

University Commons: A Guide To Your Amenities

Garbage Disposer



- *What's it used for?*

There are sharp blades under the kitchen sink in the drain that will grind up and dispose of food that would otherwise be thrown out in the garbage. This is only used to dispose of food, but not all kinds of food. As a general rule, anything that is tough for you to chew is also tough for the garbage disposer. Some things you should **NEVER** put down the garbage disposer include:

- Grease – especially grease that's been used for cooking
- Potato, apple, and banana peelings
- Celery
- Bones
- Large seeds
- Shells (clams, oyster, etc.)
- Corn husks
- Anything that **IS NOT** food (plastic wrappers, toothpicks, paper, twisty-ties, glass, plastic, metal objects such as bottle caps, etc.)

- *How do I use it?*

- Empty the sink of all dishes, garbage, and any other debris.
- Remove the sink stopper.
- Turn on the faucet and run cold water into the sink.
- Turn on the garbage disposer – the switch is located near the sink and looks similar to a light switch.
- Scrape food you wish to dispose of into the sink.
- Continue to run the water and put food you wish to dispose of into the sink so that it will all run down the drain and through the garbage disposer blades.
- When all of the food has been run through the garbage disposer blades and the sink is empty, let the water run for an additional 25 - 30 seconds. Turn off the garbage disposer, and then turn off the water – in that order.

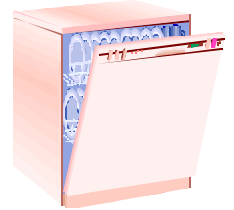
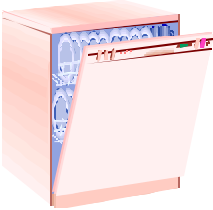
- *Products needed*

No special products need to be purchased to use this appliance.

- *Safety*

- Keep the operating switch in the "OFF" position when not in use.
- When not operating the disposer, leave the drain stopper in place. This will reduce the risk of objects accidentally falling into the disposer.
- **DO NOT** put your hands, fingers, metal objects, wooden objects, or any other part of your body or any solid down the drain of the sink. Be especially careful of hands and sharp metal objects (forks, knives, etc.)
- The normal sound of the garbage disposer is a quiet, humming sound. If you hear a loud grinding noise or if the blades and gears seem like they are clogged or stuck, turn off the garbage disposer immediately and call **Housing Operations at 475-5815** to file a maintenance request.

For more information go to <http://home.pacbell.net/benjam47/safety.html>



Dishwasher

- *What's it used for?*

This appliance washes most dishes by heating cold water much hotter than can be used when washing dishes by hand. It also uses less water too. Water is pumped through the rotating arms at the bottom of the machine. These arms contain spray jets, which spray the heated water and detergent to all parts of the loaded dishwasher. After both the washing and rinsing cycle are complete, the dishes are left to air dry.

- *How do I use it?*

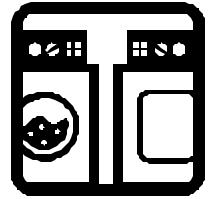
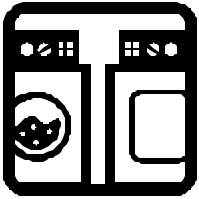
- Scrape off as much food from the surface of the dishes as possible.
- Place larger and dirtier items on the bottom rack.
- Place glasses, cups, and less soiled items on the top rack.
- Load plates and glasses so they aren't touching each other.
- Put cutlery (forks, spoons, etc.) in the basket with the handles facing downwards. Put knives in the basket with the handles facing upward.
- Add special detergent used for **DISHWASHERS ONLY** into the small cups on the inside of the dishwasher door. Close the lid on the main cup.
- Close the dishwasher door and turn the dial to the "Start" or "On" position, or the cycle you desire. (usually "Normal Wash" is used)
- There will be a time delay between start-up and water fill, so you will not hear any wash action right away.
- Latch the door closed to begin the cycle.

- *Products needed*

- Dishwasher dish detergent – powder, liquid, gel, or tablets (Cascade and Jet-Dry are good examples)
- **DO NOT** use dish soap, hand soap, or any other kind of soap not specifically designed for dishwashers. These will cause excess foam, which can result in a leak and/or flood of your kitchen.
- Items you **SHOULD NOT** wash in the dishwasher include lead crystal, antique, hand-painted, and over-glazed items, bone or wooden-handled items, some plastic items, cast iron, some aluminum items (they can discolor during the rinsing cycle).

- *Safety*

- Only wash dishes in the dishwasher. Do not wash items such as paint brushes.
- Do not open the dishwasher during the washing cycle due to hot temperatures of the water used.
- Do not use any other soap or detergent other than that which is made specifically for dishwashers.
- Load sharp knives with the handles up to reduce the risk of injury to yourself loading or unloading these items.
- Do not wash plastic items unless they are marked "dishwasher safe" or other equivalent.
- Do not abuse, sit on, or stand on the door or dish rack of the dishwasher.
- Do not allow children to play around dishwasher when opening or closing the door, due to the possibility of small fingers being pinched in the door.



Clothes Washing Machine

- *What's it used for?*

This machine is used to wash most pieces of clothing. After you fill the washing machine tub with clothes, the machine fills the tub with water, and then stirs the clothes around using an agitator. After some time agitating, the washer drains the water and then spins the clothes to remove most of the water. Then, it refills, and agitates the clothes some more to rinse out the soap. Then it drains and spins again.

- *How do I use it?*

- Separate your clothes by color (whites, darks) and fabric type (ex. delicate, wool, regular).
- Put one load of clothes into the machine at a time, avoiding an overload of the machine.
- Make the proper selections of fabric type and water temperature.
- Close the door and let the water fill the tub.
- Lift the door open and pour in your detergent over the clothes – make sure the detergent is made specifically for laundry.
- Close the door and let the machine run its full cycle of washing and rinsing the clothes.

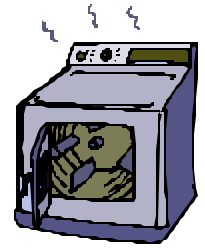
- *Products needed*

- Clothes washing detergent (soap) – liquid or powder (Tide, Purex, Wisk, Cheer).
- Fabric softener (if desired) – liquid or dryer sheet (Downy, Snuggle).

- *Safety*

- Be sure to separate your clothes by colors and whites.
- Read the tags on each piece of clothing for washing instructions.
- Do not overload the washing machine with too many articles of clothing.
- Do not put too much detergent in the machine.
- Do not use this machine for anything other than clothing.

For more information go to <http://home.howstuffworks.com/washer1.htm>



Clothes Dryer

- *What's it used for?*

The rotating tumbler holds the clothes and rotates them in a circular motion during the drying cycle. A heater warms the air drawn through the clothes as they tumble, which dries the clothes and the water in them. An exhaust vent passes out of the dryer and out of the apartment – this is how the water exits the dryer in the form of steam.
- *How do I use it?*
 - After washing a load of clothes, put them in the dryer.
 - Make the proper selections of temperature and drying cycle. Most loads will require “Regular” temperature and “Optimum Dry” settings.
 - Put a dryer sheet in the dryer with the clothes, if desired, and close the dryer door.
 - Turn the “Start” control clockwise to “Start”. Hold for 1-2 seconds and release.
 - Allow the machine to run its cycle of drying clothes.
 - Opening the door during the operation will stop the dryer. To restart the dryer, close the door and select “Start” to complete the cycle.
 - After the cycle is complete, take out all of the clothes to avoid excess wrinkling.
 - Remove the lint filter by pulling straight up. Empty the lint filter by running your fingers across the filter. Replace the filter in its proper place. Do not operate the dryer without the lint filter in place.
- *Products needed*
 - Dryer sheets (if desired – but are not necessary) – (Downy, Snuggle)
- *Safety*
 - Do not overload the dryer with too many articles of clothing.
 - Do not operate the dryer without the lint filter in place.
 - Do not put things other than clothing in the dryer.
 - Do not dry articles of clothing containing fiberglass, foam, wool, rubber, plastic, or similar materials such as padded bras, tennis shoes, galoshes, bath mats, rugs, bibs, baby pants, plastic bags, and pillows that may melt, burn, or start a fire.
 - Be sure to empty the lint screen after each load of clothes has been dried to avoid a fire hazard.
 - Keep the area near the exhaust opening and surrounding areas free from accumulation of lint, dust, and dirt.
 - Do not obstruct the flow of ventilating air. Do not stack or place laundry or throw rugs against the front or back of the dryer.
 - Never stand or climb on the dryer top.

For more information go to <http://home.howstuffworks.com/dryer.htm>

Produced by the Center for Residence Life Apartment Area

