

From: The Management Office

There have been an increased number of kitchen sink backups reported to the Management Office. These backups typically happen when a resident uses their garbage disposal improperly. One of the problems we see is a buildup of grease in the lines.

Grease should NEVER be put down the drains.

If you notice that your kitchen sink is slow to drain, it's possible that the line is clogged. By running the garbage disposal to try to clear the blockage, you may be pushing the debris into a neighboring unit, causing a sink overflow. Please be cautious in these situations and call the management office to ensure that it is cleared properly.

## **GARBAGE DISPOSAL ETIQUETTE**

The garbage disposal seems like a great place to get rid of food and table scraps instead of tossing them in the trash. While the disposal can handle most things in small portions, there are a few things you should never put in your garbage disposal.

**Suggested procedure for running your disposal:** Push food remnants into the drain. With a stopper in place, fill your sink with about 2" of warm water. While leaving the water running, remove the stopper and turn on the garbage disposal. Leave the disposal running until all water has drained from the sink. Turn off your disposal, then shut off the faucet.

Any kind of stringy or tough-peeled vegetable such as **asparagus, lettuce, celery, corn husks, artichokes and potato peels** shouldn't be put in the garbage disposal. Their string materials wrap themselves around the blades and prevent the motor from turning.

**Egg shells** don't belong in the garbage disposal. It has been rumored that egg shells help sharpen the blades, but this is a myth. The thin membrane layer attached to the shell can also wrap itself around the disposal's shredder ring.

Never put **grease** in a garbage disposal, as it will eventually solidify and clog some or all of the drain.

A disposal is not strong enough to break down **animal bones**, either. While the blades might break them down some, they will never be able to get them small enough to fit down the drain.

**Rice and pasta have the same problem**—they can never be broken down small enough. And since they swell with water, smaller pieces will get bigger and gather in the trap until it is closed.

**Pits or seeds from fruits and vegetables** shouldn't be put down the garbage disposal, as they can't be broken down. They can damage or ruin your disposal and are better off being composted.

Other items to trash instead of tossing down the disposal include **coffee grounds, twist ties, pull tabs, rubber bands, glass, screws and nails, utensils, cigarette butts, bottle caps, paper, plastic, fabric, string, rags, sponges, plants, flowers, children's toys, or hair**. None of these items will break down small enough to rinse easily down the drain. No matter how strong your garbage disposal is, it still has its limits.

**\*IF DEBRIS BACKS UP INTO YOUR SINK AFTER YOU HAVE RUN YOUR DISPOSAL, CALL 610-687-5678 AS YOUR KITCHEN LINE MAY BE CLOGGED!\***  
**PLEASE DO NOT CONTINUE TO RUN THE DISPOSAL AS THIS MAY CAUSE A BACKUP IN A NEIGHBORING UNIT.**