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Taking the Plunge

Over the years we've been called to many a house to un clog a thing or two. In many cases that money could be saved by the simple purchase of a plunger. But did you know there are 2 types of plungers? That's right, there are specific types of plungers for both sinks and toilets. In this tip of the month we will talk about the differences between the plungers and how to use them effectively.

The Difference

The difference between a toilet and a sink plunger is all about the shape. Sink plungers have a cup-shaped rubber cup and toilet plungers have a bell-shaped rubber cup. Many people don't even know the bell-shaped toilet plunger exist. This is because on the shelves of most hardware stores the bell is pushed inside making them look like sink plungers.

Sink plungers should not be used in toilets as it does not form a tight seal in the curves a toilet possesses.

How to use a Sink Plunger

The first step is to protect yourself from the goo you are trying to remove. This means if you're working on a double kitchen sink plug the side you aren't working on and if you are working on a tub or bathroom sink cover the overflow drain with a cloth. This is done for 2 reasons, 1) to prevent anything from coming out the wrong hole while you are working and 2) To help create the vacuum a plunger is built to for.

Once that is done, take your sink plunger and cover the drain hole. fill the sink to cover the rubber part completely with water. Keep the rubber cup tight to the sink base and you begin plunging down then up. This creates a positive and negative pressure which results in unclogging of the drain. Some sinks have a stopper or an additional basin to catch the debris. In such cases, it is ideal and logical to remove that before plunging.

How to use a Toilet Plunger

A toilet plunger has a rubber cup similar to that of a sink plunger, additionally it has a flange which gives the plunger its bell shape look.

To use a toilet plunger, tilt the plunger a bit after inserting it and let the water enter. The flange should be devoid of air in order to create a strong suction. This will create suction. With short and fast strokes move the plunger up and down till the clog is cleared.