

The Machine Maintenance Calendar

Tape it inside a cabinet. Cadences assume daily use on typical tap water; hard water shortens every interval, filtered or mineral-packet water stretches them.

Every day (10 seconds each)

Machine	The habit
Espresso (any)	Purge-wipe-purge the steam wand. Knock and rinse the basket. Wipe the group lip.
Drip / pod	Empty the basket or pod. Leave the lid open to dry.
Moka pot	Rinse all three parts, warm water only on aluminum. Dry fully, store apart.

Weekly

Task	Who
Soak steam wand tip; pin the holes	Espresso w/ wand
Wash tank, tray, and grounds bin	All machines
Brush grinder chute and burr face	Grinder owners

Monthly

Task	Who
Tablet backflush (if 3-way valve)	Breville Barista line, prosumer
Clear entry/exit needles	Keurig
Pop gasket + filter plate, scrub groove	Moka pot
Deep-clean burrs (tablets or teardown)	Grinders

Every 2-3 months

Task	Who
Descale (machine's own mode)	Breville, DeLonghi, Keurig, Nespresso
Descale program, 3 tablets, never vinegar	Jura
Swap in-tank charcoal filter	Breville (2 mo), Keurig (2 mo / 60 refills)

Yearly

Task	Who
Group gasket swap (handle drifts right = due)	Gaggia, Breville semi-autos
Moka gasket replacement	Moka pot
Solenoid check/clean if pucks run wet	Gaggia and friends

The one upgrade that stretches every interval: manage your water. A mineral packet in distilled, or a good filter, slows scale to a crawl; scale is the root cause behind slow flow, weak steam, loud pumps, and dead solenoids.

Symptom to schedule

Machine says	It means	Do
Bitter, rancid shots	Coffee oils	Backflush + scrub screen and baskets
Slow flow, weak steam, loud pump	Scale	Descale now, then fix the water
Portafilter locks past center / rim leaks	Gasket aged out	Replace the group gasket
Wet, soupy pucks + sneezes	Solenoid clogging	Clean the 3-way valve, descale
Foam quality dropped	Blocked wand tip	Soak tip, pin holes, purge hard