

Garbage Disposal Maintenance Tips:

Daily: Normal use is usually enough to help reduce accumulation as the garbage disposal is rinsed with soapy waste water after washing dishes.

Weekly: The garbage disposal should be flushed with cold water. Fill the sink with clean cold water, pull the drain stop and allow the water to drain. The flushing action of the water leaving the sink through the drain should purge the drain line of any loose food waste.

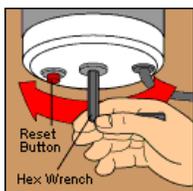
Monthly: Empty a tray of ice cubes into the sink and turn on the garbage disposal to grind up the ice cubes. After the ice cubes are ground into a slushy mixture, rinse with a light stream of cold water. The ground ice may clog the drain line and water will back up into the sink, however after a few minutes the ice will melt away and the water will drain. Grinding ice helps to sharpen the shredding blades and remove the accumulation of food waste.



If you have a removable drain baffle, remove it and clean the surface thoroughly with an old toothbrush, water, and detergent. Be sure to place the baffle back into its original location prior to operating the garbage disposal.

Quarterly: Place a half cup of baking soda and one cup of vinegar in the grind chamber. Allow the mixture to foam and fizz while you boil a pot of water. Once the water has boiled, pour it down the drain. In lieu of baking soda and vinegar, you can also mix one gallon of water with one tablespoon of liquid chlorine bleach and slowly pour the mixture into the grind chamber. Allow it to sit for several minutes and then flush with cold water. These mixtures will sanitize the garbage disposal and remove any foul odor. If you would prefer to not experience the smell of bleach or vinegar emanating from the garbage disposal you can freshen the smell with citrus rinds. Lemon, lime, orange, and grapefruit rinds can be placed in the garbage disposal and ground-up to provide a fresh citrus scent.

IF THE DISPOSAL DOES NOT WORK. Turn off the disposal at the disposal wall switch and press the red reset button on the bottom or side of the disposal if one is there. If it clicks and/or pops back out turn on the cold water and turn the wall switch back on. If this does not work and the disposal hums or is silent turn off the disposal and unplug it from under the sink. Carefully check and remove debris that may be stuck in the disposal. If a hex wrench hole exists, use a ¼ inch hex wrench that usually comes with the disposal. Fit the hex wrench into the hole, and force it back and forth in both directions a few times to free the impellers. If the disposal still does not work the circuit breaker may be tripped. Locate the garbage disposal circuit breaker on the electric panel and turn it off and back on. If this does not work it is likely the disposal or wall switch is bad and will need to be replaced. You can check the wall switch by plugging a lamp into the disposal outlet. Turn the lamp on and then turn on the wall switch. If the lamp light goes on the switch is good.



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