

Authority Times

News and Information for Customers
of the Borough of Conshohocken Authority

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Your Garbage Disposal Isn't For Dumping Trash

Contrary to popular belief, your home's garbage disposal should not be a dumping ground for trash of all kinds. There are many food items that can damage your disposal, clog your drain and, in some instances, damage a home's sewer main and lateral or cause it to run less efficiently.

Dumping too much or too many hard-to-break-down items in a garbage disposal can cause the materials to not be broken down by the bacteria in the sewer main or clog the lines before the waste ever reaches its destination. The best way to ensure proper garbage disposal operation is to adhere to a checklist of items that should never be put in the system.

What not to dispose of in your garbage disposal

Grease, oil or bacon fat

Even if you use hot water to rinse the material down the garbage disposal, grease



hardens and coats the blades, causing them to work less effectively. In addition, oils can also clog drains.

Coffee grounds

Coffee particles accumulate in pipes and cause blockages. Coffee filter and grounds work best in the garbage can.

Potato peels

Starch in potato peels trans-

forms into a gluey paste that can cause the blades to stick or damage the pipes.

Fibrous vegetables

Vegetables such as celery and asparagus are considered fibrous because they are stringy and those strings can wrap around the disposal blades and cause the motor to stop.

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MEETINGS

April 23

May 28

June 25

July 23

August 27

September 24

Meetings are held in the Authority office:

**601 East Elm St.
Conshohocken**

Meeting time 6:30 pm

Applications Accepted for Paid Summer Internship

The Borough of Conshohocken Authority (BCA) is offering a paid internship to those looking for a career in Wastewater Treatment who are currently enrolled in the following areas of study: Environmental Engineering, Chemistry or Biology. This internship program will provide a meaningful work experience that will complement their academic training and career

aspirations.

Participants gain experience in:

- Operation and Maintenance of the Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Collection Conveyance System
- Laboratory Analysis
- Daily and Weekly Reports Preparation
- Interpreting and Evaluating Engineering Problems

- Repair Projects
- Wastewater Processing and Discharge
- Administrative and Clerical Work
- Professional Development

Requirements:

BCA internships are open to undergraduate or graduate students who attend an accredited college or university.

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Authority Seeks Paid Summer Interns

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Eligible students must meet the minimum cumulative GPA, which is 2.5 for undergraduate and 3.0 for graduate students, based on a 4.0 scale.

Applicants must submit an application form (which can be found on our Website, www.conshohockensa.com), along with a current sealed official college transcript. The transcript may be mailed directly from the school, separate from the application.

Applicants must write an essay based on their career aspirations and, if selected, what the candidate would like to gain from this internship. The essay must be typed (double spaced) and should not exceed two pages in length.

Applicants must submit a letter of recommendation from an academic advisor

Applicants must be 18 years of age by June 4

Applicant must be available from June 4 through August 17

Special Requirements:

All applicants must be able to successfully pass a Pennsylvania State Police background check processes which will



include reference checks and criminal history checks.

Applicants must also be able to pass or have: Driving Record Check

The BCA is committed to supporting the educational goals of college students inter-

ested in careers in the public sector. This internship at the BCA will take you into the heart of the wastewater treatment industry.

Applications may be sent to sclark@conshohockensa.com and must be submitted no later than May 4.

Don't Use Your Garbage Disposal as a Trash Can

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Banana peels

Other fibrous materials that should not make their way into garbage disposals are banana peels, onion skin, corn husks and artichokes. The fruit and vegetable jackets protect the food inside and therefore are tough on garbage disposal systems. Skins can jam or block the drain.

Fruit pits

Cherry, avocado, peach and olive pits are too hard for garbage disposals to break down.

Animal bones

Bones dull the garbage disposal blades as they would kitchen knives. Beef, chicken, pork, lamb and fish bones should always be thrown in the trash.

Egg shells

The stringy membrane of egg shells can wrap around the garbage disposal and clog

Garbage disposal don'ts

- Use only cold water during the food grinding process.
- Avoid putting too much down the garbage disposal at once. Keep cuttings in a separate container and feed them slowly into the disposal while running plenty of water.

your pipes. Instead toss them in the trash or use them as fertilizer.

Rice and pasta

Rice and pasta continue to expand even when dumped down the garbage disposal and can clog pipes.

Chemicals

Harsh chemicals like bleach and Drain-O can ruin the disposals seals and eat through the pipes.

Miscellaneous items

Like items that people should not flush

Garbage disposal do's

- Turn on a medium to strong water flow before turning the garbage disposal on. Continue running the water for 15 seconds after the grinding stops. This will help flush the drain line and disposal of remaining food particles.
- Occasionally put a small amount of ice into the disposal to help clean the inside and grinding area.
- Consider having your kitchen drain line snaked every year or two as preventative maintenance.

down the toilet, cigarette butts, rubber bands, bread ties, sponges, wipes, pull tabs, and any other non-organic items should not be put in a garbage disposal. These materials are unable to break down, which can cause it to get stuck in the lines or dull the disposal blades.