

DIY Tip

Clearing Blockages

General advice

- Blockages are usually caused by the build-up of waste: fat, tea leaves, hair, etc in the trap. It is a good idea to clear wastepipes and traps regularly, preferably with a suitable product available from DIY stores.
- The trap is under the fitting (bath, basin or sink). It always holds some water in it which stops smells coming up from the drain. However, waste can build up and become stuck in the trap.

You will need:

- bowl
- jug or cup
- rag or dishcloth
- plunger
- rubber gloves.

To unblock a bath, basin or sink:

- scoop out most of the water with a jug or cup
- hold the rag or dishcloth tightly over the overflow opening
- place the plunger over the plug hole and pump it up and down rapidly. This usually releases the blockage
- after clearing the blockage run the tap to flush out any remaining debris
- when you have finished, thoroughly wash your hands and any equipment

To unblock a toilet:

- if the pan is already full, remove some of the water into a bucket using a scoop, eg a jug or bowl
- push the brush or plunger to the bottom of the pan
- pump it up and down strongly about 10 times. This creates pressure which may shift the blockage
- flush the toilet to see whether the blockage has gone
- you may need to repeat this process several times before the toilet flushes normally
- when you have finished, thoroughly wash your hands and any equipment.

If you have a DIY top-tip you would like to share with residents, why not send it in to Home News and if your suggestion is published you could win a £20 shopping voucher.

