



Installing a Garbage Disposal

by James Carey and Morris Carey

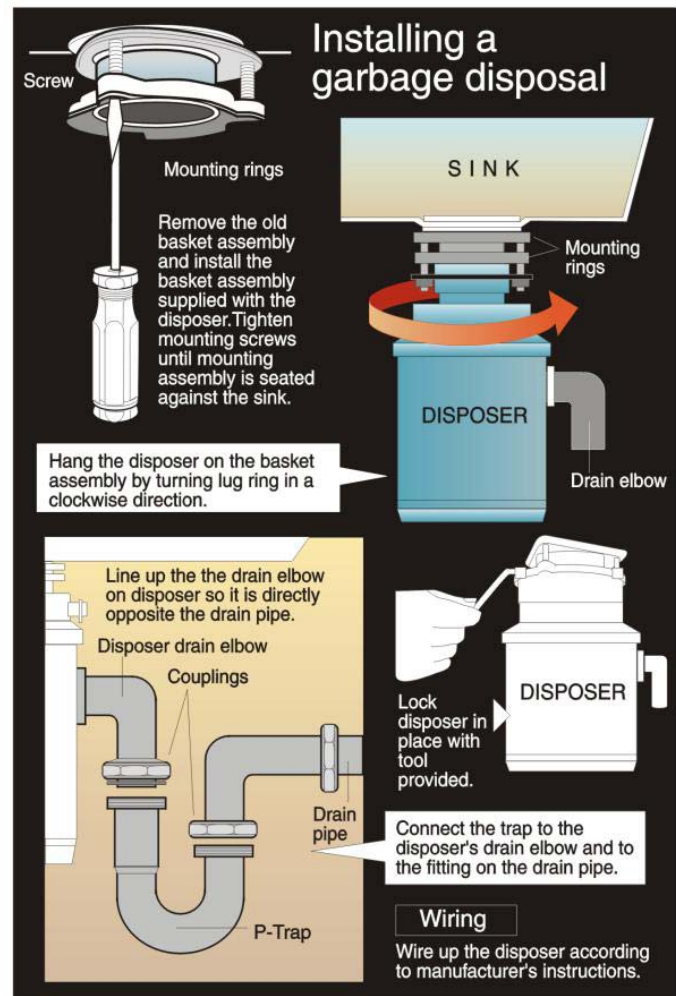
When we were kids the major kitchen appliances in our home were a range and a refrigerator. Things are different in today's kitchens. There are many devices that make our chores less demanding. One such gadget - the **garbage disposal** - has been making life easier for decades and is here to stay.

Whether you are purchasing a disposal for the first time or as a replacement, it is important to know what's available. There are two basic types - continuous feed and batch feed. Both are installed in the same way, and they grind waste in the same manner.

- Continuous-feed disposals are operated by a switch on the wall or cabinet, and run continuously while waste is fed into the grinding chamber. Cold water must be kept running when it's in operation. The water cools and lubricates the grinding parts and helps to float the pulverized waste down the drain.
- The batch feed is used more like a food processor. Once it is filled with waste, the motor can only be turned on by replacing the sink strainer.

The continuous-feed type is ideal for macerating great volumes of waste quickly and easily, but the batch-feed model is considered safer because it will not operate unless it is closed. Disposals with stainless steel housings and blades are of better quality and last longer. Remember, with disposals, price does have something to do with lasting quality. Also, pay a little extra and make sure to purchase a well-insulated disposal. This way, you will be able to hear yourself think when the motor is running. Of course, even the best disposal sounds like a thrashing machine when installed in a cheap sink.

Tip! *Installing a disposal is a relatively easy task. The hardest part is lifting and then holding the unit in place long enough to interlock with the mounting ring. This part of the task might require assistance.*



AP/Sten Kohler

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Installing the disposal:

The first step is to install the disposal mounting-ring assembly which takes the place of the sink drain. Before installing the new parts, be sure that all of the old putty has been scraped away from the opening and that it is thoroughly clean. Three screws hold the new parts in place. We think it is one of the most ingenious connections in the home. Don't forget, the water seal is provided by a pencil-sized application of **plumber's putty** between the lip of the new drain and the sink.

With the drain assembly tightly in place, the disposal can be twist-locked onto it with the turn of a **disposal wrench**.

The last step is connecting the **drain**. If you have a dishwasher, its **drain hose** also is connected to the disposal. A plug located in the dishwasher drain inlet of the disposal will have to be knocked out using a **hammer** and a **punch**.

Materials Checklist!

- ✘ Garbage disposal
- ✘ Plumber's putty
- ✘ Disposal wrench
- ✘ Drain
- ✘ Drain hose
- ✘ Hammer
- ✘ Punch
- ✘ Air vent

Tip! *Once in a while you will find that the **air vent** on the sink will overflow when the dishwasher is running. This is because the disposal has thrown waste into the dishwasher drain hose and partially clogged it. When this happens, remove the hose from the disposal, clean it out with a hangar and then replace the hose.*

If the disposal ever jams, quickly turn it off. Use the end of a wooden mop or broomstick wedged against the opening of the disposal to loosen the blades that are located at the bottom of the disposal. In some instances, the reset button (usually located at the bottom of the disposal) will have to be pushed in to return power to the disposal.

Caution: Never discard nut shells, pits or fibrous waste into a disposal. And, for continuous-feed disposals, never force large volumes of anything at one time. This can cause drain clogs.

Morris and James Carey are nationally recognized experts on home building and renovation. They share their nearly half-century of experience as award-winning licensed contractors with millions of people nationwide through weekly radio programming and a syndicated newspaper column both titled "On The House."

Visit their web site at www.onthehouse.com for more home improvement tips and information

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