

Around the House
Plumbing Article #4 – Garbage Disposal Upkeep

Headline

The Care and Feeding of Your Garbage Disposal.

Subhead

Garbage disposals are designed to last only about 10 years. But here's information on how you can forestall its inevitable demise!

Text

There are a number of events that signal the end of a garbage disposal. Here's one of the more common: it rusts out on the bottom, and water starts spewing underneath your sink and onto the kitchen floor every time you turn it on.

Can rust be avoided in the first place? Absolutely, and simply by running the disposal every time you put food in it. Otherwise, the acid and oils from standing food will eventually eat through the seals. Also, when you run the disposal, always use cold water. Hot water dissolves fats and grease, but then it deposits it in your drainpipes where it accumulates before eventually causing a clog.

Here are some additional tips for maintaining your disposal:

- **Run cold water for 30 seconds or more** after turning the disposal off to thoroughly wash ground-up food down the drain.
- You can grind almost any food waste, but **don't try to grind really fibrous foods** like onion skins, celery stalks or asparagus. On the other hand, grinding ice and eggshells can actually help clean the disposal.

- If the disposal won't run, **check the circuit breaker or fuse** and replace or reset as necessary. Also check to see if the overload switch has tripped. Find the reset button at the bottom of the disposal unit and push it.
- If the motor hums but the disposal doesn't run, **you may have a jammed impeller**, and that's a repairable problem.
- If the disposal runs intermittently, **the switch or stopper may be defective**...if so, you'll need to have it replaced.
- A leaky garbage disposal isn't necessarily a sign of rust. The cause might be as simple as **a loose connection, which can readily be tightened**.
- How about that all-too-familiar racket a disposal can sometimes make? When you hear it, chances are you're trying to grind up something your disposal wishes you wouldn't. The result could be **a damaged blade, impeller or motor**. But don't be too quick to repair, since it's highly likely that it would cost less to replace.

Bottom line, once a disposal stops doing a good job of grinding, or starts to leak, that's usually the ball game. Give it a little loving care, however, and you might get a few extra innings.

In the meantime, the professionals at (company name) would like you to have the attached coupon, **good for a \$30 discount on any kitchen plumbing repair job**.

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Main Coupon

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Save \$30...

...on any kitchen plumbing repair job. This offer may not be combined with any other discount or promotion.

Teaser Copy

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Learn how to breathe new life into your
garbage disposal, and make it last years longer.

Plus...

3 Coupons You Can Use Now!