

Unblocking sinks/toilets/drains

Sinks/baths/showers

Sinks will often block up with grease food waste lime-scale etc. You probably notice a slowing down of the water draining away. Try to do something about the problem asap as it will be much easier to unblock and you don't want to end up with it badly blocked and a sink full of water!

There are various methods you can try both mechanical and chemical

Your local DIY store will be able to supply a range of chemicals

Checkout the trap. This u-shaped water trap stops smells coming back up from the drains.

You should be able to fairly easily unscrew the plastic fittings with your fingers.(if not dry using a damp tea-towel) Put a bowl underneath as you'll get a little water coming out. Check the contents and make sure there's nothing inside. When you screw it back make sure the rubber seals are nicely in place.

Check for leaks when it back together.

If the problem is still there the blockage may be further down waste pipe.



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Plunging

This can be effective and works by forcing air down the pipe. A traditional black rubber plunger is OK but modern ones or professional ones are much more effective as they force more air down the pipe. Some use water which is forced against the blockage.

Tip This method will only work well if you block off any ways the air can escape like the overflow outlet, an adjacent sink plug hole, or a waste disposal. Hold a damp cloth over them, or, cover then with duck tape (thick heavy sticking tape)



Master plunger. Gives great plunging action. Sinks baths, showers. £7



Water plunger. Sucks up water then pumps it against the blockage. Toilet, sinks, showers. B&Q £7

Other mechanical methods

Drain cleaning springs are essentially very long flexible springs which you guide down the waste pipe and turning as you go.

You can buy different size springs depending on whether its for for large or small pipes and different lengths. Can be very effective but a bit messy and not very pleasant to use especially if you use one for toilet blockages! Wear rubber gloves!



Small drain spring. This one is for basins.

Chemical

Chemical un-blockers work by dissolving organic materials. These are very good at dissolving hair that you might find in the waste or trap of a shower or bath whose traps can be fiddly to get to.

Various chemical types are available which you simply pour down the drain. Some are stronger than others. Those you get in a supermarket tend to be milder and can be useful for minor blockages and prevention.

For more severe blockages you'll probably need something stronger. Caustic soda is a powered chemical which you mix with water. CAUTION it can be dangerous you if you don't handle it properly or follow the instruction very carefully. As well as causing chemical burns it tends to react with water generating heat. One-shot un-blocker is very similar. It is a very strong liquid sulphuric acid. Again follow the instruction to the letter!! AND keep well out out reach of children



Other methods

Some newer types of un blockers are currently available in a large aerosol which shoot a blast of air or liquid down the waste pipe. These can be highly successful, but only if you remember to make sure that every other exit is blocked off(see my tip above) similarly as you would when using a plunger.

The disadvantage is the aerosol runs out quite quickly and has to be replaced.



IF THE PROBLEM CANNOT BE RESOLVED PLEASE REPORT A REPAIR TO ZK INVESTMENTS.