

# Troubleshooting Garbage Disposal Problems

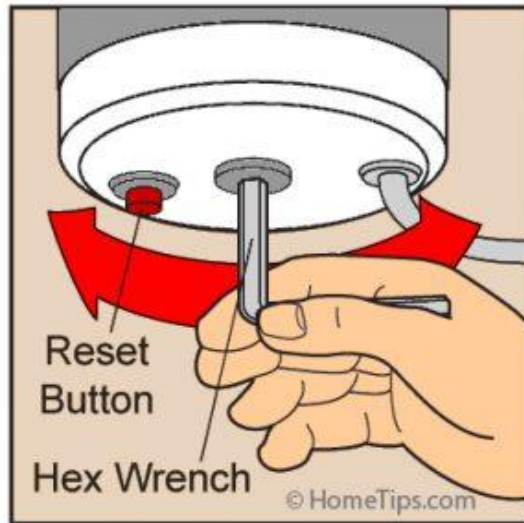
Did you know that you can free up a jammed disposal with a simple little garbage disposal wrench?

We'll show you how to do that, too. It's an equally simple fix.

**To fix a garbage disposal that doesn't work:**

**1. Push the reset button** on the bottom of the disposal and then try it again.

**2. Make sure its cord is plugged into** a working electrical outlet or hardwired to an electrical box. If necessary, reset the circuit breaker that supplies electrical power to it.



**3. To clear a jam, insert a 1/4-inch [hex wrench](#)** into the hex-shaped hole in the underside of the garbage disposal and crank both directions a few times to free-up the impellers.

The wrench will be under the kitchen sink taped to the drain hose for the disposal. Make sure to always leave the wrench under the kitchen sink, so it is easy to find.

## Troubleshooting Garbage Disposal Problems

- To determine the quickest and easiest way to fix your garbage disposal, you need to figure out what the problem is. In most cases, the symptoms will tell you what to attack first.
- **If the garbage disposal doesn't do anything**—meaning it doesn't even hum—the problem is likely to be that it isn't receiving power or the reset button needs to be pressed.

This generally means that either:

The garbage disposal's overload circuit has shut it down, or

1. The electrical circuit that serves the garbage disposal is off.
2. **If the garbage disposal hums but doesn't grind** when you turn it on, turn it off. Something is jammed inside it.
3. **If the unit's motor runs, but it doesn't grind well**, something is probably wrong with the blades.
4. **If the garbage disposal is not draining or disposal water comes back up through the sink drain**, the problem is generally with the garbage disposal drain, not the disposal unit