

What is up with Garbage Disposals?

Recently there has been a lot of focus on garbage disposals in the news and their use in local municipalities. Below you will find some frequently asked questions regarding garbage disposals, their use and potential impact on the Town of Cary's Sanitary Sewer System.

Q. Does the Town of Cary allow citizens to use garbage disposals?

A. Yes, garbage disposals are allowed to be installed and used in the Town of Cary.

Q. What real impact does a garbage disposal have on the sewer system?

A. When a garbage disposal is improperly used to dispose of large quantities of food wastes containing grease; collectively and over time, the grease may accumulate and block home plumbing lines and sanitary sewer lines.

Q. Should I use my garbage disposal?

A. The Town of Cary asks citizens to be conscientious with the use of their garbage disposal when disposing of greasy food wastes and not to use the sewer as a trash can. The sewer system is a network of pipes that are shared by citizens and businesses, a little grease here and a little grease there potentially adds up to a large volume that may block sewer lines.

Q. What items are okay to put in my garbage disposal?

A. Small amounts of vegetable matter can be placed in your disposal as well as small amounts of food scraps that are left on plates and dishware after they have been properly scraped and wiped in the garbage or compost bin.

Q. What items should not be placed in the garbage disposal?

A. Some items that should be avoided include cooking oils and grease, sauces containing oils and grease, meat products, egg shells, coffee grounds, bones, and large volumes of fibrous vegetable peelings.

Q. Where are garbage disposals causing the most problems in the sewer system?

A. In areas where there is a high density of citizens living close together, such as apartment complexes, condominiums, and town homes. Garbage disposals can also be a problem at commercial food service establishments if the disposal is not connected to a properly sized grease trap.

Q. Are there any regulations on garbage disposals?

A. Yes, the Town of Cary requires newly constructed commercial food service establishments to connect garbage disposals to properly a sized grease trap. Other plumbing code requirements may also apply for commercial food service establishments for solids straining devices used in conjunction with a garbage disposal

Q. How is the Town of Cary addressing citizens on the use of garbage disposals?

A. The Town of Cary addresses citizens through public education on the proper use and disposal of wastes in the sanitary sewer system.