

Plumbing Tips

Protect your plumbing and the environment. Here are some Tips for Maintaining Clean and Clog-Free Drains in your home.

- **Use Drain Strainers:** Install strainers in showers and sinks to catch hair and food particles before they enter the drain.
- **Clean Strainers Regularly:** Make sure to clean strainers frequently to remove accumulated debris and maintain proper drainage.
- **Grease Management:** Wipe grease off dishes with a paper towel before washing, and dispose of used cooking oil in a container.
- **Baking Soda & Vinegar Treatment:** Periodically pour baking soda down the drain, followed by vinegar, to help break down grime buildup.
- **Garbage Disposal Care:** Run your garbage disposal regularly and clean it as needed to prevent food particles from accumulating.
- **Don't Overload the Garbage Disposal:** Avoid overloading your garbage disposal with large amounts of food waste at once. Feed waste in small amounts and run water to help flush it through.
- **Use Hot Water Regularly:** Run hot water down your drains once a week to help dissolve any grease or soap scum that may be building up.
- **Check for Leaks:** Periodically inspect pipes for any signs of leaks or slow draining, as these could indicate potential blockages or pipe issues.
- **Avoid Excessive Use of Drain Fresheners:** While drain fresheners can help with odors, they can also leave residues that accumulate over time. Use them sparingly to avoid buildup.
- **Know When to Call a Professional:** If you notice slow drainage, unpleasant odors, or frequent blockages despite your efforts, it might be time to put in a maintenance work order to assess your plumbing system.

Remember: These extra steps can go a long way in keeping your plumbing in great condition!

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Here's a list of items to avoid putting down your home's pipes to keep your drains flowing smoothly and prevent costly plumbing problems in the future.

- Paper Towels, Tissues, & Wipes: These don't break down like toilet paper and can cause blockages.
- Feminine Hygiene Products: Pads, tampons, and applicators should always be disposed of in the trash. These products are meant to absorb water so they will expand when you flush them rather than break down.
- Condoms: These don't break down in water, so flushing them can clog toilets and septic tanks.
- Cotton Balls & Swabs: These don't dissolve and can clog pipes.
- Dental Floss & Hair: It can get tangled in pipes and cause blockages.
- Medications: Flushing them contaminates water systems; dispose of them properly.
- Baby Wipes & Diapers: Even "flushable" wipes don't break down fast enough and can cause issues. Diapers don't break down and can clog your plumbing.
- Cigarette Butts: Harmful chemicals end up in the water system, harming the environment.
- Grease or Cooking Oil: Can solidify and cause clogs in pipes.
- Food Waste: Scraps can block pipes and contribute to unpleasant odors.
- Paint or Chemicals: Harmful substances damage the water system and the environment.
- Litter: Pet litter is designed for the trash, not the toilet.
- Band-Aids: These don't break down and can clog your plumbing.
- Plastic: Items like wrappers or plastic bags will not break down and can cause significant damage.
- Children's Toys: Lets face it, no one wants to get a toy out of the toilet. Depending on the toy, it can cause a clog, get stuck in the toilet or lines, and possibly cause a very expensive replacement/repair.

Remember: Only flush toilet paper and human waste. Everything else should be thrown in the trash!

If you do have a clogged drain you are unable to get unclogged, please contact:
Maintenance Dept: 937-253-3488 Option 3
After Hours/Emergency: 937-253-3488 Option 0