

unblocking 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 the drain. However, waste can build up and become stuck in it.

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 unscrew the trap and clean it out
- 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.

Do-it-yourself

