

Checklist: 6 Tricks to Keep the Garbage Disposal Smelling Fresh

Blog: How to Tell If You Need Garbage Disposal Repair in Conyers

Rotting food is a smell you never forget. It makes the hairs inside your nostrils curl and your stomach turn. While you empty the kitchen trash regularly, what about the garbage disposal? It's responsible for chopping up food waste every day. Think about what you could find lingering in the drain if you put it under the microscope.

If you don't want to revisit the aroma of last week's leftovers, then try these 6 simple tips to reduce unwanted odors in your sink:

- 1. When life gives you lemons, clean the sink.** Did you know that citrus fruits have antiseptic properties? They also smell amazing. The next time you cook with lemons, limes, or oranges, toss the peels into the garbage disposal. When you turn on the appliance, your kitchen will smell like a lemon orchard.
- 2. Ice, ice baby.** Ice cubes are an easy way to scrub the disposal blade. Over time, food particles get stuck on the edges. Since you should never reach down the drain to clean it, throw some ice cubes into the disposal instead. The ice cubes will neutralize any unpleasant odors, and as a bonus, they will even sharpen the blade.
- 3. Create a baking soda and vinegar volcano.** Did you ever make a homemade volcano with baking soda and vinegar? If you want to recreate this popular science experience, you can do so in your kitchen sink. Pour equal parts baking soda and vinegar down the drain. When these substances combine, it creates a chemical reaction that cleans away food particles and kills odors.
- 4. A little dish soap goes a long way.** The next time you wash dishes, squirt some of the dish soap down the drain and run the disposal. The dish soap will break apart any grease or residue, and the added fragrance will make the drain smell fresh. As an added perk, this method will also make the sink basin shine.
- 5. Kill the odor with bleach.** Nothing kills germs more effectively than household bleach. Pour a cup of bleach down the drain, and let it sit for about 10 minutes. When the timer goes off, run cold water for several seconds to rinse away the bleach. Not only will your disposal stop smelling bad, but it will also be germ-free.
- 6. Stop and smell the roses...or the lavender.** Make homemade rose or lavender water by coming one cup of water with a few drops of essential oil. Rose and lavender both have antibacterial properties. Pour the flowery mixture into the garbage disposal, and rinse it away with cool water. You can also use this mixture to clean and disinfect your kitchen countertops.