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How do you fix a leaking badger 5 garbage disposal

if you toss the pulp, seeds, and other guts you're scraping out of pumpkins for Halloween into your garbage disposal, expect some creepy noises, and a plumber bill. Toss them in the trash or the compost pile instead. In a press release, Roto-Rooter warns homeowners about the dangers of pumpkin pulp, saying its plumbers "remove gobs of it from clogged drains" during the Halloween season. Carving Pumpkins "Plumbers know that frantic homeowners will soon be complaining about pulp-clogged garbage disposals and stopped-up kitchen sink drains leading up to Halloween," says Larry Rothman, Roto-Rooter's plumbing director. "It's stringy and sticky, and when it dries and hardens it'll choke off drainpipes and garbage disposals, creating all sorts of havoc." Evidently, people flush pumpkin guts down the toilet, too, Rothman says. "The toilet is not a better option," he says. "It just means the clog forms a little further down the pipe." Your best bet: Throw pulp in the compost pile or let your old pumpkin sprout some vines in your flower or vegetable bed; you might have pumpkins this time next year. Related: How to Clean Up After Thanksgiving in Half the Time Photo: istockphoto.comQ: Lately, the cabinet under my kitchen sink has been getting mysteriously soggy. Could this be a symptom of a leaking garbage disposal? If so, how can I repair it myself?A: A leaking garbage disposal often goes unnoticed until you confront a sopping cabinet, a foul-smelling puddle, or an audible drip-drip-drip from the unit. The fix can be frustrating, too, because the leak can stem from a number of components in the system. Fortunately, with a little sleuthing, you can zero in on the leak and—depending on the exact location—stop the icky oozing and repair the component that caused it. Worst case scenario, if it turns out that the garbage disposal must be replaced, installing a new one is a reasonable do-it-yourself task for those with basic plumbing skills. Read on to keep the cash you'd otherwise hand over to a pro. Some jobs are better left to the pros. Get free, no-commitment estimates from licensed plumbers near you. + Photo: istockphoto.com Prepare to find the leak Prior to testing the garbage disposal for leaks, unplug it at the wall outlet and turn off the power from the breaker box to prevent electrical shock. Then insert a watertight sink stopper into your sink drain and wipe the unit dry with a clean cloth. In any handy container, mix a few drops of food coloring into a few cups of water, and pour the dyed water onto the sink stopper to help you locate the leak. Investigate the source. Using a flashlight, examine the unit for escaping colored water, which is likely to come from one of three places: the top, where the disposal meets the sink drain; the side, where the dishwasher hose or main drain pipe connects to the disposal; or the bottom of the unit. Inspect each of these locations while gliding a light-colored rag over the unit; the dyed water will readily show on the rag and reveal the location of the leak. If a leak isn't immediately apparent, remove the sink stopper and pour a few more cups of dyed water down the sink drain, then check for leaks again. Leaks near the top of the unit are more likely to show themselves while the sink is plugged, while side and bottom leaks are more noticeable while the sink is unplugged. Photo: istockphoto.com If the top of the garbage disposal is leaking, re-seal and tighten the flange. The metal sink flange that sits directly inside the sink drain is typically sealed around the top with plumber's putty (a clay-like sealant) and then secured from under the sink with bolts. If the plumber's putty deteriorates, or the bolts loosen, the flange can no longer form a watertight seal between the sink drain and the disposal—which could cause a leak at the top of the unit. To re-seal the leaky flange, you must first detach the garbage disposal. Start by loosening the screws securing the main drain pipe to the disposal, then loosen the screws in the metal clamp securing the dishwasher hose to the disposal and detach the drain pipe and dishwasher hose from the disposal. Loosen the screws in the mounting ring that connects the disposal to the metal mounting assembly beneath the sink, then pull down the disposal and carefully set it on a clean, dry surface. Loosen the bolts in the mounting assembly with a wrench, then pull down the mounting assembly and set it near the disposal. Lift the sink flange from the top of the sink. Use a plastic putty knife to scrape off the old plumber's putty around the top of the flange, then wipe off any putty residue with a damp rag. Now grab a palmful of plumber's putty (available at hardware stores, home centers, and online) and roll it into an eighth-inch to quarter-inch-wide "rope" with a length roughly equal to the circumference of the flange. Wrap the rope of putty around the top of the flange like a collar, then insert the flange into the sink drain opening until snug. Re-install the mounting assembly and mounting ring (taking care to securely tighten the mounting bolts on the mounting assembly), then re-attach the garbage disposal, drain pipe, and dishwasher hose in the reverse order you detached them. If you see that it's the side of the garbage disposal leaking, tighten drain line connections and replace worn gaskets. Two drain lines extend from the sides of a garbage disposal: a narrower dishwasher hose that connects the dishwasher drain pipe to your disposal's dishwasher inlet, and the main drain pipe that connects your disposal to the sewer through an outlet in the wall. If you spy a leak on the side of the disposal where the dishwasher hose meets the disposal's dishwasher inlet, the problem could be that the metal clamp connecting them is loose. In that case, tighten the screws in the metal clamp with a screwdriver. If the leak is on the side where the disposal meets the waste drain pipe, loosen the screws that secure the drain pipe to the disposal and inspect the rubber gasket inside the pipe—it may well be worn out. Replace the gasket and re-tighten the drain pipe screws. If the bottom of the unit is leaking, replace the disposal. Leaks from the bottom of the garbage disposal (often from the reset button) commonly indicate that at least one seal on the interior shell of the unit that protects the motor has deteriorated, or that the shell itself has cracked. These vulnerabilities can cause water from the sink to seep into the shell of the disposal and leak out of the base of the unit. In an old garbage disposal, one compromised internal seal is often accompanied by others, so your best bet is to install a new one. RELATED: The Best Garbage Disposals, According to Happy Homeowners Hiring a pro to replace the unit will run you \$400 on average, including labor and parts, or you can install a garbage disposal yourself and save anywhere from \$90 to \$200 in labor costs. You should be able to get eight to 15 years of use out of a new garbage disposal. Check your work by running water through the drain. Whether you repaired or replaced the leaking garbage disposal, test for any missed problem spots. Wipe the unit dry with a clean cloth, then unplug the sink drain (if plugged) and pour a few cups of dyed water into the drain once more. Use a flashlight to inspect the entire unit. If you don't observe a leak, turn on the power to the disposal from your breaker box and plug in the disposal at the wall outlet. Prevent future leaks. Proper use of a garbage disposal can stave off future leaks. So remember to grind only soft foods; hard items such as bones, apple cores, or raw potatoes can dislodge or damage the internal seals. Run cold water through the sink drain before and after food disposal to keep solid fats from congealing into gunk (which can deteriorate the sink flange and cause leaks). Finally, inspect your disposal for leaks at least twice a year using the dyed-water test to catch and repair minor leaks before they lead to water-damaged sink cabinets or kitchen floors. Some jobs are better left to the pros. Get free, no-commitment estimates from licensed plumbers near you. + A leaky garbage disposal is not only a hassle, but it's also a mess and can result in other problems if left unfixed. If you're inexperienced at home improvement work, diagnosing the source of the leak may seem like quite a challenge. Make your life easier with the help of the information below. Once you start eliminating each possible option on your checklist, you should be able to identify the problem quite quickly. When your garbage disposal is leaking from the bottom, first find the leak. If you're wondering how to fix a leaking garbage disposal, you'll first need to examine the area to see specifically from where the leak is coming. However, before you begin looking for the leak, you'll need to take some safety and preparation measures. Turn off the garbage disposal completely and unplug the unit. Place a bag, a small garbage can, or a bucket underneath the sink to collect any leaking water. Turn on the water and fill up the sink a little less than half full. Take a bottle of food coloring, the brighter, the better, and place a few drops in the sink of water. Examine the bottom of your sink and look for any leaks. The leak could be originating from multiple places on your garbage disposal. When looking for leaks, the first place you want to start is where the sink and the garbage disposal are connected. This is a common place for a leak to occur. Another place you want to look at is the connection on the drain hose. However, you'll have to turn on your dishwasher to detect this leak. If you don't locate the leak in either of those two areas, you'll then want to look at the location where the drain line and garbage disposal meet in addition to underneath the garbage disposal system. Once you've found the general area of the leak, you'll then need to figure out what is causing it. Article Overview: If you've never heard of the flange or plumber's putty, it's the stuff that attaches your garbage disposal with your sink. As time goes by, this seal can begin to corrode, become loose, and eventually leak water. To fix this issue, you'll need to: First, turn off the power and unplug your garbage disposal. Disconnect your garbage disposal from under your sink. You will more than likely need a screwdriver and a wrench. Remove any preexisting putty and re-seal the area. You can also use a flange. A flange will tighten and compress the seal with screws. Once you have resealed the area, you can now reconnect your garbage disposal. If you are inexperienced with home improvement projects, you may want to call a professional. You might need to remove some of the pipes near the unit and reconnect them when the job is completed. If you have a broken seal on the inside of your garbage disposal, you will see leaking coming from the bottom of your unit. Leaks that come from the bottom of your garbage disposal are usually attributed to cracks on the inside of the device. This is due to basic wear and tear over time. Typically, garbage disposals usually last anywhere from 5 to 10 years. Well-manufactured units may even last longer than that. If you're really looking to save some money, you can always disconnect your unit, dissect it, seal the crack and reattach it. However, this is just a temporary fix. If you have the money, it's best just to invest in a new unit. The drain lines are a common place from where your garbage disposal to leak. Get down and inspect the location where your drain lines attach to your garbage disposal. You will see two lines. The small line is the dishwasher disposal line, and the thicker line is the sewer disposal line (discharge tube). While inspecting your unit, if you see leaking, you will need to equip yourself with a screwdriver and tighten the clamp that's holding the garbage disposal to the dishwasher. The smaller drain line is attached by screws. Tighten these screws, and if the gasket is worn, replace this too. (Be careful not to overtighten.) You should be able to purchase gaskets at your local home improvement store for a fairly low price. While you're inspecting your drain lines, also look to see if you see wear and tear. Over the years, drain lines can sprout leaks and cracks that can lose water. If you notice that your lines look pretty worn, you may want to have them replaced. Again, if you are inexperienced with home improvement projects, it's best to call a professional to tackle the job. If your garbage disposal is leaking from the reset button, and your system is fairly old, you'll probably just want to invest in a whole new system. It would be a waste of time and money to fix the reset button and find out in a couple of months that there's another problem with the system. However, if your garbage disposal is fairly new, having the reset button repaired is a better choice, especially if your unit is still under warranty. If your unit is under warranty, the company will probably send out a repairman to fix the problem. On the other hand, if your unit isn't under warranty, it's best to have a skilled technician complete the job unless you have experience doing this. You'll want to look for cracks or wet spots on the body of your garbage disposal. If, by chance, you do find any, the unit will more than likely have to be replaced, especially if there are large, visible cracks. Garbage disposals are usually attached beneath the kitchen sink, but because most families also keep their cleaning products and other necessities here, it's easy to accidentally bump and move the unit out of place. If you find that your disposal is not in the right spot, make sure you reposition it as soon as possible. ✓ As you're grinding something, run cold water down your drain. ✗ Never put hard food down the drain, only soft food. ✓ Perform regular inspections on your unit to ensure no leaks are present. ✗ Never put eggshells, potato peels, coffee grinds, pasta, rice, plastic, and paper down the garbage disposal. ✗ Bleach should never be poured down the drain. Follow these tips, and you'll protect your garbage disposal and extend the life of it as well.



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