

Waste Disposal Chutes – how they work

Storage Valves

The initial holding area for the household waste is the so called “storage valve room”. This can be found at the bottom of each stairwell. Waste bags placed in the waste disposal chute “fall down” towards this holding area but remain in the pipe just above the valve.

Vacuum Suction Stations

Vacuum suction stations are situated at Kungsklippan 14 and Kungsbro Strand 19C. They act as very large vacuum cleaners. Suction operations are initiated a few times a day. The storage valves in each stairwell then open sequentially and the bags containing the household waste are sucked through large pipes and culverts below the houses and under the streets, where they accumulate in containers. These containers are emptied a few times a week.

Please ensure that the waste is packaged well!

It is important to wrap the waste well in order to prevent leakage and obstruction. The household waste stays in “storage valve room” for a couple of hours. Any leakage will result in an unpleasant odour in the stairwell.

Our caretakers who work to ensure that the holding areas remain clean should not be subjected to such a poor working environment!

Obstructions in the chutes

In most cases, obstructed chutes are the result of someone depositing something in the waste chute that should have been left in the large waste disposal rooms in our cellars or at any of the municipal waste collections. Examples of totally unsuitable items found in the system are – a doormat, a Christmas tree, pizza boxes, a toilet seat, styrofoam packaging, bundles of newspapers etc. Note! Even clothes thrown into the chutes can cause obstructions and breakdowns.

Sensors in the chutes notice when there is an obstruction and send a signal to the vacuum suction stations indicating that something is wrong. The system then shuts down resulting in guaranteed smelly stairwells. The rubbish remains in the area until the next working day when the staff can go in and clear the valves. If the jam is not located close to a storage valves but in the pipes further up, we all have to put up with a longer malfunction. This is very costly as it can be difficult to gain access to remove the object causing the problem.

If we can trace the cause of the obstruction to any resident, the resident will have to pay the whole cost – it could be several thousand kronor.

Where we are unable to establish who has caused the obstruction, the cost is added to the maintenance bill and as a consequence we all have to pay!