

HOME & DESIGN

Can you wash your good china in the dishwasher? An expert took questions.



By [Jura Koncius](#)

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Linh Calhoun is the chief marketing officer for Replacements. (Replacements.com)

Linh Calhoun is chief marketing officer of [Replacements](#) in Greensboro, N.C., the world's largest retailer of china and tableware. The company operates a 500,000-square-foot warehouse stacked floor-to-ceiling with 11 million pieces of tableware and other items. Calhoun is an expert on china, crystal and silver patterns. Ask her if your grandmother's vintage china is worth anything, how to identify a pattern you inherited, or

whether couples still register for china, silver and crystal. You can also ask her about how to care for your dinnerware.

Every Thursday at 11 a.m. Eastern time, [Jura Koncius](#) helps you in your quest to achieve domestic bliss. She and weekly guests — whether it's [Nate Berkus and Jeremiah Brent](#), [Marie Kondo](#), [Jasmine Roth of HGTV](#) or [Paula Sutton of Hill House Vintage](#) - answer your decorating, decluttering, design, entertaining and home-keeping questions. For more than 20 years, our Q&A has hosted conversations about how to make your home comfortable, stylish, organized and fun.

Recent Q&As have covered [whether it's okay to replace a tub with a stand-alone shower](#), [how to keep mice out of your house](#), [what to do with a collection of costume jewelry](#) and [how to use the steam settings on your washer and dryer](#).

Submit questions below. The box now allows you to upload a photo of your home by clicking the gray paper clip icon. Please note that any photo you upload will be subject to The Washington Post's [Submission Guidelines](#), including certifying that you have the right to post the photo. If you have suggestions for Q&A topics, please email me at jura.koncius@washpost.com.



Linh Calhoun

10:59 a.m. [🔗](#)

So glad to be part of this opportunity to engage with Washington Post readers - as many of you know, Replacements, Ltd. (or [replacements.com](https://www.replacements.com)) is based in Greensboro, North Carolina, and is the world's largest retailer of china, crystal, silver, jewelry, accessories and more. Our 500,000-square-foot, stacked-to-the-rafters warehouses are packed with potential. The finds they have faithfully saved, carefully preserved and archived are testaments to survival and patience, now ready for another lifetime of voices, stories, laughter, and love. With a collection of over 11 million treasured pieces, many very unique, We are your go-to resource and largest database within the tabletop industry, offering a vast array of services. Remember use the good stuff EVERYDAY!

Welcome Linh!

11:00 a.m. [🔗](#)

Jura Koncius

Excited to have you here today, Linh, to talk about china and tableware. I would first like to ask you - what china pattern do you yourself have? Do you have more than one? And how would you advise someone just shopping for their first set of china decide whether to get something plain white or go for a more elaborate design?



Linh Calhoun

It's a pleasure to be able to address questions from your readers. I actually have two 12 piece place settings that I use every day. One is Portmeirion Botanic Garden and Vietri Lastra (in multiple colors). I also started to collect Kirk Stieff Repousse. I also have a mix of crystal as I could not decide and love to have an eclectic mix so people can choose. I personally go with the biggest red wine glass available - which right now for me is from Williams Sonoma. As it relates to shopping for your first set - as I mentioned I love having a mix of items and I absolutely believe in using whatever china, crystal, silver, etc. I have every single day. Although I do have a few specific pieces (such as Woodland's dogs just for fall). Collect what you love and use as you wish.

Care for antiques11:00 a.m. 

Guest

What are some ways people can keep their china looking clean? Do you have any care tips for antiques?

**Linh Calhoun**

Wonderful question and thank you for asking. Gentle washing right after a meal is the best way to prevent staining. Overnight soaking encourages oils and grease from food to penetrate, so avoid it. Utensil marks (those black streaks on your dinnerware) and coffee stains can be remedied by gentle cleaning with baking soda and vinegar. Harsh cleaners can strip off trim and decals, so steer clear.

Reply

Discontinued11:00 a.m. 

Guest

is the Reject China Shop in London (near Harrods) still in business? They have patterns no longer in stock. For that matter, there must be something. like the Reject China Shop on line. There used to be one near me on Columbus Ave., but it went out of business. I can't remember what it was called.

**Linh Calhoun**

Thank you for asking and it sounds like our kind of place! Not sure if that place is still in business however sourcing patterns that are no longer made or discontinued is our specialty. Have you checked our website for your pattern? <https://www.replacements.com/>

Identifying stemware11:00 a.m. 

Elyse M

How can I identify glass stemware?

**Linh Calhoun**

Wonderful question. Have you used our visual search tool? You can simply take an image and upload it in our system for a quick id of the piece. Here is a link to get you started. <https://www.replacements.com/search-by-image/info>

Inherited china11:01 a.m. 

Erin

I've just inherited multiple sets of china that my mom collected. I've read no one wants china anymore. What should I do with the sets I don't want to keep?

**Linh Calhoun**

What a gift your mother provided to you. We have seen a resurgence in vintage tableware with many customers looking to add pieces to their personal collections. If you would like to sell items to us, please follow the instructions found on our sell-to-us page. Here's a link:
<https://www.replacements.com/sell-to-us>

Out of stock crystal11:01 a.m. 

Guest

For years I've registered with Replacements my interest in a crystal pattern (out of stock). No luck. Have you considered ways to showcase buyers' interests online, so that potential Internet sellers can better connect through your firm?

**Linh Calhoun**

Love your idea and will absolutely put this on our list to discuss. Thank you for the idea. Could we help you with another pattern?

China and silver11:01 a.m. 

Guest

Do you think people will start to appreciate and use china and silver again? I keep getting told that no one wants these items anymore, but I think a meal is much nicer when we use them

**Linh Calhoun**

Absolutely! As I've indicated, I believe using the good stuff every day is an opportunity for all of us and we do see signs that other generations are gaining an appreciation for all things vintage with stories! We simply need to continue to spread the word!

Bone china: coffee stain11:03 a.m. [🔗](#)

Guest

How can I remove a coffee stain from the exterior of a Ginori cup - located where one sips the coffee and closely adjacent to the decorative painting in gold? Thank you!

**Linh Calhoun**

Our product specialist, Julie, recommends using a paste of baking soda and water (2 or 3 to 1 parts). Once mixed, use your finger to gently apply and work out the stain. Hopefully you find the success she has in this method.

Old silver plate se11:03 a.m. [🔗](#)

Guest

Amidst family things we found a set of silver plate table ware with 8 place settings. We don't know where it comes from, so it has no sentimental meaning. It's a 1940's pattern that isn't particularly pretty or classic either. Using Replacements Inc it appears to have very little cash value. There also seems to be very little interest in people having 'special' table ware today. What should we do with it. (I thought about giving it as anonymous wedding gift)

**Linh Calhoun**

We would of course recommend you using it however if it is not something you find joy in, gifting is a wonderful idea.

Antique China11:05 a.m. [🔗](#)

Renee Fregenal

I have a set of French Limoge china that was probably produced in the early 1900's. Who is qualified to appraise its value? Is there still a market for antique china? How do you find a reputable dealer?

**Linh Calhoun**

We encourage you to utilize our visual search. We are not appraisers and recommend visiting your local antique dealer.

Crystal11:05 a.m. [🔗](#)

Guest

I inherited a large set of cut crystal glasses--varying kinds, including wine glasses, water glasses, champagne glasses, etc. I keep thinking I might use them but never do. What can I do with them? Does anyone want this kind of thing anymore?

**Linh Calhoun**

Cut crystal is so beautiful and it sounds like you have an amazing collection! I would be using that every day - water, wine, mixed cocktails....and even serving desserts (cut fruit and/or mousse in those champagne glasses)! I would also use the water glasses as small vases as I always buy myself some flowers at the farmers market. We hear from customers who enjoy and use their crystal all the time.

China Storage11:06 a.m. [🔗](#)

Guest

What's the best way to store my china when I don't use it day-to-day?

**Linh Calhoun**

Thank you for the question. Climate control is important – temperature fluctuations in an attic or garage can cause dinnerware to “craze” – those little crackle lines you can see in the glaze. Use sturdy, reasonably-sized boxes or plastic containers, so that you can easily move them when needed – giant, heavy boxes are more likely to be dropped. Use separators between stacked plates and bowls, whether you buy foam or flannel ones or just use paper plates or even coffee filters. This keeps each plate from scratching the one below it. China savers- the quilted bags created specifically for storing tableware – can be really helpful for organizing and protecting your collection.

Washing gold rimmed plates11:11 a.m. [🔗](#)

Guest

An expert once told me that the modern dishwasher china setting is perfectly okay to use on your best china and that it would take hundreds of washings before it faded. Is this true?

**Linh Calhoun**

That's a question we often receive. Our recommendation is to always refer to what's on the back of your china and we've heard the same thing regarding modern dishwashers. We still recommend handwashing, however, if you choose use a dishwasher, china that has been produced during the past twenty years generally holds up better in a dishwasher than patterns that are older - provided the dishwasher is set on a GENTLE cycle.

China11:13 a.m. [🔗](#)

Stacy

I have Mikasa's Royal Glimmer and would like to keep the plates and sell the cups, saucers, bowls. Is there a market for it or should I just donate it somewhere?

**Linh Calhoun**

That is an absolutely gorgeous pattern. Have you considered using the cups to serve dessert or seafood cocktail? I personally use bowls for nearly any meal. We love to repurpose!

Trends11:16 a.m. [🔗](#)

Guest

I'm looking to refresh my tableware this year for all of the upcoming holidays! What are some of the trends you are seeing - colors? patterns?

**Linh Calhoun**

Love your question. Nature-inspired patterns and geometric designs are both very popular this year. Bold jewel tones – like turquoise, royal blue, and Pantone's 2023 color of the year magenta, are trending.

Plates For Kids11:23 a.m. 

Guest

I want to invest in some good plates but have children. Any brands or certain style you would suggest?

**Linh Calhoun**

Consider weight and scale of pieces for little hands. Heavy stoneware and bulky ceramics are harder for little hands to manage. Casual patterns from Lenox, Mikasa and Spode have fun designs for kid-friendly every day use. Corelle is a family favorite - slim, durable and break resistant. Most importantly, do invest in plates-kids will never learn to take proper care of nice things without learning and practicing! Patterns to consider include: Indigo Watercolor Stripe by Lenox. A classic is Butterfly Meadow by Lenox. Vintage Denim by Spode. Pure Red or any of the Countryside by Mikasa.

More lead getting out11:23 a.m. 

Guest

We also have a vintage set of Friendly Village dinnerware that we love and use almost daily, and some pieces are beginning to show glazing and discoloration. Do I need to throw them out?

**Linh Calhoun**

What I have specifically done with those pieces that show more wear is to use when serving cold or room temperature items. Another option would be create a plate wall to display/decorate a space.

silver11:25 a.m. 

Guest

How to tell the difference between real silver and silver plated silver?

**Linh Calhoun**

Love this question. Most, if not all, real silver (or sterling) has a mark on the back of the handle. Reference this link to see where you would typically find the mark which will be the word sterling OR the number 925.

Franklin Mint collectibles11:25 a.m. 

Maggie Walsh

Could you talk about what other collectibles you purchase?

**Linh Calhoun**

Ms. Walsh - There is so much we have to offer and recommend you explore our collectibles pages as items range from Nativity pieces to Annual Christmas Plates, figurines, paperweights, ornaments and the list continues! Here is a link to our top collections to get you started: [Most Popular Collectibles Patterns](#) | [Replacements, Ltd.](#)

china11:29 a.m. 

Chuck M

China has been around forever, so why hasn't P&G or someone invented gentle dishwasher detergent you could use those few days of the year at holidays? Aren't they leaving lots of money on the table, from all the Dads who bristle at hand washing the Wedgwood?

**Linh Calhoun**

We appreciate your question and LOVE your idea - we will absolutely pass that onto P&G. I use any dish detergent that does not contain lemon or bleach.

China and crystal11:29 a.m. 

Guest

I have a lot of Wedgwood Black Ulander china and Waterford Lismore, all in excellent condition, that I would like to get rid of as I am getting old. Is there a market for this? I'd love it to go to someone who will enjoy it as I have, but there is no interest among the youngsters in my family.

**Linh Calhoun**

So sad to hear family members are not currently interested - we feel they may regret not taking you up on your offer. Maybe it is timing for them as these are classic and lovely patterns. You can always follow our Sell to Us process to see if we are buying.

Blue Ridge Southern Pottery11:33 a.m. [🔗](#)

Diana

I grew up with Blue Ridge Southern Pottery's Wild Strawberry pattern and was thrilled to find so much on eBay back in 2000. It's not china or porcelain but probably made of paste, and chips very easily. I hand wash but is there any other way to make this hand-sponged folk art last?

**Linh Calhoun**

Such a beautiful pattern! As you know, earthenware is fired at a lower temperature and is simply not as hard as porcelain. Some things our product specialist, Julie does when caring for her earthenware pieces is to hand wash only, line the sink with a towel when washing so if a piece is dropped it shouldn't chip, remove rings when washing, and store carefully.

China11:34 a.m. [🔗](#)

Sarah

How do you pack fine china for a move or shipping?



Linh Calhoun

Great question Sarah! We have a pack and ship instruction video that we often refer customers to that is specific to when an Offer to Purchase has been received, however I feel it would also meet your needs. Here's the link to the YouTube video for reference: [Pack & Ship Instructions - YouTube](#)
Hope it is helpful - happy packing!



Pack & Ship Instructions

Take a moment to watch this instructional video if you are planning to ship items to Replacements, Ltd.

YouTube | [el/UCduRVorRu9YPHPOalAZcHoxg](#)

Crystal

Allison

11:47 a.m. [Link](#)

Hi, Can you please let me know if there is a fast and easy way to wash crystal glasses? I would love to use them everyday, but I don't want to handwash! Thank you!



Linh Calhoun

Our product specialist, Julie, recommends using your dishwasher BUT turn off the heat dry option. The heat in the drying process often causes water stains and scaling.

Replacements Store11:48 a.m. [🔗](#)

Lesley Knapp

Not a question, but want to say that I've visited the Replacements Ltd. physical location twice--it's better than Disney World. Love it.

**Linh Calhoun**

LOVE, LOVE, LOVE that you've visited our Showroom. Y'all come back now :)

China11:48 a.m. [🔗](#)

Cinder

Is there any hope to getting rid of ashen shadow on white china plates? I have entire set of lovely Mikasa (down to the teapot) but dinner plates look ashen grey. What is the right way to fix this, or does it get beyond the point of repair? Thanks!

**Linh Calhoun**

It sounds like you have utensil marks from long time use. We recommend trying a mixture of baking soda and water (3 or 2 to 1 parts), allowing it to sit for a period of time (roughly an hour) and then rinse with vinegar. This can be repeated. If the pattern does not have any trim, you could try softscrub cleaner, applying very gently. Good luck.

Lenox Urban Twilight11:49 a.m. [🔗](#)

Chapel Hill NC

Good morning—1. I have an incomplete collection of Lenox Urban Twilight, and particularly want to round out with serving pieces (not plates). How difficult will this be. Was it very popular when it was open stock? 2. I live 45 minutes from Greensboro. Any chance you all will allow in-person shopping? Thanks so much!

**Linh Calhoun**

First, please do come by and visit our Showroom at 1089 Knox Road - we would LOVE to provide you with a tour of our facility and help you find the pieces you are interested in. Looks like we do have many serving pieces in stock - we are happy to work with you in person.

china pattern11:57 a.m. [🔗](#)

Kathy

I love your company. I have bought replacement stem ware and china from you. What pattern is the most requested item for china replacement and what is the oldest pattern that you replace?

**Linh Calhoun**

LOVE this question and thank you for asking. The most requested china pattern is my favorite - Botanic Garden by Portmeirion. The oldest pattern that we offer is Blue Fluted by Royal Copenhagen and it is still active, having been made for over 200 years. Thank you for being our customer!

China in the dishwasher12:01 p.m. [🔗](#)

Kelly

I've got a set of China (Dansico with platinum trim). I rarely use it because it needs to be handwashed.) Does anyone manufacture a gentle soap for dishwasher? Mine has a china/crystal program. (And could lead crystal really ever go in the dishwasher without damaging it?)

**Linh Calhoun**

There are gentle dish detergents available - specifically look for those that do not contain lemon or bleach. We also recommend turning off the heat dry option on your dishwasher when washing crystal.

Popularity12:05 p.m. [🔗](#)

Guest

What antiques at Replacements are popular right now?

**Linh Calhoun**

I love this question as we were just talking about how many antiques we truly have! What's popular right now includes my favorite silver pattern, Repousse by Kirk Stieff. It was created in 1828 and continues to be among our most popular silver patterns. Blue and white china, specifically patterns such as Blue Fluted by Royal Copenhagen has been among our tops sellers for decades. We have recently seen an increase interest in depression and other vintage colored glass.

Pottery

Margaret

12:06 p.m. 

Is there a market for Stangl pottery? I have several pieces from the early 1950s, still in very good condition

**Linh Calhoun**

We do offer various patterns by Stangl, although currently not a top seller for us.

**Jura Koncius** Washington Post Staff Writer Home and Design12:10 p.m. 

Thank you so much Linh. We had so many questions that I'm afraid Linh ran out of time! You are so knowledgeable about tableware. Next week please join me for a very exciting chat with Amy Astley, global editorial director and the editor in chief, U.S., for Architectural Digest. [You can post your questions here now.](#)

**Linh Calhoun**12:12 p.m. 

Thank you for all the questions. We hope we were able to answer most or at least direct you to additional resources. Remember - use your good stuff every day. Enjoy!