

Garbage Disposer Trouble Shooting

99% of all problems with your garbage disposer are the result of something (food or metal object) jamming the grinders in the bottom of the disposer. In the event that the disposer will not function, it is imperative that you clear the jam immediately to prevent more serious problems. The dishwasher drains directly into the garbage disposer chamber and if the chamber is full of food, then the dishwasher will not drain properly and potentially flood the kitchen floor.

If the disposer will not operate, then follow these steps.

1. Check the very bottom of the disposer under the sink. There is a very small red reset button that will automatically pop out and shut the disposer off if the motor becomes jammed. After turning the wall switch for the disposer to the off position (very important), simply push this button upward towards the bottom of the disposer until it is flush with the bottom.
2. Turn the wall switch on.
 - a. If the disposer turns on and starts to grind the chamber contents, turn the water on until the chamber is clear of food. If you here something rattling around inside the chamber, it will need to be removed immediately before operating the unit again. Quite often a metal object – bottle caps, utensils, coins or other small items – will fall down the sink and cause the unit to jam. This will need to be removed prior to running the disposer again. With the wall switch off, use tongs or your hand to remove these items.
 - b. If the disposer does not turn on but you hear a buzzing sound from the disposer, immediately turn the wall switch off. Using the self-service wrenchette found in the white 3 ring binder labeled “Operations Manual”, insert this into the very bottom of the disposer and turn left and right several times to free the jam. Remove the key and turn the wall switch on again. If it runs, then follow the steps in 2(a).

Remember – the # 1 way to avoid problems with the garbage disposer is to never leave food inside the chamber. Always leave the chamber clean. If after running the disposer, there is still something that will not clear, it must be removed immediately or future problems may develop.