



DON'T FORGET TO APPLY FOR THE HUNT MILITARY COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Hunt Military Communities Foundation, a non-profit organization established by Hunt Military Communities (Hunt), is thrilled to announce that it is currently accepting applications for its fifth annual HMC Foundation scholarship grants. Hunt will be granting a total of \$75,000 to well-deserving applicants.

The HMC Foundation scholarship program is dedicated to supporting active-duty Service Members, National Guard members, and Reservists from any of the five branches of the United States Armed Services, as well as their dependents, who have aspirations to pursue further education in college or vocational school programs.

Applicants should note that the deadline for submitting nominations is March 5, 2024, at 3 pm CST, or until a maximum of 50 applications is received, depending on which comes first. Nominees with any questions or concerns regarding the scholarship application process are encouraged to seek assistance by visiting the following link: <https://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/hmcf/>.

719-982-4800 

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THE PROPER CARE AND FEEDING OF YOUR GARBAGE DISPOSAL...

The Proper Care and Feeding of your Garbage Disposal...

What is my garbage disposal good for? That's a great question! Your garbage disposal is a very useful tool and an integral part of your home's whole plumbing system. A garbage disposal is a machine that is primarily used to shred food waste into super small pieces that won't clog pipes. It's smart to run your disposal regularly and to keep it clean. And it's important to always run your disposal with running cold water, which solidifies any grease or oils so they can be ground too.

Things it can be used for soft, cooked food plate scrapings, fruit peels, ice cubes, etc. The disposal helps to keep plumbing pipes cleaner and running unclogged by those substances that would otherwise cause major plumbing issues down the line.

Using a garbage disposal helps to cut down on odors in garbage. The downside to using a garbage disposal is that the disposal itself can develop a foul odor, particularly if you put forbidden food items down the drain and clog up the disposal. Your garbage disposal is one of the most convenient appliances in your home, but it is also one of the appliances that we get called about the most for repairs. In many cases, garbage disposal problems are avoidable if you know how to properly use and take care of your unit. By using the garbage disposal tips below, you can keep your unit running smoothly and avoid unnecessary repairs.

All of these items are safe to put down your disposal:

- **Citrus rinds:** Small sections of citrus fruits also naturally clean your disposal and leave your drain smelling fresh.
- **Egg shells:** The hard shells also help clean and sharpen garbage disposal blades.
- **Cooked meat scraps:** Food scraps leftover from dinner are fine if they end up in the garbage disposal after washing dishes. Just avoid large amounts or big chunks.
- **Fruit scraps:** Apples, oranges, bananas, berries, and grapes are all fine if they end up going down the garbage disposal. And they also help freshen your drain.
- **Most vegetable scraps:** Pretty much all veggies are fine to let run through the garbage disposal. There are a few that are too fibrous and therefore might be hard on your disposal, which we listed below.

Please don't put these items down your garbage disposal:

There are a few biodegradable items that aren't a good idea for disposals and we've highlighted two at the top of our list. These are our two favorite culprits: PASTA AND RICE. These foods can go in the trash. They contribute to a high percentage of our calls for clogged kitchen sinks and the plumbing pipes beyond.

- **Pasta:** Pasta expands in pipes, even after it's been shredded to bits, which will cause clogs.
- **Rice:** Just like pasta, Rice expands so please avoid letting it slip into your disposal to join the other stuff that wants to clog your plumbing, too.
- **Grease:** Avoid pouring grease or anything super fatty down your drain or in your garbage disposal. It congeals into a big, nasty mass that will clog your pipes.
- **Potato peels:** Potatoes are really starchy, which isn't a good

combination with your garbage disposal, your drain, or your pipes. These cause clogs. Toss in the garbage or compost instead.

- **Fruit pits:** Fruit pits are best to be deposited in your compost or garbage, not the disposal.
- **Large bones:** If you're finding yourself trying to shove something in the disposal, then it's too big. Toss big bones in the compost or trash.
- **Shrimp/Seafood shells:** Shrimp shells are pretty tough and can also leave a not-so-fresh scent.
- **Banana peels:** Because they're super fibrous, toss your banana peels in the compost instead.
- **Nuts:** Let's just imagine peanut butter in your garbage disposal for a moment. Yeah, not such a good idea.
- **Corn husks:** Husks are another fibrous material that make your disposal work really hard. It's best to toss them in the compost.
- **Onion skins:** Onion skins are also a no-no for the garbage disposal.
- **Artichokes:** The leaves of an artichoke are really tough and can get caught in the disposal blades, causing it to break down.
- **Asparagus:** Another fibrous veggie that isn't good for the blades of your disposal, and it composts well, too.

And really, really, don't put these items down your garbage disposal:

- **Fats and Oils:** While your garbage disposal can handle liquid or semi-solid fat, grease, and oil, the rest of your Home's plumbing system cannot. Instead, throw the greasy stuff out with the trash; seal liquid oil and grease in a can or jar first.
- **Shells:** Just like shrimp shells, other shells aren't good for your garbage disposal. (Yes, we know it's on here twice!).
- **Broken glass/beer bottles:** Please do not put broken glass in your garbage disposal.
- **Sanitary Wipes:** Wipes go in the trash...not in the plumbing EVER!
- **Fish Tank rocks:** After all...they are rocks! To put it bluntly, these are NO BUENO for blades.
- **Coins and Rings.**
- **Baby Pacifiers and Small Toys:** Turn off the power to the garbage disposal by unplugging the unit and remove obstruction with tongs if you can't wait for the Maintenance Technician to arrive.
- **Medication:** Tossing your unused medications down the garbage disposal might seem like a smart way to dispose of controlled substances, but putting drugs into the plumbing system can eventually impact the water supply. Instead, the FDA recommends removing the drugs from their packaging, putting them in a plastic bag with something unappealing like dirt or cat litter, then disposing of the bag in the trash.
- **Cigarette Butts:** Really, just don't do it. Along with shredding chemicals and other icky stuff, all those bits stick around, and really don't smell great.

THE PROPER CARE AND FEEDING OF YOUR GARBAGE DISPOSAL... (CONTINUED)

Safety Tips for using your garbage disposal:

- **Don't use bleach or commercial cleaner to clear the disposal!** When you turn on your appliance next, the caustic chemicals might fly up and out. If it's a case of the wrong place at the wrong time, that could result in bleach splashed in your eyes after flipping the switch to send food scraps down the drain.
- **If it gets clogged, don't pour hot water into the unit.** The heat will melt fats and oil and make unclogging the garbage disposal even more difficult to accomplish.
- **Exercise caution when retrieving something from your disposal.** If you accidentally drop something down your disposal, the safest thing to do is call for help. If time is of the essence, be very careful when trying to retrieve it. Make sure your unit is unplugged, underneath the sink, before attempting anything and try grabbing the object with a tong, pliers, or a bent coat hanger instead of your hand.
- **Do run the disposal every few days.** Even if you don't have to grind any food scraps up, you should run the appliance with cold water to keep the blades from rusting from lack of use. This also gives any food that might have stuck to the sides of the appliance from a previous use another chance to wash out.
- **Do clean your garbage disposal every two weeks.** First, fill it with ice cubes and a tablespoon of salt, then run it for a minute to let the natural abrasives scrape away the gunk lining the inside of your disposal. Pour a cup of vinegar and a half-cup of baking soda into the disposal to kill bacteria, then (again, with the power off) scrub the flaps with an old toothbrush.
- **Do ward off odors with warm water and lemons.** After you've reconnected your appliance, pour warm (not hot) water into your garbage disposal as it grinds cut-up lemons. The wedges are high in citric acid, which boasts "anti-bacterial properties" and their peels will scrub on the way down - an all-natural remedy!

Our garbage disposal can be a great first line of defense in keeping the whole plumbing system operating smoothly. We truly are all in this together. Your home is not an island unto itself. Every little thing we can do to make our home plumbing systems clean and clear will ultimately ensure our waste system continues to operate efficiently. If it is treated with the care and respect of everyone involved, we will see fewer plumbing drain line back-ups and happier residents.

Just because you CAN fit it into the garbage disposal doesn't mean you SHOULD. Be wise. Clean pipes are friendly pipes! Nobody likes a flooded basement. Thank you for wisely doing your part!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Number: 719-982-4800

Email: AFAContact@HuntCompanies.com

Facebook: @AFAFamilyHousing

Website: AirforceAcademyHousing.com

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday - 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday - 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer Adams

Jennifer Adams is a Community Manager here at AFA Family Housing. Jennifer loves to ride motorcycles and is an avid baseball Mom for her 12-year-old son. When asked what she loves about her job, Jennifer said, "I grew up a military brat to parents in both the Army and the Navy, and I love giving back to military families because I have lived that life."

COMMUNITY REMINDERS

Safety Alerts & Reminders

Don't forget to replace your air filter at least monthly. We recommend the 1st of every month. This will help keep your heater working properly this winter season. If you need a replacement air filter at no charge, visit the Community Management Office during business hours to pick up a FREE air filter.

Be sure to test your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide sensors twice a month. We recommend doing this every payday, so you do not forget.

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY EVENTS

Valentine's Day Candygrams

Keep an eye out on your email and Facebook for directions on how to sign up for a Valentines Day candygram from our team here at AFA! These will be delivered on Wednesday, February 14th, 2024.

MEET OUR FRIENDLY STAFF

Stuart Campbell
Community Director

Jennifer Adams
Community Manager

Trina Lee
Leasing Specialist

Norma Perez
Resident Service Specialist

2024

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Bulk Trash: If you have bulk trash that you need picked up, email AFAContact@HuntCompanies.com before 3:00 PM the Wednesday prior to pick up with your address and list of items you need removed for bulk trash.</p>			<p>Black History Month American Heart Health Month</p>	<p>Rent is Due 01 National Freedom Day Change Your Air Filter! Trash/Recycle/Bulk Pick Up</p>	02 Groundhog Day	03
04 USO Birthday	05	06	07	08 Trash/Bulk Pick Up	09	10
11 The Big Game	12	13	14 Valentine's Day Candygrams Management Office 8 AM - 5 PM	15 Check Your Smoke Detectors & Carbon Monoxide Sensors Trash/Recycle/Bulk Pick Up	16	17 Random Act of Kindness Day
18	19 Presidents' Day Pet Of The Month Contest Starts Facebook	20	21	22 Trash/Bulk Pick Up	23	24
25 Pet Of The Month Contest Ends Facebook	26	27	28 Check Your Smoke Detectors & Carbon Monoxide Sensors	29 Trash/Recycle/Bulk Pick Up		