

How Atlantic Salt Air Wrecks Halifax Appliances (and What Actually Slows It Down)

Quick reference guide by Max Appliance Repair Halifax

Why salt air is the enemy

Hygroscopic salt aerosols pull moisture against metal parts and accelerate corrosion 2x to 3x compared with inland Canadian homes.

Fail point 1: condenser coils

Coils clog and corrode, compressor overheats, fails at 7-9 years instead of 12-15. Vacuum every 4 months.

Fail point 2: stainless front panels

Pinpoint rust spots from chloride attack on chromium oxide layer. Weekly wipe + monthly mineral oil polish.

Fail point 3: washer cabinets and bearings

Bottom of cabinet rusts first, then drum spider pits and bearing fails. \$700 repair on 9 year old washer.

Fail point 4: dishwasher boards

Salt film on control board causes intermittent error codes. Halifax sees 2x the board failure rate of inland HRM.

Maintenance that works

Coil vacuum every 4 months, weekly wipe-down, basement dehumidifier May-Oct, 5 year preventative service cycle.

Worst HRM corrosion zones

Eastern Passage, Herring Cove, Purcells Cove, South End peninsula, Dartmouth waterfront, Bedford Basin shoreline, Peggy's Cove run.

Repair vs replace cutoff

Under 8 years: repair almost always wins. Over 10 years: inspect for secondary corrosion before quoting.

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