

Dishwasher Not Draining: 6-Step Fix Checklist

London Ontario homeowner quick guide

Walk through these steps in order before calling for service

1 Bail out all standing water first

Use a measuring cup, then a sponge for the last inch. You cannot diagnose a flooded tub.

2 Pull and clean the cylindrical filter

Twist counter-clockwise, lift out, scrub with hot water and a toothbrush. Reinstall and lock.

3 Check the drain hose for kinks and sags

Hose should rise to a high loop under the sink. Straighten any sharp bends, suspend any sags.

4 Test the kitchen sink drain

Run hot water for 60 seconds. If sink drains slowly, that is your real problem.

5 Check garbage disposal knockout plug

If a new disposal was just installed, the dishwasher port plug may still be in place.

6 Inspect the drain pump impeller

Unplug the dishwasher first. Pull the filter and sump cover. Spin the impeller by finger.

7 Listen during the drain cycle

Steady hum = pump working. Brief buzz then silence = jam. No sound = motor failed.

When to call a technician

If the impeller spins freely but the pump never engages during a drain cycle, the motor or control board has failed. Anything past the pump motor involves 120 V wiring and is regulated by ESA Ontario. Get a qualified tech to confirm the failed part before ordering anything.

Typical repair costs (London ON, 2026)

Drain pump replacement	200 to 380 CAD
Drain hose replacement	120 to 220 CAD
Filter and sump cleaning	85 to 140 CAD
Control board replacement	280 to 450 CAD
Air gap or check valve	90 to 180 CAD
Diagnostic call	70 to 120 CAD

Need a tech? Same-day service in London ON, Woodstock, Ingersoll, St. Thomas.