

# **Caloric®**

## **DCS550**

### **Portable**

### **Dishwasher**

## **Use and Care**

## **Manual**

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Keep these instructions for future reference.  
If dishwasher changes ownership, be sure this  
manual accompanies dishwasher.

**Consumer Information Line**  
**1-800-843-0304**



### RECOGNIZE THIS SYMBOL AS A SAFETY PRECAUTION



#### WARNING

Electrical Grounding Instructions-This appliance is equipped with a three-prong (grounding) plug for protection against possible shock hazards. If a two-prong wall receptacle is encountered, customer is required to contact a qualified electrician and have the two-prong wall receptacle replaced with a properly grounded three-prong wall receptacle in accordance with the National Electrical Code.

Dishwasher is designed to operate on a separate 120 volt, 15 amp., 60 cycle line.

DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES CUT OR REMOVE THE ROUND GROUNDING PRONG FROM THE PLUG. THE UNIT MUST BE GROUNDED AT ALL TIMES. DO NOT REMOVE WARNING TAG FROM THE SERVICE CORD.



#### WARNING

**DO NOT USE A TWO-PRONG ADAPTER.  
DO NOT USE AN EXTENSION CORD.**



#### WARNING

To avoid death, severe personal injury or property damage, observe the following:

If hot water system has not been used for two weeks, hydrogen gas may be produced under certain conditions. **HYDROGEN GAS IS EXPLOSIVE.** Before using dishwasher, turn on all hot water faucets and let water flow for several minutes. This will release any accumulated hydrogen gas. As gas is flammable, do not smoke or use an open flame during this time.



#### WARNING

To avoid death or severe personal injury, remove dishwasher door when discarding old dishwasher.



#### Caution

To avoid personal injury or property damage, observe the following:

1. Use dishwasher only for its intended purpose.
2. Do not touch heating element during or immediately after use.
3. Do not operate dishwasher unless all enclosure panels are properly in place.
4. Do not tamper with controls.
5. Do not abuse, sit on, or stand on door or dish rack of dishwasher.
6. Do not allow children to play in or on dishwasher.

**SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS**

## Model Identification

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Please read this Use and Care Manual thoroughly. This manual provides proper maintenance information for maximum benefit of the features selected.

Complete enclosed registration card and promptly return card to the Product Registration department. If registration card is missing, call **Consumer Information Line at 1-800-843-0304**.

When contacting manufacturer regarding Caloric® dishwasher, provide product information. Locate product information on the nameplate, found in upper left corner of dishwasher tub. Record the following information:

Model Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Manufacturing Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Serial or S/N Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of purchase: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dealer's name and address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Keep a copy of sales receipt** for future reference or in case warranty service is required.

If something is operating incorrectly, read "Before Calling for Service" section. Any further questions or to locate an **authorized** Caloric servicer, call **1-800-843-0304**. Manufacturer recommends contacting an **authorized** servicer if service is required.

Caloric offers a full line of appliances...refrigerators, ranges, cooktops, wall ovens and microwave ovens. When buying one of these products, choose Caloric.

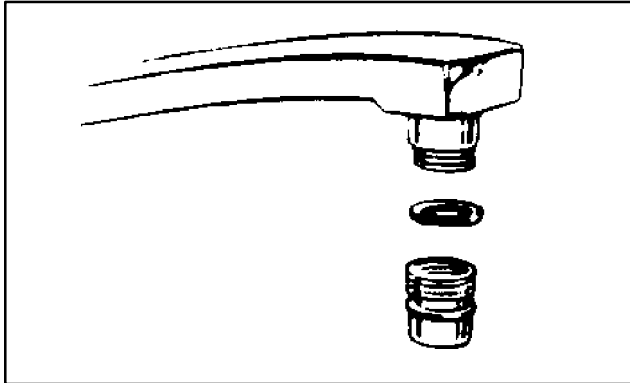
Enjoy this new dishwasher.

## Connecting Dishwasher

### Important

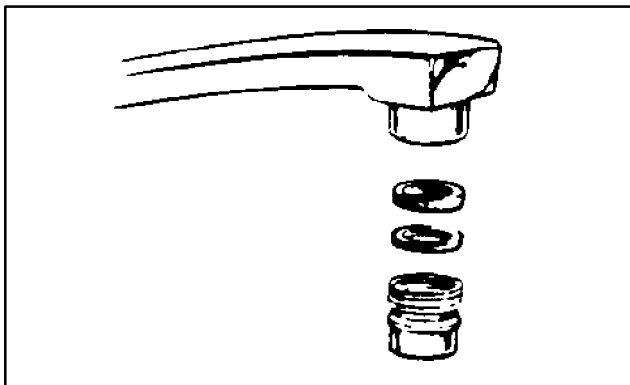
Adapter supplied with dishwasher must be assembled to sink faucet before using dishwasher. Adapter is designed to fit standard faucets having external or internal threads.

1. Remove old aerator or trim ring on faucet.
2. **Faucet with external threads**  
Insert thinner of two washers into adapter. Attach adapter to faucet.



### Faucet with internal threads

Insert both washers into faucet adapter. Attach adapter to faucet.



### Important

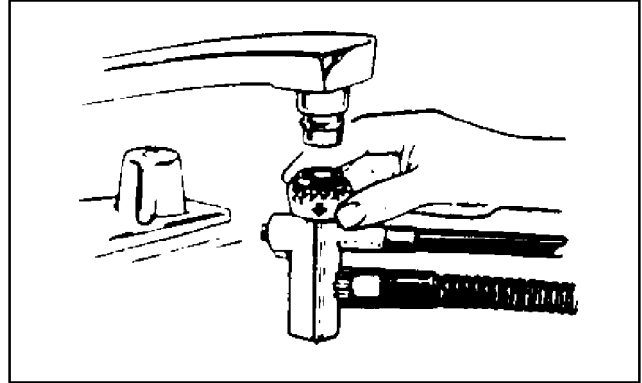
If faucet adapter threads do not match faucet, additional fittings can be purchased at a local hardware store or plumbing supply store.

### Important

A sink spray attachment hose can burst if installed with dishwasher. Disconnect sink spray attachment and plug hole.

3. Remove uncouple and hoses from storage compartment, located at rear of dishwasher.

4. Attach uncouple connector to faucet adapter by depressing collar on top of connector. When uncouple is completely in, release collar. Collar will snap into position and lock uncouple in place.



### Important

Uncouple's small hose carries water from faucet to dishwasher. Large hose carries drain water to sink. Be sure uncouple is pointing toward drain opening and drain is open. If dishwasher drains into disposer, operate disposer until disposer is completely empty before starting dishwasher.

5. Turn hot water on.
6. Reverse procedure to disconnect dishwasher.

### Important

When motor stops at end of final rinse, uncouple can be disconnected and returned to storage.

### Faucet-Flo Nozzle

Faucet-Flo nozzle is part of uncouple connector. Operate nozzle by depressing pressure release button on front of uncouple connector. Use Faucet-Flo nozzle to better regulate water temperature by flushing cold water out of hot water line and to test temperature of water before starting dishwasher.

### Draining Excess Water

If sink is 34" or higher from floor, excess water in hoses cannot be drained directly into sink. Drain excess water into a container by holding container outside at a lower point than sink.

## Determining Dishwasher-safe Items

Material	Usually Safe	Exceptions	Special Instructions
Aluminum	Yes	Some colored anodized aluminum can fade.	Some darkening or spotting possible. Remove by scouring with soap-filled steel wool pads.
China/Stoneware	Yes	Antique, metal trimmed, hand-painted or over-the-glaze patterns fade. Gold leaf will discolor.	If in doubt, check with china/stoneware manufacturer or test wash one piece daily for a least a month. Compare with rest of set.
Crystal	Yes	Antique, metal-trimmed or hand-painted patterns will fade. Gold leaf will discolor.	Load securely to prevent movement. Check crystal manufacturer's instructions.
Glass	Yes	Milk glass may yellow.	
Iron	No	Iron will rust.	
Non-dishware items such as filters, etc.	No		Damage to dishwasher and discoloration or staining of dishwasher may result.
Non-stick coatings	Yes		After washing, wipe non-stick coating with vegetable oil to keep coating from losing non-stick quality.
Pewter	No	Pewter tarnishes	
Plastics	Yes		If plastic does not say dishwasher safe, test one piece before washing entire set.
Stainless steel	Yes		Rinse if not washing immediately. Salty or acid foods can stain if left on.
Sterling silver and silver plate	Yes	Contact with stainless steel can damage silver. Washing with copper can leave a brown film on silver.	Rinse if not washing immediately. Salty or acid foods can stain if left on. Powder detergent can cause black spots. Avoid placing under detergent dispenser.
Tin	No	Tin can rust.	
Wood	No	Wood can warp, crack or lose its finish.	

## Loading Dishwasher

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### Preparing Dishes

Pre-rinsing of normal food soils is not necessary.

1. Remove large quantities of any food. Also remove solids such as bones, crusts, meat trimmings, seeds, skins, toothpicks, hard-shelled or leafy vegetables.
2. Remove foods such as mustard, mayonnaise, vinegar, lemon juice and other foods that can cause discoloration of stainless steel.
3. Place dishes in dishwasher before soil dries. Dishes with dried-on soil are more difficult to wash.

### Top Rack

Top rack is for delicate, plastic or small items. Glasses fit best along the sides. Arrange stemware so that stemware cannot move easily. Do not let glasses or stemware touch each other. Do not wash plastic items unless marked "dishwasher safe." For plastic items not marked, check manufacturer's recommendations. Make sure small plastic items are secure so they cannot fall onto heating element.

### Bottom Rack

Bottom rack is best for heavily soiled items. Fit plates and saucers between tines. Pots, pans and casseroles must be loaded in bottom rack, facing down. Prop broiler pans and racks along edge.

### Important

For best results, properly load dishwasher.

### Important

Do not block wash tower or load tall items next to wash tower. Items must not prevent wash tower from rotating freely. Do not let items extend through bottom rack. This could block wash arm and cause poor washing results.

### Cutlery Basket

Load cutlery basket evenly with items mixed and handles up.



#### Caution

To avoid personal injury or property damage, load sharp knives with handles up.

Small plastic items such as measuring spoons and lids are not recommended for automatic dishwashing. If placed in dishwasher, these items should go in bottom of basket with silverware on top.

### Important

Take out anything that might fall or extend through the bottom of basket.

## Detergent and Rinse Aid

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### Water Temperature

Hot water is needed to activate powder detergents. Dishwasher has a water heating feature that boosts water temperature in wash cycle. Entering water must be at least 120°F and should not exceed 150°F. Check water temperature with a candy or meat thermometer. Turn on hot water faucet nearest dishwasher. Put thermometer in a glass and let water run continuously into glass until temperature stops rising. If water temperature is below 120°F, adjust water heater. If water is less than 120°F and water heater cannot be adjusted, select a longer cycle and fill both detergent dispensers at least half full with detergent.

If outside temperatures are unusually low, or if water travels a long distance from water heater to dishwasher, increase water heater temperature. If hot water has not been used for several hours, water in pipes will be cold. Turn on hot water faucet and allow water to run until hot then start dishwasher. If a lot of hot water was used recently, allow water heater time to recover before operating dishwasher.

### Choosing Detergent

#### Important

Use only detergents or wetting agents recommended for use in a dishwasher. Do not use hand or laundry detergent. Foam produced prevents dishwasher from working properly.

1. Keep detergent out of reach of children.
2. Check phosphate content. Phosphates help prevent hard water from forming spots or film on dishes. Detergents with a higher phosphate level will probably work better. If phosphate content is low (8.7% or less), use more detergent.
3. Keep detergent fresh and dry. Do not store powder detergent under sink because there is too much moisture. Do not put powder detergent into dispenser until ready to wash. If powder detergent gets old or lumpy, throw detergent away.

### Detergent Dispenser

Use detergent dispenser for all wash programs except Rinse and Hold. Before adding detergent in main dispenser, confirm cycle indicator dial is in "Off" position. Otherwise main dispenser will not close properly. Dispenser can be opened manually if necessary. Reserve dispenser is for two cycle washes and if extra detergent is necessary.

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#### Soft Water

(0-3 Grains Hardness)

	Main	Reserve
Light Wash	One Tbs min.*	None
Normal Wash	One Tbs min.*	One Tbs min.*
Pots and Pans	One Tbs min.*	One Tbs min.*

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#### Medium Water

(3-7 Grains Hardness)

	Main	Reserve
Light Wash	Half full	None
Normal Wash	Half full	Half full
Pots and Pans	Half full	Half full

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#### Hard Water

(7-12 Grains Hardness)

	Main	Reserve
Light Wash	Full	None
Normal Wash	Full	Full
Pots and Pans	Full	Full

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\* Tablespoon minimum

### Rinse Aid Dispenser

Rinse aid reduces spots on dishes and improves drying.

Open dispenser by unscrewing cap. Add liquid rinse aid until liquid reaches bottom lip inside dispenser opening. Replace cap. Dispenser automatically releases rinse aid into final rinse water.

If rinse aid is spilled, wipe up with a damp cloth. Do not leave spilled rinse aid in dishwasher. Dispenser hold 4 1/2 ounces. This should last about three months. Fill as needed but do not overfill.

## Wash and Dry Cycles

Cycles	Sequence	Selecting Cycle	Water Used (Gallons)	Cycle Time (Minutes)
Rinse and Hold • Use to prevent food from drying on items	Rinse, Rinse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Push Cool Dry button.</li> <li>2. Push Rinse and Hold button.</li> <li>3. Latch door.</li> </ol>	3.7	9*
Light Wash • Use for lightly soiled dishes	Rinse, Rinse, Wash, Rinse, Rinse, Rinse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Push Light Wash button.</li> <li>2. Latch door.</li> <li>3. Turn dial to start position. Motor will start. There is a time delay between start-up and water fill.</li> </ol>	10.8	43*
Normal Wash • Use for average soiled dishes	Wash/Rinse, Rinse, Rinse, Wash, Rinse, Rinse, Rinse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Push Normal Wash button.</li> <li>2. Latch door.</li> <li>3. Turn dial to start position. Motor will start. There is a time delay between start-up and water fill.</li> </ol>	12.7	43*
Pots and Pans • Use for heavily soiled dishes	Wash/Rinse, Rinse, Rinse, Wash, Rinse, Rinse, Rinse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Push Pots and Pans button.</li> <li>2. Latch door.</li> <li>3. Turn dial to start position. Motor will start. There is a time delay between start-up and water fill.</li> </ol>	12.7	58*
Dry-Plate Warmer • Use for warming items		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Push Hot Dry button.</li> <li>2. Turn dial to Dry-Plate Warmer setting.</li> <li>3. Latch Door</li> </ol>		
Hot Dry • Use for fast drying				32
Cool Dry • Use for no heat drying				

\* These times may be extended up to 16 1/2 minutes to heat water to proper temperature.



## Care and Cleaning

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### WARNING

To avoid electrical shock which can cause death, unplug power cord or open household circuit breaker to dishwasher before cleaning. After cleaning, reconnect power.

### General

Wash dishwasher with warm, soapy water as needed. Rinse and dry thoroughly.

Do not use following items. These items can scratch, crack and discolor surfaces.

- abrasive cleaners such as Comet, Ajax, etc.
- solvents
- metal scouring pads

### Removing Spots and Film

1. Remove all metal items from dishwasher.
2. Latch door.
3. Turn dial to start.
4. Allow dishwasher to run to 15 to 20 minutes.
5. Open door and pour two cups (500 ml) of white vinegar into bottom of dishwasher.
6. Close door and latch.

If vinegar does not work, repeat above procedure using 1/4 cup (60 ml) of citric acid crystals instead of vinegar.

### Wood Top

Before using, wipe well with a dry cloth to remove surface dust. Saturate a clean cloth with mineral oil and polish all exposed wood surfaces until they gleam. Allow wood to stand overnight to absorb oil and repeat treatment. Allow to stand for four to six hours and wipe off excess oil with a soft, dry cloth.

Do not use wood top for thawing frozen foods, even when protected by aluminum foil. Never let water stand on wood top. To remove water stains, rub with mineral oil saturated cloth. If top becomes stained, dirty or cut, sand with sandpaper. Then wipe with mineral oil saturated cloth.

### Removing Wood Top

1. Remove wood top by removing two mounting screws and pulling top forward.
2. Remove protective covering by cutting bag from underside.
3. Reinstall top by reversing step 1. Take care to engage brackets.

### Important

Do not operate dishwasher without wood top in place.

### Conversion Kit

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A kit to convert dishwasher to a built-in can be purchased from an authorized Caloric® dealer.

## Before Calling for Service

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Dishwasher will not operate \_\_\_\_\_

Check fuse or circuit breaker.

Items are not clean \_\_\_\_\_

Confirm water temperature is above 120°F.  
Check water pressure.  
Confirm dishwasher is loaded properly.

Items are not dry \_\_\_\_\_

Confirm water temperature is above 120°F.  
Confirm dishwasher is loaded properly.  
Unload bottom rack first. Water from dishes in top rack may be spilling.  
Check level of rinse aid in dispenser.

Spotting or filming appears on items \_\_\_\_\_

Confirm water hardness.  
Confirm water temperature is above 120°F.  
Confirm dishwasher is loaded properly.  
Confirm detergent is not old or wet.  
Check phosphate level of detergent.  
Check level of rinse aid in dispenser.  
Check amount of detergent.

Cloudiness appears on items \_\_\_\_\_

See above section.  
If above does not work, cloudiness is etching and cannot be removed.

Black or grey marks appear on items \_\_\_\_\_

Confirm dishwasher is loaded properly.  
Aluminum items can leave marks on other items.

Yellow or brown film appears on items \_\_\_\_\_

Check amount of iron in water.  
Film can be caused by tea or coffee.  
Remove film with a solution of 1/2 cup bleach and 3 cups warm water.  
Film can also be a result of washing with copper items. Remove film with a silver polish.

Items are chipped _____	Confirm dishwasher is loaded properly.
Detergent is left in dispenser _____	Confirm dishwasher is loaded properly. Open dispenser and remove any hardened detergent. Confirm detergent is not old or wet.
Dishwasher makes unfamiliar sounds _____	Confirm items are secure in dishwasher. Water may be causing items to rattle.  If dishwasher has not been used regularly, set dishwasher to fill and pump out once every week. This will keep seals moist.
Small amount of water is standing in tub _____	This is normal and keeps water seal lubricated.
Water will not pump out of tub _____	Confirm sink is draining well. Run disposer.
Suds are in tub _____	Confirm detergent is for automatic dishwashers. Remove suds by opening door and letting suds evaporate. Add a gallon of cold water. Close and latch door. Pump out water by turning control dial until a drain period is reached.
Dishwasher leaks _____	Confirm detergent is for automatic dishwashers.  Confirm rinse aid dispenser is filled properly and any spills are wiped up.

Any questions or to locate an **authorized** Caloric® servicer, call **1-800-843-0304**. When contacting manufacturer, provide product information including **model and serial numbers** and **date of purchase**. Locate model and serial numbers on the nameplate, found in upper left corner of tub. Manufacturer recommends contacting an **authorized** Caloric servicer if service is required.

### **Asure™ Extended Service Plan**

Caloric® is pleased to offer long-term service protection on this new dishwasher. Asure™ Extended Service Plan is specially designed to supplement Caloric's strong warranty. Asure™ provides budget-protecting coverage on dishwasher for up to five full years and includes parts, labor and travel charges.

A participating Caloric dealer has details or contact:

Consumer Affairs Department  
Amana, IA 52204  
1-800-843-0304

**Consumer Information Line**  
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