

## 1) Treating a garbage disposal like a trash compactor

Not all things belong in a garbage disposal but many home owners that have one still send down things that don't belong like watermelon left overs, potato peels, pumpkin carvings.. Just to name a few. Ultimately if the blades get stuck they will have to be freed somehow. Be sure to refer to the manual for things that you actually can put down the disposal and minimize any problems that could occur. Also be sure to let any guests that tend to use your disposal know that some things can't be put through.



## 2) Not removing the Garbage disposal plug

Many people buy garbage disposals and then install them. This is great and nothing wrong with getting your hands dirty. The problem is that when there is a dishwasher added into the mix then the knockout plug where the dishwasher connects to must be removed before you begin operation of the dishwasher or else water will leak everywhere.



### 3) Excessive weight on fixtures

Especially shower heads are not designed to have weight put on them. A bad case scenario would be that the container hung on the pipe will slip and exert a force on the shower head to rip it off the threads. Who wants that? Instead get a wall mounted container which will not run the risk of damaging any faucets or shower heads.



#### 4) Improper joints of dissimilar metals

When different metals are connected together a coupling is required to do so due to the different properties of the metals and to avoid corrosion. This corrosion can build up over time and ultimately block the pipe. What you need is called a dielectric union which keeps the metals separate via a rubber washer. These are not expensive and run under \$10 for most home repair.



## 5) Flushing household items down the toilet

Plumbers have seen it all, from matchbox cars to tweezers. Kids toys are often found stuck in toilet or sewer lines. If the item gets stuck in the trap then the toilet must be lifted from its mounts in order to clear it. Toys often seem to increase after a kids movie comes out that portrays something of this nature.



## 6) Putting construction materials down the drain

After completing a DIY project at home and you need to discard some materials like building compound or left over plaster do not dispose of it down the drain. Hard sediments will only wash partly down the pipe and then settle without additional water being able to move it. A drain cleaner will not be able to remove it so it's best to avoid this altogether.



## 7) Forcefully turning off a faucet

Many home owners who have a faulty faucet that leaks or drips want to apply more force than usual to turn it off. Doing this will not fix the problem but only make it worse over a period time. If it is a kitchen faucet make sure you are not forcing the handle, otherwise there is a danger of ripping it off.



## 8) Stripping threads

Good plumbing work does not require a lot of strength. When tightening components it is important not to apply too much force that will cause a pipe to leak or break. Plastic and chrome pieces can become stripped without an excessive amount of force, so use care when working on them.





## 9) Turning on the water heater before it's ready

If you have just installed an electric water heater then you naturally want to use it. Before you do make sure it is full of water or else you run the risk of burning it out. This is an expensive mistake and one that is easily avoidable.



## 10) Not reassembling correctly

When tackling a DIY plumbing job it is recommended to take notes or even just a simple picture of how plumbing is assembled if you plan on reusing or reassembling. Many problems occur in the home when piping isn't reassembled properly.

