

Unclog A Sink

A clogged sink can be a major inconvenience, but before you call a plumber, consider unclogging your sink at home. Manual removal works well if you have large clumps of debris jamming up your pipes, but you can also create natural drain cleaners or use chemical cleaners to help rid your sink pipes of unwanted material. Here are the most common methods you should consider trying the next time your sink gets plugged.

Manual Removal

Flush the Sink with Boiling Water



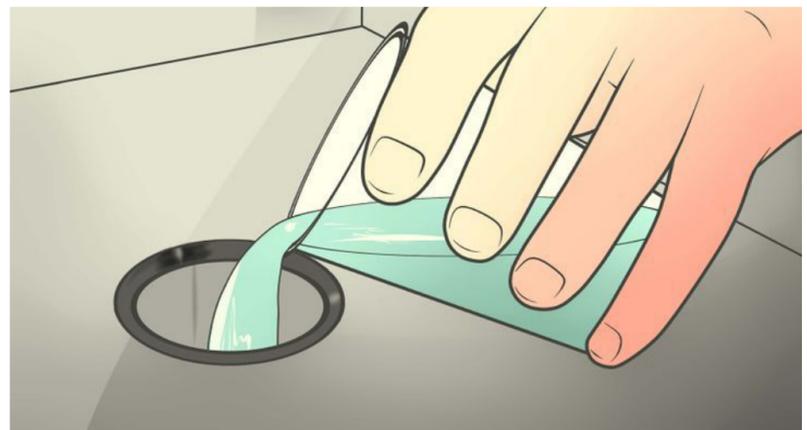
Boil at least 4 cups (1 L) of water in a kettle. After the water boils, pour it down the drain in two to three stages, pausing for several seconds in between each stage. Repeat if needed.

- If possible, flush the sink out with at least 4 cups (1 L) of water. Use more if your kettle will hold it.
- If you do not have a kettle, you can boil the water in a saucepan or electric hot pot.
- You could also use the microwave to boil water, but microwave the water only in 20 to 40 second intervals and keep a wooden chopstick in the water as it microwaves. Otherwise, the water could super-heat and present a danger.
- Pour the boiling water directly down the drain, rather than pouring it into the sink first and letting it gradually flow to the drain.
- Note that this works best on minor clogs and may not prove as effective against heavy clogs. The water must also be boiling as you pour it since the vibration of the water is part of the reason why the remedy is effective at all.

Dissolve the clog with baking soda and vinegar

The baking soda and vinegar solution is highly effective because the fizzy reaction created between the two cleaning products is vigorous and abrasive enough to loosen many stubborn clogs.

- Pour 1/2 cup (125 ml) baking soda down the sink drain.
- Follow the baking soda with 1/2 cup (125 ml) white distilled vinegar.
- Quickly cover the drain opening with a drain stopper. Doing so forces the fizzy reaction down through the pipes, where the blockage is, rather than up and out.
- As soon as the fizzing stops, pour another 1/2 cup (125 ml) white distilled vinegar down the drain. Cover again and let sit for 15 to 30 minutes.
- Boil 1 gallon (4 L) of water in a kettle or saucepan. Pour the boiling water into the sink to flush out any remaining vinegar and baking soda.



Pour salt and baking soda into the drain



When combined, salt, baking soda, and water also create a chemical reaction capable of loosening most blockages.

- Combine 1/2 cup (125 ml) table salt and 1/2 cup (125 ml) baking soda.
- Carefully pour or spoon the combination down the sink drain. Get as much into the drain as possible, and avoid getting too much excess on the basin of the sink. The reaction will only be effective against the blockage if it comes into direct contact with it.
- Let the baking soda and salt sit for 10 to 20 minutes.
- Boil 1 to 4 quarts (1 to 4 L) of water in a kettle or saucepan. Carefully pour the boiling water into the drain.
- Plug up the sink drain as quickly as possible after adding the water to force the reaction down into the pipes rather than up and out.
- The chemical reaction produced should be enough to clear most moderately clogged sinks.