwock vs well

HRM municipal water is soft (10-20 mg/L). Private wells in Hammonds Plains often run 150-300 mg/L. Different problems, different solutions.

What scale does

Calcium and magnesium precipitate on heated surfaces, insulating heating elements, clogging spray arms and inlet valves, chewing pump seals.

Dishwasher symptoms

White film on door, spotty glasses, longer cycles, intermittent fill error codes, whining wash pump.

Washer symptoms

Stiff towels, grey whites, scale ring on door gasket, premature heating element failure (5-7 years instead of 12+).

Step 1: test water

Send a well sample to a Nova Scotia accredited lab. Pull HRM hardness data from Halifax Water if on municipal.

Step 2: softener if over 120 mg/L

Whole-house softener \$1,800-3,500 installed. Pays back in 5 years on appliances alone.

Step 3: descale monthly

Citric acid based dishwasher cleaner, washing machine descaler in tub clean cycle. Stops progression.

Repair vs replace

Under 8 years: repair. 8-11: depends on stack of failures. Over 11: usually replace if water still untreated.

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