

Undercounter lab washers offer you point-of-use convenience with made-for-lab-use features. Compare before you choose.

Choosing a Glassware Washer—residential dishwashers vs. central laboratory washers vs. point-of-use laboratory washers

Clean glassware is the key to good results in the lab. Without it, experiments can show ghost peaks, glassware can become etched and unusable, and months of sampling can be ruined by contaminants. Using an automatic washer to clean your labware has many advantages over hand washing. But, how do you choose a washer that's right for you?

The automatic washer options for the laboratory are household dishwashers, large central laboratory washers and laboratory-grade undercounter washers.

Residential Dishwasher

Without a doubt, a household washer is a less expensive alternative to a laboratory glassware washer, but may not have the advanced features needed for laboratory work. First and foremost, be aware that in many cases, the warranty on a dishwasher is void when installed in a location other than a home. Since many home washers have interiors with wetted parts not resistant to laboratory chemicals, they may not withstand heavy use, and without a valid warranty, not economically repairable. Residential washers feature open racks with pins to fit china, glasses and ceramic cups and baskets to hold knives, forks and spoons. These racks may or may not accommodate the glassware and utensils found in a lab. Typically the wash temperatures are lower, there is gravity drying, vs. hot air drying, pure water rinses are not an option, and racks are non-injector spindles.

Central Laboratory Glassware Washer

Central washers are located in a separate room and are typically shared by several laboratories. Designed for laboratory needs, these washers feature hot wash and rinse up to 95° C; interchangeable racks up to 5, including open racks and direct injection spindle racks; and secure access such as password protection. Since water usage can be up to 8 gallons per cycle, a full load is required for maximum efficiency. If a small load of glassware needs to be run, hand washing vs. sending it to the central wash room is advised. Since these washers typically serve several laboratories, problems with sharing must be addressed such as keeping track of one's glassware, dealing with lost items and scheduling use. Last but not least, central washers are expensive, running \$55,000 and up depending on features.

Point-of-use Laboratory Glassware Washer

An undercounter laboratory washer offers the best of both worlds — the convenience of a point-of-use location with features designed to handle labware and exposure to harsh environments. Labconco's [SteamScrubber and FlaskScrubber Laboratory Glassware Washers](#) are two examples. These washers have wash and rinse temperatures up to 99° C for thorough cleaning. Racks are designed specifically for labware. Open racks accommodate specialized basket inserts for items such as beakers, Petri dishes and culture tubes. Spindle racks inject water and detergent inside narrow neck glassware and pipettes. Racks are interchangeable for maximum versatility and flexibility. These



washers come with a pure water pump and up to six pure water rinses may be programmed. The exterior and interior is 304 stainless steel, and all interior components are made to withstand normal lab use. These washers usually range \$7,000 to \$12,000 depending on features.

Labconco can help you choose the right washer for your needs. Download the [catalog pdf](#) and contact us at **800-821-5525** with your application or technical questions.



Still washing by hand? See what you can save. Take the Washer Challenge [here!](#)