

Main Reason Why Drains Get Blocked

Drains are simple devices that we rely on day in and out. However, they're prone to blockages from various substances.

Most clogs can be easily cleared with a plunger and regular maintenance. But if the same clog keeps appearing, it may indicate a bigger problem with your [home's plumbing pipes](#).

Grease and Fat

Fatty substances like cooking oil and grease (FOG) that are washed down the drain will cool and harden in pipes, taking up space and preventing water flow. This can result in a blocked drain.

Communities spend billions of dollars each year unplugging and replacing [sewer systems](#) that are blocked by FOG. FOG that goes down the drains also contaminates the environment by depleting oxygen in the ocean, damaging wildlife and contributing to climate change.

It's important to never wash FOG down the sink or toilet. Instead, scrape food scraps and fat into a can or bin for disposal with your garbage. Baby wipes are another drain-blocking culprit, so invest in a lidded bin for disposing of them. Ensure that your kids understand that only pee and poo can be flushed down the toilet, not toys, cotton balls or hair. This will help prevent clogged drains and save you money on energy bills. Regularly running hot water down your drains will also help dissolve grease and keep your pipes clear.

Toiletries

Drains are a part of your home that you don't often think about until something goes wrong. When they don't work as they should, it can disrupt your life and cause serious problems for your home.

Toiletries like sanitary items and baby wipes can clog your pipes because they absorb water and then expand. They are also not biodegradable and will clog your drains in a short period of time. If you have kids, then you may want to consider using a drain trap to catch these items.

The most common place for clogs is in the toilet, shower or tub, and it's usually caused by a combination of hair and soap scum. These clogs can restrict your pipe's water flow and result in wastewater back up. Another symptom of these clogs is smelly sewage coming up from your drains. This can be a very dangerous situation and needs to be fixed as soon as possible.

Tree Roots

Tree roots are relentless in their quest for moisture, and the underground pipes that carry sewage to and from your home offer an irresistible target. Once the roots infiltrate, they can cause blockages and lead to sewer line failure over time if left unchecked.

If you hear a gurgling sound coming from your drains, it's time to call in the professionals for a long-term solution. The gurgling sound is created when air gets trapped in the pipe due to a root obstruction. It can also be a sign of a more serious problem, such as a cracked or collapsed pipe.

If the gurgling is accompanied by slow drainage or foul odours from multiple sinks and toilets, it's likely that a tree root problem is at the root of the issue. Professional plumbers can use techniques like hydro jetting to remove intrusive tree roots without causing further damage to your pipes. When planting new trees, it is recommended to give them ample space from your sewage pipes.

Hair

Hair buildup is a common cause of blocked drains and can be easily remedied by pouring hot water mixed with vinegar or baking soda down the drain. Using a shower screen or strainer and regularly cleaning bathroom sinks and bathtubs is also effective in reducing this problem.

Hair is also a leading contributor to soap scum which can be hard to remove from pipes. Using liquid

soap that doesn't contain animal fats or switching to a bar soap that does will help to reduce this issue.

Items that shouldn't be flushed are another main reason for blockages, including toys, cotton swabs, dental floss and more. To prevent these objects from causing problems, ensure that all drain openings are covered and always dispose of them

correctly. Keeping outdoor areas free of plants, dirt and leaves will also prevent these items from entering drains. If you are in a situation where you have a blocked drain or need help unclogging blocked drains, sites like <https://www.fixitrightplumbing.com.au/blocked-drains-melbourne/> have a lot of resources available to help.