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Why is my garbage disposal humming

Garbage disposals make cleaning up in the kitchen such a breeze. They're a great appliance to have, but they are a pain when they're broken. If you're noticing a humming noise coming from the garbage disposal, don't hesitate to take action! The sooner you can figure out what's wrong, the better. In some cases, a humming noise is caused by something simple to address on your own. Many times, however, you'll need the assistance of a professional to fix your garbage disposal. Here we'll explore some of the most common causes of a humming sound and all related problems with the appliance. By the end of this article, you'll be ready to diagnose a broken garbage disposal and give it the repair it needs. How does a garbage disposal work? To efficiently diagnose strange noises from your garbage disposal, you should understand how it works. When you flip the switch on your garbage disposal, it turns on the motor. The motor then spins a disc called an impeller plate. Lots of people believe that garbage disposals cut up food with blades, but that's incorrect. Instead, waste gets pulverized by a shredder ring. The shredder ring surrounds a small chamber where the food is collected. When the disposal turns on, the impeller plate spins at the base of the chamber. The plate spins fast enough to create a centrifugal force that sends the food waste to the shredder ring on the outside. Think of it as a Gravitron ride for your leftover food particles. What is causing the humming noise in my garbage disposal? If your garbage disposal is making a humming noise, it's probably the sound of the motor running while other parts remain still. There could be something preventing the impeller plate from spinning. The malfunction of the otherwise moving parts could be due to another problem in the appliance, as well. A garbage disposal that isn't spinning is a garbage disposal that can't dispose. When you hear the humming noise, you know the appliance is out of commission until you do something about it. Here are the most common causes of a humming garbage disposal.

Stuck foreign object Almost every garbage disposal will meet the day it has a utensil fall into its chamber. Such an event is nearly unavoidable when you're in a house with children. When that day comes, you'll know right away by the way the appliance is no longer doing the job. The shredding plate will get stuck on the utensil. Meanwhile, the motor will hum and run without being able to turn the plate. If you think this might be your issue, you can check by shining a light into the garbage disposal. You should be able to see any large object that has stuck on the impeller plate. Make sure the disposal is off and use some tongs — not your hands — to grab the item. Note that there could also be an item that's stuck in a part of the disposal you cannot see. If you can't resolve the malfunction on your own by troubleshooting, a professional may be able to locate a blockage elsewhere in the disposal.

Stuck food Sometimes, if a garbage disposal is on and then stops running on its own, it's due to jammed food. Occasionally, a piece of fibrous food will get stuck between the impeller plate and the drain hole. One way to troubleshoot this is by manually turning the plate. Be sure to unplug the unit before anything else. Then, you can use a hex allen to unjam the food. In fact, some disposals come with their own wrench for this reason. Once you are 100% sure the unit has no power, locate the hex socket at the underside of the garbage disposal. You'll put the wrench into the socket, and then move it back and forth until the waste becomes unstuck. If the impeller plate moves freely, but the humming continues, you'll know that there's another issue causing the humming. Electrical issues It's possible for a garbage disposal to overheat, which can cause electrical issues that may create a humming noise. The appliance will often overheat if it is left on or used too often. Sometimes overheating is caused when a person forces something through the disposal. When the unit overheats, it can trip the circuit breaker or the GFCI electrical outlet. You can check to see whether the humming is due to an electrical issue by resetting the disposal. This is done via a button on the bottom of the unit. If this doesn't help, it's best to get expert help from your local plumber.

Too old Sometimes, a humming, malfunctioning garbage disposal is just old and at the end of its life. Garbage disposals generally last between eight and 15 years. If your unit has been around for a while, it might just be time for a new one. A note about safety Some of the most common reasons for a humming garbage disposal are manageable without the help of a plumber. It can be empowering to solve the problem on your own. Plus, it's so convenient to be able to handle the humming noise quickly. However, it's imperative to take every precaution when you're working on a unit. Always turn off the unit and disconnect it from power. Never stick your hand down the disposal even when it's off. This kitchen staple is designed to pulverize food. You do not want to risk the same thing happening to your hand. If you want to be sure that your disposal gets fixed, or are worried about handling the issue alone, no sweat. There are professionals out there whose job is to identify and fix the problem. If you live in the greater Cincinnati area, give Geiler a call. We've been providing plumbing services in Cincinnati for decades and are experts at what we do. Our services are quick and reliable. We will have your garbage disposal up and running again before you know it. You might also want to read: Should I have a battery backup for my sump pump? Your Dishwasher is Not a Garbage Disposal When Is It Time To Call A Plumber For A Clogged Toilet What is that hissing sound coming from my toilet? If your garbage disposal makes a humming sound when you flip the switch, don't fret. This is a pretty common issue and usually a fairly easy fix. Even if you have zero experience repairing garbage disposals, it's still pretty easy. However, this is the best-case scenario. A humming sound could also mean you're having other serious problems with your unit. Although humming is usually a simple problem, you'll want to check and make sure there isn't a bigger issue at hand. When your garbage disposal is making humming sounds, see if it's jammed The first thing you'll want to do if your garbage disposal just hums is make sure it's not jammed. To do this, make sure you disconnect the power to it. Once the power has been disconnected, see if anything is jamming it up. When something jams up your garbage disposal, whether it be food, silverware or another object, it prevents the blades from spinning but the motor continues to try and rotate the blades. This is why it's important to turn off your garbage disposal right away when you hear a humming sound. Trying to unjam it by simply by running it could damage or even burn out the motor. To successfully remove whatever is jamming your garbage disposal: If you haven't already, turn off your garbage disposal. Examine the drain hole. Remove whatever if causing the jamming. Plug your unit back in. Flip the switch to see if it works right. What shouldn't you put down the garbage disposal? Once you unjam the blades, your garbage disposal should then go back to working right. To prevent your garbage disposal from jamming up, make sure you don't put the following items down your garbage disposal: **△** Banana peels: These skins are hard for your garbage disposal to grind up. **△** Potato peels: The potato peels will eventually transform into a starchy, gluey mess jamming up the blades of your unit. **△** Any sort of grease: Overtime, the grease will begin to coat the blades of your garbage disposal and slow them down. **△** Pasta and even rice: Both pasta and rice increase in size the more they sit in water. As a result, they will become large and jam up your blades. **△** Bones of any kind: Not only will bones reduce the sharpness of your blades, they're also hard to grind up and will also jam up your garbage disposal. **△** Coffee grinds: When coffee get ground up, they can begin to cause blockages and slow the blade of your unit down. **△** Egg shells: Egg shells, just like bone, can slowly dull your blades and cause blockages when they get ground into small pieces. **△** Celery: Celery has a tough skin like a banana, and as a result, should not be shoved down your garbage disposal. Is your garbage disposal humming but not jammed? If you find that there's nothing jammed or your garbage disposal is still humming after you checked to see if it was jammed, then you might want to try and manually rotated the grinding plate. Overtime, grease and other things can cause the grinding plate to get stuck. To resolve this issue, equip yourself with an Allen wrench. If you received an Allen wrench with your garbage disposal when you first purchased the unit, you'll want to use that one. Otherwise, inspect the breaker socket located on the bottom to see what the size is and equip yourself an appropriate sized tool. A 1/4-inch Allen wrench is usually the size that you'll need. Once you have the right Allen wrench: Place the wrench on the head of the bolt. Turn the bold back and forth firmly and steadily. This manually rotates the grinding plate. Equip yourself with a pair of tongs and pull the loose debris out from the stomach of the garbage disposal. Give your garbage disposal a test. Turn on the power and try it. If your unit still hums, repeat the procedure. Once your garbage disposal quits humming, let hot water run down your garbage disposal for a few seconds to help clean it. It's important to note that if your garbage disposal doesn't have a bolt located on the bottom of it, you'll need to use something else to get the grinding plate to spin. You can use the end of a broom, a long stick, or a slim pole of some sort. To do this, you'll want to your tool down into the disposer chamber and force it to move. Reset the disposer if your garbage disposal is humming but not turning If your garbage disposal is still humming after you've unjammed it or manually rotated the grinding plate, there's a good chance the disposer will need to be reset. To do this, simply find the reset button and push it in. This will reset your garbage disposal. While doing this, you'll also want to examine the reset switch to make sure that's it's not worn out or faulty in any way. When this switch breaks or become worn, it usually means that it's time to replace the complete unit. If you are unexperienced with garbage disposal replacement, you'll want to call a professional. Other possible reasons your garbage disposal is making humming sounds There are a few other reasons why your garbage disposal may not be working. One of these reasons includes a fried disposal. If you kept trying to unjam your garbage disposal by running it, you may have overheated your unit or even fried it. If your garbage disposal has overheated, you may be able to restart it by simply pushing the reset button. On the other hand, if your garbage disposal has been fried, pushing the reset button will not do anything. In this situation, you'll more than likely have to replace your complete unit. If you are unsure though, have a professional take a look to be sure. You don't want to replace the whole unit if there's only a minor issue at hand.

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