



Garbage Disposal Tips

Garbage disposals make our lives a little easier. But when they malfunction - they can quickly create a messy, frustrating situation. In order to keep your garbage disposal functioning smoothly, here are some tips we've learned along the way.

- Always run cold water when grinding in order to move the waste all the way through the drain lines.
 - Avoid turning the water off while the garbage disposal is running. Continue to run the water for a short period after you are finished using the garbage disposal to make sure the drain stays clear.
 - Avoid turning off the garbage disposal until grinding is completed.
 - We recommend avoiding putting fat, oil and grease through your garbage disposal unit, as these items commonly accumulate in your drain lines instead of passing through.
 - Most biodegradable food waste can be fed into garbage disposals. However, we recommend that you not throw clam or oyster shells, corn husks or other material with a high fiber content into the garbage disposal.
 - Do not grind up potato peelings. They will form a starchy paste similar to mashed potatoes when ground up and will surely clog your drain. Rice and other starchy products can produce the same effect.
 - Do not put coffee grounds or eggshells into your disposal. They create very tiny granular waste that will stick to any sludge in the pipe and quickly create a clog.
 - Do not grind chicken bones through your garbage disposal.
 - Feed food waste into the garbage disposal slowly, overloading it may cause the unit to jam.
 - At no time should you put glass, plastic or metal items through a garbage disposal. This includes bottle caps, tin covers or aluminum foil -- these are some of the items service technicians commonly find in clogged or broken disposals.
 - Make sure your sink is clear of dishes and cutlery before you start grinding - we often pull spoons that have slipped into the garbage disposal unnoticed causing the garbage disposal to jam.
 - Grinding a little ice will help to clean out build-up and deposits in the garbage disposal.
 - To combat odors, try grinding the peels from a piece of citrus fruit such as oranges, grapefruit, lemons, or limes. The mechanical action of the rough peels getting ground up combined with the peels' citric acid (a natural cleaning agent) will help keep your garbage disposal stay fresh and odor-free. Baking soda is also a great odor deterrent.
 - Never put a chemical drain cleaner through your garbage disposal unit to open your sink drain. Chemicals can splash back when someone turns on the disposal, which poses a safety hazard. Chemical drain cleaners can also damage your garbage disposal and drain piping.
 - Always make sure your face is away from the garbage disposal to avoid potential debris flying back.
 - **Never, ever, put your hand into the garbage disposal.**
- Call Heidler, Inc. 410-268-7191**