

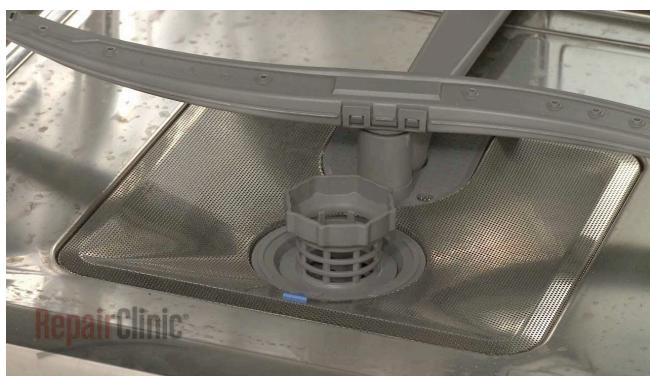


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Dishwasher Revitalization

If you've ever opened up your dishwasher after a cycle and thought, 'Whoa that's a strange smell, didn't I just wash these dishes?' You likely have food trapped along the bottom edge of the door and in your strainer screen. The strainer screen is located at the bottom of your dishwasher, usually under the propeller-like sprayer arm and is meant to stop large food particles from going down and possibly clogging your drain. When food gets stuck in these 2 areas, it becomes a breeding ground for bacteria, and there is nothing more appealing to bacteria than a dark, warm and wet place to grow. (Below are some pictures of different types of strainer screens)



Once you find the strainer screen, go ahead and remove it (in most cases, it's just a twist-off or a screw or two). Remove any big food particles and place them in the green bin. Next, clean out the removable part of the strainer in your sink. Then switch your attention over to the dishwasher and clean out the housing in which the strainer sits. **TIP: DO NOT USE ANY PRODUCT THAT INCLUDES BLEACH.** Bleach is a very corrosive on metal and will not solve the root problem.

Once the housing and strainer are clean you can put them together. Now it's time to clean the bottom edge of the door. To do this, open the door as far as you can and thoroughly wipe down the edge with the same cleaning solution.

At this point you are almost done. You should have cleaned and re-installed the strainer screen, and washed the bottom edge of the door. The final step is also the easiest one, and that is to wash the dishwasher. Start with an empty dishwasher. Pour a cup of white vinegar in a dishwasher-safe container and place it on the top rack of the machine. Run the dishwasher through a hot-water cycle. This will wash away grease and grime, and help to remove any musty odors as well.