

Garbage Disposal - (may be called In Sink Erator in your useless care manual)

Use the garbage disposal unit for food waste only and ONLY use cold water while using your disposal unit. In order to chop things up fine enough to be carried away in your drain lines the unit has to be built with very close clearances. If hot water is used the unit may expand enough with the heat from the hot water to bind it. If you get a seed or piece of bone caught in the unit it may also bind. If you do not shut the unit off fast enough it will overload and the motor's built in circuit breaker will be tripped. After freeing the unit look for the red reset button on the bottom (sometimes on the side) of the motor and press it in. First free the disposal by using the wrench that came with your disposer (picture). It may be taped to

the side of the unit or to the cabinet wall. If not, dig through your junk drawer. It's a rod maybe 6 inches long with the ends bent over at a 45 degree angle. The rod has a hexagon shape and is actually a hex or 1/4"



Allen wrench. So if you cannot find yours, use the appropriate size Allen wrench. Stick the short end into the matching hole in the bottom center of the disposal and use the long end to turn it back and forth until you break free whatever's got the disposal stuck.

Make sure the switch is off (or better yet, either unplug the unit under the sink, or, if you don't have a plug under the sink, shut the circuit breakers in your garage sometimes marked KIT 1 and KIT 2) before attempting this. Once a week or so, turn on the cold water, turn on the disposal unit and dump one or two cups of ice cubes into the drain. This will clean the unit. Makes a heck of a racket but does the job!

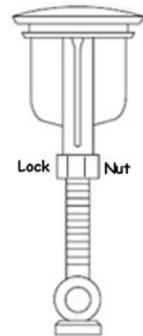
Occasionally put the stopper in and fill the sink half way with warm water and a 1/2 cup of baking soda. Pull the stopper and turn the disposal unit on at the same time, rinse with cold water. This will clean and deodorize the unit. You may use your (used) baking soda that you keep in your refrigerator for this job.

Toilet Stoppage. I think most of us came from areas that had 4 inch sewage lines because we had the older cast iron type of sewer pipe. Nowadays we have the smooth three inch PVC plastic sewage lines which allow for a better and cleaner run to the main sewer in the street. The toilets though, in order to fit over the 3" lines have a smaller bore or opening at the bottom of the toilet to fit into the line where it

come up through the floor. This smaller opening tends to cause blockage more often (have you noticed?). When this happens out comes the plunger. There are a few different types of plungers on the market but remember this as you use them. Tip them in the toilet bowl as much as possible to get as much of the air out from the underside as you can. Air compresses as you push the plunger down and water does not, so water is much more effective at forcing the blockage through. Walt Trevakis tells us less air under the plunger will also reduce overflow if the bowl is completely full when you are trying to unblock it. Push down and pull back hard four or five times without allowing the plunger to come out of the water. Repeat if necessary.

Bathroom sink drains can slow down when hair (for those of you that have some) gets caught on the stopper guide. You may wish to use rubber gloves for this yucky job. To remove the stopper, loosen the retainer nut where the operating shaft goes into the drain line under the sink. Pull the shaft out as you hold the stopper up with your other hand and lift it out. Clean the stopper and guide and set it back in the sink drain aligning the hole in the guide with the operating shaft.

Don't release the stopper until you get the shaft into the stopper hole. Push the shaft back in and tighten the retainer nut. Sometimes the stopper, which is adjustable, loosens as you wash the sink and the stopper screws down, closing the gap and slowing the water flow out the drain. If this looks like it is your problem, remove the stopper as described above and lengthen the adjustment screw about ¼" and then tighten the lock nut carefully and reinstall.



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