

Summer Tips - How to Clean Your Garbage Disposal, Washing Machine & Drain

How to Clean your Garbage Disposal

Garbage disposals are gross, wet, and they smell bad over time. However, you can clean them out some lemon and vinegar ice cubes.

The cubes only take a few minutes to make. Cut up some lemons and place a piece in each section of an ice cube tray. Fill them up with vinegar (no water) and freeze. Then, whenever you need to clean your garbage disposal, toss a few in and turn it on. The cubes will help clean out the muck-filled disposal as well as mask any odors making their way out of the sink.

My Washing Machine Basin Smells Sour

Solutions

To get rid of a sour smell in your washer basin, the appliance must be thoroughly cleaned. For top-loading washers, running a hot water cycle with 3/4 cup of baking soda will eliminate the sour smell, as baking soda is a natural deodorizer. If you have a front-loading washer, fill the detergent dispenser with 1/2 cup of white vinegar and run a hot water cycle to get rid of the smell. Follow the hot water cycle, whether in a top-loader or front-loader, with a complete cycle with just hot water to get rid of any loosened grime in the machine. Wipe out the tub with a rag dampened with white vinegar to further remove any odor. If you have a front-loader, clean the seal around the door with the rag and vinegar as well.

Prevention

Easy preventive measures can be taken to prevent a sour smell in your washer in the future. Leave the lid or door of the washer open when not in use to allow air to flow throughout the machine. Don't use more than the recommended amount of detergent to help reduce build up. Remove laundry from the machine within two hours of the cycle completing to keep the laundry from smelling musty, which then transfers to the washer. If you have a top-loading washer, wipe out the rubber gasket after each use to eliminate standing water, which will turn stagnant and fill with bacteria and begin to smell.

How to Clean a Sour Drain

There is nothing more annoying than to be greeted in the morning by a sour drain. Even without a clog, a drain can sometimes smell sour. Though there are products on the market to clean a sour drain, you can also use items you probably already have to rid the drain of the odour.

Instructions

1. Heat a pot of water on the stove. The water can reach boiling or just be really hot.
2. Pour the hot water down the drain to remove debris. Pour slowly so that the water does not splash and burn you.
3. Pour 1/2 cup of baking soda down the sour smelling drain.
4. Pour 1/2 cup of vinegar down the drain. The mixture will bubble up, which is normal. If you do not have white distilled vinegar, use the juice of one lemon. If you do not have vinegar or lemons on hand, just stick with the baking soda.
5. Let mixture sit for 10 minutes.
6. Pour warm water from the tap down the drain to wash away the baking soda mixture. If the drain still smells sour, repeat the process.