

# How to Fix\nClogged Drains

FREE DIY GUIDE

## **Introduction**

Clogged drains are one of the most common plumbing problems homeowners face. Whether it is a slow-draining sink or a completely blocked drain, this guide will walk you through several DIY methods to clear the clog before calling a professional.

## **Tools and Materials You Will Need**

- Plunger\n- Drain snake or auger\n- Baking soda\n- White vinegar\n- Boiling water\n- Rubber gloves\n- Bucket\n- Adjustable wrench

## Method 1: Boiling Water

### Step 1:

Boil a full kettle of water.

### Step 2:

Carefully pour the boiling water directly down the drain in two to three stages, allowing the hot water to work for several seconds between each pour.

### Step 3:

This method works best for grease clogs in metal pipes. Do not use on PVC pipes as extreme heat can damage them.

### **SAFETY TIP:**

Always wear protective gloves and be careful when handling boiling water to avoid burns.

## **Method 2: Baking Soda and Vinegar**

### **Step 1:**

Pour one cup of baking soda down the drain.

### **Step 2:**

Follow with one cup of white vinegar.

### **Step 3:**

Cover the drain with a plug or wet cloth to contain the reaction.

### **Step 4:**

Wait 15-30 minutes while the mixture breaks down the clog.

### **Step 5:**

Flush with hot water.

## **Method 3: Plunging**

### **Step 1:**

Fill the sink with enough water to cover the plunger cup.

### **Step 2:**

Place the plunger over the drain opening, ensuring a tight seal.

### **Step 3:**

Push down firmly, then pull up sharply. Repeat 15-20 times.

### **Step 4:**

Remove the plunger and check if water drains. Repeat if necessary.

## **Method 4: Drain Snake**

### **Step 1:**

Insert the drain snake into the drain opening.

### **Step 2:**

Push the snake forward while rotating the handle.

### **Step 3:**

When you feel resistance, you have reached the clog.

### **Step 4:**

Continue rotating to break up or hook the clog.

### **Step 5:**

Slowly pull the snake out, removing the debris.

### **Step 6:**

Flush the drain with hot water.

## **Method 5: Clean the P-Trap**

### **Step 1:**

Place a bucket under the P-trap (the curved pipe under the sink).

### **Step 2:**

Use an adjustable wrench to loosen the slip nuts on both ends of the P-trap.

### **Step 3:**

Remove the P-trap and empty the contents into the bucket.

### **Step 4:**

Clean the P-trap thoroughly with a brush and hot soapy water.

### **Step 5:**

Reinstall the P-trap and tighten the slip nuts. Do not overtighten.

### **Step 6:**

Run water to check for leaks.

## Prevention Tips

- Use drain screens to catch hair and debris
- Never pour grease or oil down the drain
- Run hot water after each use
- Clean drains monthly with baking soda and vinegar
- Avoid flushing non-biodegradable items

## When to Call a Professional

While many clogs can be cleared with DIY methods, some situations require professional help:

- Multiple drains are clogged at once (indicates a main line blockage)
- You have tried all methods and the clog persists
- Water is backing up into other fixtures
- You hear gurgling sounds from multiple drains
- There is sewage odor coming from drains
- You suspect tree roots have invaded your sewer line

Professional plumbers have specialized equipment like motorized drain augers, hydro-jetting systems, and video inspection cameras that can diagnose and fix problems that are beyond the reach of DIY methods. Attempting to fix severe clogs yourself can sometimes cause more damage and lead to costlier repairs.