



# What Not To Put Down a Garbage Disposal!!

## Garbage disposals are NOT a Trash Can in the Sink!!

### Garbage Disposal Don'ts.

The most important rule of thumb: **Don't Put Anything in the Garbage Disposal That Is Not Biodegradable Food.** A garbage disposal is not a trash can; it's for food scraps only. Nonfood items can damage both blades and the motor.

**When in doubt, throw it out!**

- Don't grind glass, plastic, metal or even paper.
- Don't grind anything combustible.
- Don't grind cigarette butts.
- Don't pour grease, oil or fat into your garbage disposal or drain. Grease will slowly accumulate and impede your garbage disposal's grinding ability as well as clog drains.
- Don't use hot water when grinding food waste. Hot water will cause grease to liquefy and accumulate, causing drains to clog.
- Don't grind extremely fibrous material like corn husks, celery stalks, onion skins, and artichokes. Fibers will tangle and jam the garbage disposal motor and block drains.
- Don't turn off the motor or water until grinding is completed. When grinding is complete, turn off the garbage disposal first. Let water continue to run for at least 15 seconds, flushing out any remaining particles. Then turn off water.
- Don't put too many potato peels down the garbage disposal. The starches in the potatoes will turn into a thick paste and may cause blades to stick.
- Don't put large amounts of food down the garbage disposal. Feed food into the garbage disposal a little at a time with the cold water running; this will help the food scraps flow down freely through the drain pipes and plumbing.
- Don't put expandable foods into your garbage disposal. Foods like **pasta and rice** expand when you add water in a pot; they do the same thing once inside your pipes or garbage disposal and are the cause of many jams and clogs.
- Don't grind large animal bones (beef, pork etc.).
- Avoid putting coffee grounds down the garbage disposal. They won't harm the garbage disposal and they'll actually help eliminate odors. However, they can accumulate in drains and pipes, causing clogs. Best to avoid.
- Don't use harsh chemicals like bleach or drain cleaners. They can damage blades and pipes.



### Do's

- First turn on cold water and then turn on the disposer. Continue running cold water for several seconds after grinding is completed to flush the drain line.
- Use a disposer cleaner, degreaser, or deodorizer as necessary to relieve objectionable odors caused by grease build-up.
- Borax is a natural sink cleaner and sanitizer that effectively works on odor-causing mold and mildew that accumulates in garbage disposals.