

## Garbage Disposal Replacement Checklist

Now that you know what usually causes disposals to go all wonky, it's time to start planning for the future. Sometimes that garbage disposal is repairable, but eventually, every appliance has seen its day and must enter retirement. When that happens, go ahead and fire your 21-gun salute, then whip out this checklist and start shopping for a new disposal.

Make sure to ask your plumber the following questions and get the answers you need. We guarantee you'll be happy as a clam with your new appliance:

1. Is the outlet under the sink still good? If the outlet is part of the problem, you'll need to fix that too.
2. How many people are in your home? If it's more than just you, a smaller 1/3 horsepower motor may not provide enough power. Think about a unit with half a horsepower or greater.
3. What kind of blades does the disposal have? If the answer isn't "stainless steel, baby," then you should run in the opposite direction. Screaming.
4. Do you need a dishwasher attachment? If you use a dishwasher, it needs to flush away food particles, which is easier with a disposal.
5. Does the unit have noise shielding? Many of the nicer ones are far less heinous to the ears.
6. Does it have anti-splash baffles? That needs to be a major yes if you don't want a yucky sink.
7. Is there a manual reset button? The only answer to this question is "yes."
8. Can your plumbing handle the load required for the new garbage disposal? Chances are good your pipes have got what it takes, but it's best to have a plumber assess the situation beforehand.

That's it! Any other questions? Call a plumber