

## GE Dishwashers – Recall and Investigation by CPSC

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General Electric and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced a recall of approximately 1.3 million GE dishwashers on August 9, 2012.<sup>1</sup>

The recall includes the GE, GE Adora, GE Eterna, GE Profile and Hotpoint brand dishwashers sold nationwide from March 2006 to August 2009. The primary defect in the dishwashers appears to originate from a failure in the dishwasher's heating element. GE has recorded 15 reports of failure and seven reports of fires, including three with extensive property damage. No injuries have been reported thus far.

Brand	Model # begins with	Serial # begins with
GE GE Adora GE Eterna GE Profile	GLC4, GLD4, GLD5, GLD6, GSD61, GSD62, GSD63, GSD66, GSD67, GSD69, GLDL, PDW7, PDWF7, EDW4, EDW5, EDW6, GHD4, GHD5, GHD6, GHDA4, GHDA6	FL, GL, HL, LL, ML, VL, ZL, AM, DM, FM, GM, HM, LM, MM, RM, SM, TM, VM, ZM, AR, DR, FR, GR
Hotpoint	HLD4	

In March 2012, *Consumer Reports* released an extensive report detailing the increasing reports of failures in common household appliances, including ranges, clothes dryers, microwave ovens, refrigerators, toasters, washing machines and dishwashers.<sup>2</sup> According to *Consumer Reports*, almost

half of the 15 million fire-related appliance recalls in the last five years were tied to dishwashers. *Consumer Reports* Senior Editor Dan DiClerico suggested in a public statement that the problem may arise from the introduction of complex electronics in newer appliances. "Now, these innovations make appliances a lot more convenient and easy to use, but there can be unforeseen consequences and I think that's what we're seeing, more often than not, with appliance fires and recalls," says DiClerico. "It comes back to some sort of electrical component that's not behaving properly."

In March 2011, the CPSC launched SaferProducts.gov, a database where consumers may report issues with faulty appliances and can review other consumers' product safety complaints. GE's dishwasher recall on the SaferProducts website is currently the most popular search. A variety of consumer complaints have been posted about the recalled dishwasher models, including reports of smoke billowing from the front panel, burning and melting of the connectors and main control board, and heating elements that will not turn off without the consumer having to pull the circuit breaker. Many of the reports emphasize the fact that consumers commonly turn their dishwashers on before they go to bed at night. For some, the first and only warning they had was the smell of smoke long after the appliance had begun to malfunction.

<sup>1</sup> The CPSC recall information can be found at: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerele/prhtml12/12244.html>

<sup>2</sup> The *Consumer Reports* Kitchen Fire Safety article provides extensive information regarding recalls in a large variety of household appliances and is worth reading in its entirety. It can be found at: <http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/magazine/2012/03/appliance-fires-is-your-home-safe/index.htm>

To discuss any questions you may have regarding the recall by CPSC discussed in this Alert, or how it may apply to your particular circumstances, please contact Tom Regan at [tregan@cozen.com](mailto:tregan@cozen.com) or 619.685.1757.