

Garbage Disposer

How It Works

With the tap running, food scraps are fed into the sink drain. ①

Disposers don't handle fibrous foods well, so don't feed them banana peels, celery, artichoke leaves, or corn husks. Also, run plenty of cold water during and after grinding to flush the ground material down the waste pipes.

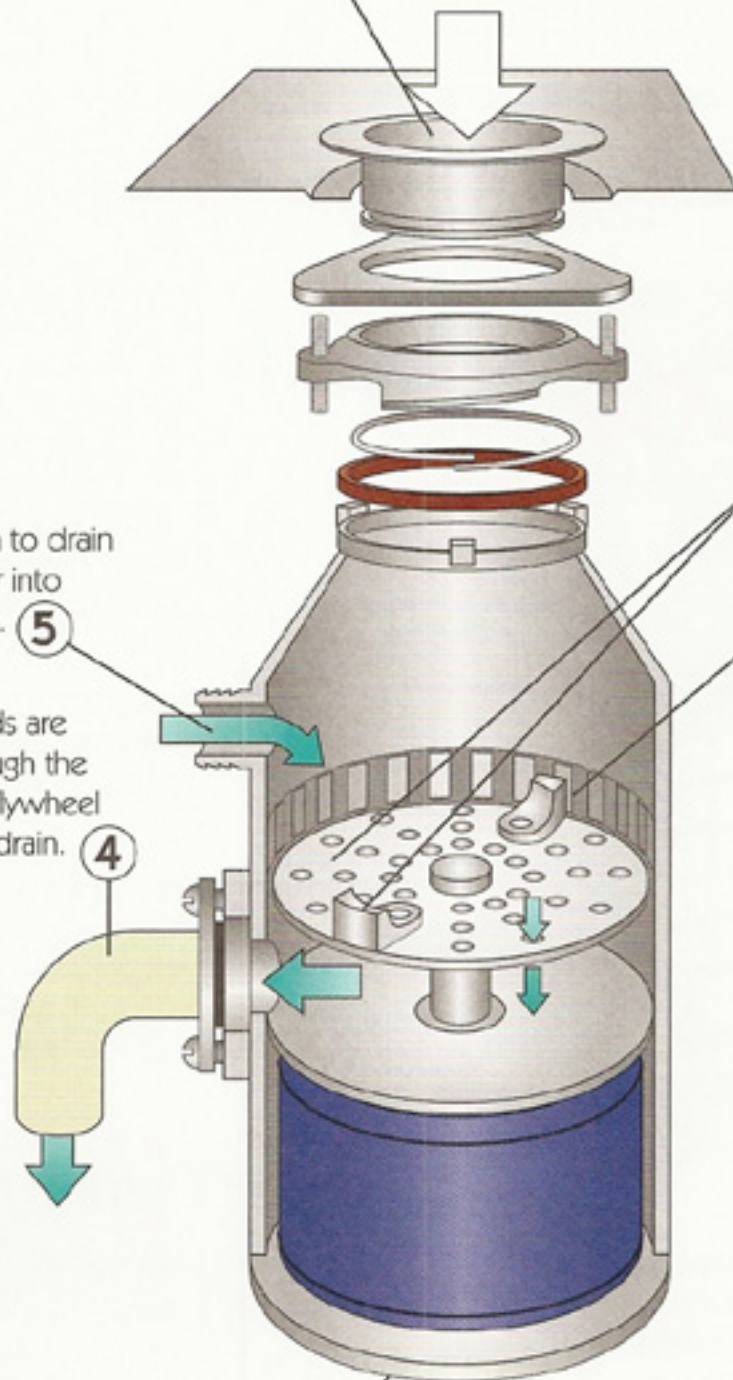
Note that if your dishwasher drains into the disposer, and the disposer clogs, the dishwasher will not be able to drain.

It is common to drain a dishwasher into the side inlet. ⑤

② The motor spins the flywheel rapidly, throwing both hammers (pivoting knives) and solid materials against the wall.

Ground solids are flushed through the holes in the flywheel and out the drain. ④

③ Solids are caught between the moving knives and the fixed shredder ring, grinding the solids into small pieces.



Most disposers have a button for resetting an overloaded motor and an Allen wrench socket for turning a jammed flywheel. (On the bottom, not seen.) ⑥

Before Calling for Help

If the disposer just hums, it is jammed:

- Unplug the disposer, or turn it off. Insert an Allen wrench in the socket at the bottom, and turn the wrench to free the jam. If it doesn't run when you turn it back on, press the red reset button, also on the bottom.
- If there is no socket on the bottom, unplug or turn off the disposer, insert a wood broom handle, and turn the flywheel.

If water backs up even though the disposer is running, the problem is in the drain pipe, not the disposer. Too much waste/too little water has clogged the drain. Clear it as shown on page 9.