Continuous feed models are more convenient to use especially when there is a great deal of waste.
Batch feed models are safer as it is not possible to touch the grinders when running and are essential where small children are around. As there is no need for a wall switch batch feed types are quicker and cheaper to install. They are also quieter than continuous feed models.

Waste disposers will deal with most food waste including: chicken carcasses, meat, fish eggshells, etc., but can jam on large bones and very hard fruit stones.
They must not be used for packaging materials such as: metal, plastic, rubber cloth, wool, glass, ceramics and string for which alternative bins will be needed.

There are different sizes available from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ horsepower with guarantees from 2 to 10 years which is reflected in the price.

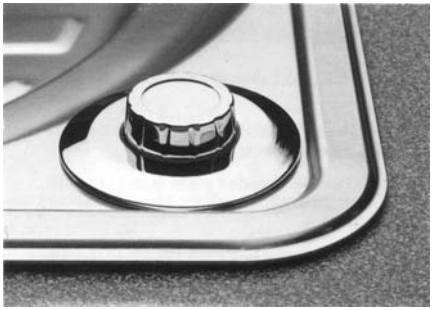
The most powerful models with the longest guarantees are the most expensive.

Size range from: 320–450 mm high × 150–230 mm diameter.

Some continuous feed models can be activated by *air switches* which can be fitted into the sink top or the surrounding work-top. They operate by pushing a button which sends a pulse of air to a microswitch which turns on the current at the socket positioned below the sink.
These can be used with wet hands with complete safety as there is no contact with the electric current.

Some models are fitted with an *automatic reversing switch* which prevents jamming and overheating.

Other cheaper models have a *reversing switch* which is useful if jams occur.



Air switch set into sink surround

Air switch with under-sink components for a waste disposer – by In-Sink-Erator

Installation

Waste disposers should not discharge into cesspits nor into septic tanks of less than 2250 litres capacity.

They should never be run with hot water as this can cause grease to melt and line waste pipes.

Waste disposers need a 90 mm diameter sink waste outlet with a minimum 38 mm waste pipe connected to a P or S running trap (NOT a bottle trap) and be run with a minimum fall of 1:7 to ensure adequate flushing. The waste pipe should be taken directly to drain, with no other waste connections, in the shortest distance possible.

Some local authorities may ask for a 50-mm waste with an access gully or a stub waste and cleaning eye.

They use little electricity and require little maintenance but are noisy when running, increasingly so with age.