

FACT SHEET

HOW TO CLEAR A BLOCKED DRAIN

Blocked drains can be caused by a variety of different things some are simpler than others to rectify, below we will show you how to effectively use a plunger to clear blockages.



1. Get the right plunger

There are two different types of plunger, both of which it is useful to have in your house in the case of an emergency. For a toilet, it's best to use a flange plunger, but for sinks, showers and baths, you're better off using a plain cup plunger. Ensure the plunger is fully submerged. Place the plunger into the bowl or basin and make sure it is fully covered by the water.



2. Add or remove water

In instances with a sink or tub, the first thing you need to do is fill the basin that's blocked with water to create a vacuum. If a blocked toilet is the issue, you'll need to remove water first. About half the water from the bowl will need to be removed so you can create a good amount of suction. If the toilet bowl is empty, simply fill it halfway with water from the bathroom tap.



3. Plug any holes or drains

To prepare for plunging, block any water run off holes using an old rag. It's important to completely block it, otherwise, meaning you won't be able to create suction with the plunger. It's also important to block any drains. This doesn't just apply to the sink, tub or toilet you're unblocking, but to all nearby drains. Due to the fact that all plumbing is connected to the same system, you need to ensure that air isn't able to get in anywhere.



4. Get rid of any air from the plunger

Whilst in the water, tip the plunger to one side and plunge a couple of times to get rid of any air bubbles. It's important to do this or you won't be able to achieve the suction necessary to unclog the pipes.

5. Release and clear

After plunging, release the plunger and, wearing gloves, quickly clear any debris from the toilet, basin or tub before it can be drained back down again. If necessary, repeat all previous steps until you are sure the clog has been cleared. Next, rinse the toilet, sink, tub or shower by flushing or running water through, ensuring that no water comes back up. When you're finished, clean your plunger and leave to dry.



Remember.. Blockages in any plumbing system will be caused by a build-up of debris within the pipes. Although this may sound worrying, using a plunger is a simple fix – so there's no need to call out a plumber unless you've tried a few times and nothing seems to be working.

Still stuck? If none of the above have worked, and that blockage just won't budge, then you need it seen to safely and professionally. Call 85847500 and press option 1 for maintenance, this number is monitored day and night and you will be directed to an after-hours service outside our normal hours of operation.



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