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Best Dish Soaps of 2024

By [Deirdre Mundorf](#)

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When it comes to dish soap, there are many different brands and formulations available. Personal considerations will also come into play - for example, if you want something that's especially effective at cutting grease or if you'd prefer a gentler formula for sensitive skin or one with plant-based ingredients for washing baby bottles. We've rounded up some of the best dish soaps on the market to help you find that one that help you clean up your pots, pans, plates, and more while also matching your personal needs and preferences.

Best Dish Soaps

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Best Overall

Dawn Platinum Dishwashing Liquid »



PROS:

- ✓ Allows you to use less soap with the concentrated formula
- ✓ Effectively cuts through grease
- ✓ Has a relatively inexpensive cost per fluid ounce

CONS:

- ✗ Formula includes colorant and perfume
- ✗ Fragrances may be too strong for some

[Buy From Amazon](#)

Dawn is the leading dish soap company in the U.S. Its products have been used to help clean more than 150,000 aquatic birds and animals after oil

the grease-cutting power of nonconcentrated Dawn dish soap, allowing you to use less soap for each task. The dish soap works by breaking down the bonds that hold grease together, allowing you to easily remove it from your pots, pans, and dishes.

In addition to grabbing your bottle of Dawn Platinum Dishwashing Liquid for cleaning dishes, you'll also find that it can come in handy for a variety of other home maintenance needs, from cleaning the external surfaces on a car to getting your gas grill looking new again. Three scent options are currently available: Refreshing Rain, Lemon Burst, and Green Papaya.

Specs

Price:	Starting at \$5.84 for 32.7 fluid ounces (varies by retailer)
Scent(s):	Refreshing Rain, Lemon Burst, Green Papaya
Sizes (Fluid Ounces):	7, 12.2, 14.6, 16.2, 18, 19.4, 20.6, 24, 24.3, 32.7, 34, 34.6, 54.8, 54.9, 90
Quantities:	Single, two-pack, three-pack

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best Budget

Ajax Ultra Triple Action Orange »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Budget-friendly cost
- ✓ Range of sizes, including a 90-fluid-ounce value size
- ✓ Real citrus extracts in formula

CONS:

- ✗ Formulated with fragrance and colorants
- ✗ Has a more liquidlike consistency

[Buy From Amazon](#)

Starting at just \$2.59, the Ajax Ultra Triple Action Orange dish soap is our pick for the best budget product. The soap is formulated with real citrus extracts that contribute to its invigorating orange scent. It works to remove baked-on food and grease from dishes, and it can also be used as a hand soap to remove bacteria from your hands after handling raw meat or other contaminants. (Just be sure to follow the recommendations issued by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and scrub your hands for 20 seconds under cold or warm water.)

As this is a more low-priced option, it does have a thinner consistency, which may cause you to use more when washing dishes. The formula also isn't free

Specs

Price: Starting at \$2.59 for 28 fluid ounces (varies by retailer)

Scent(s): Orange

Sizes (Fluid Ounces): 12.4, 14, 28, 34, 52, 90, 145

Quantities: Single, two-pack, three-pack, four-pack, six-pack, nine-pack

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best Eco-Friendly

Meliora Cleaning Products Dish Soap »



- ✓ Gentle on skin
- ✓ Plastic-free, recyclable packaging
- ✓ Made Safe and Leaping Bunny certified
- ✗ Is somewhat pricey
- ✗ May not last very long

[Buy From Amazon](#)

The Meliora Cleaning Products Dish Soap is an eco-friendly option made with safe and natural ingredients. The vegetable-based formula features organic coconut oils and sunflower oils that are both gentle on the skin and effective at removing stains and residue from your dishes. Choose from an unscented formula or a lemon fragrance. Unlike most other dish soaps, this is a solid bar. You simply leave it on your counter on top of a coaster or soap dish and rub a wet sponge or brush over it. Once you've worked up a nice lather, you're ready to tackle all of your dishes.

This bar soap has earned a Made Safe certification, which means that none of its ingredients are known or suspected to be dangerous to humans, animals, aquatic life, or ecosystems. In fact, [Amy Ziff](#), the founder of Made Safe, shares that it's one of her favorites. She says that it "takes a minute to get used to but is extremely effective at soapy washing for things." In addition to its Made Safe certification, the soap is Leaping Bunny certified as a cruelty-free option.

Moreover, eco-conscious shoppers will appreciate that Meliora Cleaning Products Dish Soap features environmentally friendly packaging. The paperboard box the soap is packaged in is recyclable. Once unboxed, the soap is ready to use with no further waste.

Specs

Price: Starting at \$9.99 for 7 ounces/one bar (varies by retailer)

Scent(s): Lemon, Unscented

Quantities.

Single, three-pack

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Babies

Dapple Baby Bottle & Dish Soap »



- ✔ Works to remove protein, fat, and carbohydrates from milk and baby formula

✔ Is hypoallergenic

✔ Made without harmful chemicals and dyes
- ✘ The lavender option may smell too strongly for some.

✘ Some customers complained that their soap leaked during shipping because of the packaging.

Buy From Amazon

If you have a baby, then you probably know that many dirty bottles need to be washed daily. The Dapple Baby Bottle & Dish Soap is designed for precisely this job. Its formula targets the fat, protein, and carbohydrate residue left behind from milk and formula, leaving bottles clean and ready for babies to use again. It can also be used to clean practically anything else from breast pump components to pacifiers to dinner dishes.

Tested by dermatologists and pediatricians, this dish soap is hypoallergenic. Its plant-based ingredient list makes it a suitable choice for those looking for an eco-friendly product. The dish soap is also free of potentially harsh chemicals such as sulfates, parabens phthalates, mineral oil, dyes, and alcohol. For those who prefer an unscented soap, a fragrance-free option is available. You can also try the sweet lavender, fresh citrus, or apple pear scents. Each purchase comes with a pump top for more convenient use.

Specs

Price:	\$5.99 for 3 fluid ounces
Scent(s):	Fragrance free, sweet lavender, fresh citrus, apple pear
Sizes (Fluid Ounces):	1 1/2, 3, 6, 16,9, 17.75, 30, 33.8, 34
Quantities:	Single, two-pack, three-pack, four-pack

Best for Sensitive Skin

Puracy Dish Soap »



PROS:

- ✓ Has a concentrated formula
- ✓ Reduces waste with refill packaging
- ✓ Formulated with plant-based skin softeners

CONS:

- ✗ Is expensive
- ✗ May not lather as much as other dish soaps

[Buy From Amazon](#)

If you have sensitive skin, then you might want to try Puracy Dish Soap. Made with natural fragrances and plant-based ingredients, this soap is free of sulfates, dyes, parabens, phosphates, animal byproducts, caustics, and

Puracy is dedicated to reducing waste with its packaging. Instead of purchasing a new bottle of dish soap when your current one is empty, you can buy one (or more) of the company’s refill bags. Each refill bag holds enough to fill up three of the 16-fluid-ounce bottles but uses 90% less plastic packaging. The soap also offers a concentrated formula, which means a little will go a long way.

Specs

Price:	Starting at \$19.99 for 48 fluid ounces (varies by retailer)
Scent(s):	Organic Lemongrass, Green Tea & Lime
Sizes (Fluid Ounces):	16, 48 (refill size)
Quantities:	Single (48-fluid-ounce refill), pack of two (16-fluid-ounce bottle and 48-fluid-ounce refill), two-pack (48-fluid-ounce refills), three-pack (16-fluid-ounce bottles)

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best Spray

Seventh Generation Foaming Dish Spray »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Formulated with three grease fighters
- ✓ Doesn't require pre-soaking dishes
- ✓ Is Safer Choice certified

CONS:

- ✗ Some customers found that the spray attachment didn't work well.
- ✗ It's a little more expensive than other dish soap sprays.

[Buy From Amazon](#)

Dish sprays can simplify the task of cleaning up after a meal. The Seventh Generation Foaming Dish Spray is one top example that you might want to consider. It's formulated with three different grease-fighting components, allowing it to do much of the cleaning work before you even lift the sponge. Spray it on your greasy pots or pans – if heavily soiled, let the formula foam up – and wipe. Less scrubbing is required when compared to Seventh Generation's standard liquid soap.

Another benefit of choosing this foaming dish spray from Seventh Generation is that it's certified by [Safer Choice](#), a pollution prevention

free of any animal testing.

Specs

Price: Starting at \$5.99 for 16 fluid ounces (varies by retailer)

Scent(s): Mandarin Orange, Honeycrisp Apple

Sizes (Fluid Ounces): 16 (both bottle and refill sizes)

Quantities: Single, pack of three (one 16-fluid-ounce bottle and two 16-fluid-ounce refills)

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Grease

Dawn Platinum Powerwash Dish Spray »



- ✓ Pre-soaking is often unnecessary.
- ✓ The trigger releases a continuous spray from the nozzle.
- ✓ The sprayer head is reusable to attach to the refill bottles.
- ✗ More expensive for less fluid ounces than Dawn Platinum Powerwash Liquid Dish Soap
- ✗ Some overpowering scents

[Buy From Amazon](#)

Dawn Platinum Powerwash Dish Spray is formulated to break down grease up to five times as quickly as nonconcentrated Dawn dish soap. The bottle is designed with a sprayer head that allows for continuous dispersal of the grease-fighting soap onto the pots, pans, and other messes you're fighting in the kitchen. Once the solution hits the surface you spray, the suds activate and start working.

For many messes, you don't even need to let the soap soak on the surface and can simply wipe it and the grease right away. Dawn does recommend giving the solution a few minutes to sit on heavily soiled messes so that it can better break down and release the grease.

While many users enjoy the different scent options, some find a few to be too overpowering. If you're more sensitive to fragrances, consider trying the Free and Clear scent. The author of this piece Deirdre Mundorf switched to it after finding the Fresh Scent to be too strong for her preferences. She appreciates how effective the spray is at releasing stuck-on messes and grease from the different components of her air fryer.

Specs

Price: Starting at \$4.94 for 16 fluid ounces (varies by retailer)

Scent(s): Fresh Scent, Apple Scent, Citrus Scent, Lemon Scent,

Ounces):**Quantities:**

Single, pack of two (one 16-fluid-ounce bottle and one 16-fluid-ounce refill), pack of four (one 16-fluid-ounce bottle and three 16-fluid-ounce refills), six-pack (16-fluid-ounce refills)

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Tough Stains**Palmolive Ultra Strength »****PROS:**

- ✓ Biodegradable ingredients
- ✓ Budget-friendly price

CONS:

- ✗ Formula includes colorants
- ✗ Scent is unpleasant for some

[Buy From Amazon](#)

The Palmolive Ultra Strength dish soap is our top pick for dealing with those tough stains on your dishes. Karina Toner, operations manager for the home cleaning service [Spekless](#) in Washington, D.C., listed Palmolive as one of her top picks for heavy grease. She shared that “Palmolive is a trusted brand, and its Ultra Strength formula is designed to cut through grease and baked-on food. It's an affordable and effective choice for everyday dishwashing.”

Palmolive designed this concentrated formula to effectively remove stuck-on foods that have been sitting on dishes for 24 hours. It works to fight grease in 10 different ways and can even be used to remove grease and stuck-on messes from a variety of other items including tires, grills, and even dirty laundry. Despite its ability to remove stains and messes, the formula is also designed to be soft on the hands of the user.

Specs

Price:	Starting at \$4.39 for 32 1/2 fluid ounces (varies by retailer)
Scent(s):	Original
Sizes (Fluid Ounces):	8, 10, 20, 32 1/2, 46, 56, 68 1/2, 70, 90, 102
Quantities:	Single, two-pack, three-pack

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Scent

**PROS:**

- ✓ Clean floral scent
- ✓ Plant-based, biodegradable formula
- ✓ Cruelty-free production

CONS:

- ✗ It's not as sudsy as some other brands.
- ✗ Some customers say the packaging isn't sturdy.

[Buy From Amazon](#)

The Clean Day Lavender Dish Soap from Mrs. Meyer's offers a floral lavender scent to make dishwashing a little more enjoyable. The scent is formulated using essential oils and other key ingredients. Toner of Spekless says this dish soap is one of her favorite eco-friendly options. She notes that the product is "known for its plant-based, biodegradable formula." The formula is free of animal-derived ingredients, parabens, and phthalates and is also cruelty-free and Leaping Bunny certified.

The soap works to effectively remove grease from pots, pans, and dishes. And, as Toner notes, the formula "may not create as many suds as some

isn't the only option available through Mrs. Meyer's. The company also offers dish soaps with a variety of other fragrances including Lemon Verbena, Peony, Basil, Iowa Pine, and Honeysuckle.

Specs

Price: Starting at \$4.99 for 16 fluid ounces (varies by retailer)

Scent(s): Lavender

Sizes (Fluid Ounces): 16, 33 (refill size), 48 (refill size)

Quantities: Single, pack of two (16-fluid-ounce bottle and 33- or 48-fluid ounce refill), three-pack (16-fluid-ounce bottles), three-pack (33- or 48-fluid-ounce refills), six-pack (16-fluid-ounce bottles)

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

The Bottom Line

The right dish soap isn't one size fits all. A number of factors can come into play when deciding which option is the best one to purchase. For example, someone with sensitive skin and someone who prefers more fragrant dish soaps may disagree on which product to purchase. Similarly, a chef cooking greasy meals may have different preferences than a mother looking to wash her baby's bottles. Use your personal needs to help guide your search as you evaluate the various options on the market.

Things To Consider When Buying Dish Soaps

Ingredients: One of the most important things you'll want to consider when shopping for dish soap is the ingredient list. Karina Toner of [Spekless](#) notes that the "choice of dish soap ingredients depends on your specific wants and needs." She shares that those with sensitive skin may prefer a gentle dish soap with aloe vera, natural oils, or skin-friendly ingredients that can keep your hands from getting overly dried out. However, if your priority is cleaning up greasy or stuck-on food messes, Toner advises opting for dish soaps with powerful degreasers like citrus extracts or enzymes. "These ingredients excel at breaking down grease effectively," she says.

Made Safe founder Amy Ziff points out the importance of avoiding dish soaps with harmful chemicals. Her organization certifies dish soaps and other products as made without any ingredients that have the potential to harm humans, terrestrial life, or aquatic life. Some ingredients that she cautions against include harsh surfactants, harsh preservatives, colorants, and fragrances.

Concentration: Take note of the concentration of the formula for each dish soap you're thinking about purchasing. Dish soaps with an "ultra" formula are more concentrated. According to Toner, "Concentrated formulas require less product per use, so a little goes a long way. This can save you money in the long run because you won't need to buy dish soap as frequently." She says that another benefit of concentrated dish soaps is how these often require less overall packaging (since each bottle will last longer) and, in turn, less plastic waste.

If you're going to choose a concentrated formula, to maximize these potential cost-saving and environmental benefits, you need to make sure that you don't use more soap than you need. As Toner points out, it can be "easy to squeeze out more than you actually need, which can negate the cost savings."

Scent: It's important to pay attention to scent before purchasing dish soap. You'll find that there are several scent options available from various brands from citrus to floral and nearly everything in between.

Some individuals may be sensitive to fragrances or may experience allergic reactions when exposed to certain scents. If you are one such individual, you might decide that

made without any fragrances. Products with such a label may have fragrances added to cover up other less pleasant scents.

Notably, Ziff recommends staying away from added fragrances. As she explains, “The word ‘fragrance’ itself is an umbrella term used on product labels that may contain hundreds of different ingredients. Many of these ingredients may be outside the strict purpose of fragrance, though they can get lumped in, undisclosed.”

Packaging: While most dish soaps come in a recyclable bottle, some manufacturers have taken measures to even further reduce the waste generated by their products. For example, Meliora Cleaning Products Dish Soap - our pick for the most eco-friendly option - is packaged without any plastic. The bar soap comes unwrapped and ready to use as soon as it’s removed from its recyclable paperboard box. Puracy Dish Soap also sells refill packs that generate 90% less plastic packaging waste than buying new bottles that would hold the same amount of soap.

How We Chose the Best Dish Soaps

To choose the best dish soaps, we consulted with experts in the industry, including Amy Ziff, the founder of [Made Safe](#), a human health and ecosystem-focused product certification program; and Karina Toner, the operations manager of the home cleaning service [Spekless](#), which is based in Washington, D.C. Additionally, we looked at reviews and feedback from customers, stain- and grease-fighting power, and the ingredients list. We also sought to include a range of product options to match different budgets, dishwashing requirements, and skin needs.

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FAQ

How much dish soap should I use?



Can dish soap be used for purposes other than washing dishes?



Are there harmful chemicals in dish soap?



About Our Team



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Contributor



Mundorf is a freelance writer who specializes in home goods, family, and pet content. She has more than three years of experience as a professional writer and her work has been featured in [Bob Vila](#), [Discover Magazine](#), and [House Digest](#). Prior to her freelancing career, Mundorf was an elementary school teacher for more than a decade.

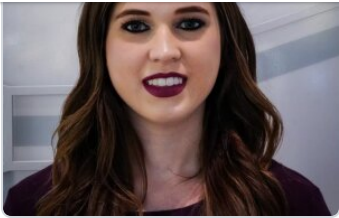
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