

HOW TO FIX JAMMED/CLOGGED GARBAGE DISPOSAL

How to fix a jammed garbage disposal? A yucky stew in the sink, or a backed up dishwasher, not cool. But you can fix it yourself in most cases.

If your disposal is clogged and you have a dishwasher, do not run the dishwasher. The dishwasher drains through the sink plumbing (this is true in all houses/apartments), and if you run it with a clogged sink, you will get water backing up into the sink and probably straight out of the dishwasher onto your floor. You have been warned.... Now, on to the disposal!

Here are a few suggestions that you can try to fix the problem yourself. In most cases, a disposal that won't run, is a simple fix. If you don't feel comfortable give us a call to schedule for us to come fix it. Let us know if it is a clog or the disposal based on the below.

Clog or disposal issue?

Normal grinding noises, but water won't drain? You have a clog!

If you turn on the disposal, can you hear it whirling around, and see the water being disturbed by the blades, but the water isn't going down? You have a clog!

You may also have both a jammed disposal and a clog. It is best to fix the disposal first because if you get it running, then it might just clear the drainage issue all by itself (see troubleshooting steps below for humming/no humming). However, here's a FAQ on unclogging the sink itself (regardless of whether the disposal is working).

Humming or no humming?

No Humming

There is a reset button, usually red. On the side or the bottom. Check it and push it. Turn back on.

No humming and reset didn't work? Check fuse box. If flipped, put back. Try again. No luck. Check reset now.

If either of these make it hum (even for a short period of time), move on to humming. This is progress. It means something is causing it to trip, and that something is probably a jam.

Humming, no grinding? It's jammed. **AT THIS POINT IT IS RECOMMENDED TO CALL US SO WE CAN ADDRESS THE JAM.**

Remove what is jammed in it: Could be something big. Who knows what might have slipped in there. If it is jammed **make sure the switch is off** before you put anything in the opening. **Unplug disposal under the sink if possible.** Remove any debris from inside the disposal. You may need to use tongs or pliers — **again be sure it's off!** — to remove whatever is inside the disposal (which is off, right? Seriously...not just not working, I mean off at the switch, you don't want to lose a couple digits, right?). If there is

something solid in there, that won't grind (like plastic, metal, glass), will just tear it up and keep jamming it, so we have to get anything like that out first.

Dislodge with a hex wrench

Under the sink, look at the bottom of the disposal for a hex-shaped hole. If you see one, find a 1/4-inch hex wrench that fits the hole (often there is one attached to 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. You may not be able to move it, if not, contact us to come address the jam.