

Homes for Islington
Highbury House
5 Highbury Crescent
London N5 1RN

www.homesforislington.org.uk

How can I remedy a blocked drain?

Sink blockages

Using a sink plunger can clear simple blockages.

Use the following simple steps:

- Hold a cloth tightly over the overflow opening as shown in the diagram.
- Cover the drain with the plunger as shown in the diagram.
- Pump the plunger up and down vigorously approximately ten times. This creates a vacuum and pressure, which should shift the blockage.
- You may need to repeat these steps several times in order to dislodge the blockage.



Toilet blockages

If your toilet becomes blocked you could try plunging it by putting a plastic bag on a mop and trying to dislodge the blockage.

If you are still experiencing a blockage this may mean your external drain is blocked and may require flushing.

If you do not feel confident following these steps or you are still experiencing a blockage please ring HFI Direct on 0800 694 3344.

Please be aware

If you have a blockage and HFI determine this is down to your negligence you may be liable for the cost of the repair in accordance with the HFI Recharge Procedure.



This leaflet is about the causes of, and prevention of, drain and pipe blockages in your home. If you need a translation or more information in your own language, please contact your area housing office. Telephone numbers are below.

এই প্রচারপত্রটিতে আপনার বাড়িতে নর্দমা এবং পাইপ ব্লক হয়ে যাওয়ার কারণ এবং কীভাবে তা প্রতিরোধ করা যায় সে সম্পর্কে বলা হয়েছে।

আপনি যদি নিজের ভাষায় এটির অনুবাদ চান অথবা আরও তথ্য চান, তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে আপনার এলাকার আবাসন অফিসের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করুন। টেলিফোন নম্বর নচি দেওয়া হল। (Bengali)

Αυτό το φυλλάδιο αναφέρεται στα αίτια και την πρόληψη εμφράξεων των αποχετεύσεων και των σωληνώσεων του σπιτιού σας. Εάν χρειάζεστε μετάφραση ή περισσότερες πληροφορίες στη γλώσσα σας, παρακαλούμε να επικοινωνήσετε με το στεγαστικό γραφείο της περιοχής σας. Παρακάτω θα βρείτε τους σχετικούς αριθμούς τηλεφώνου. (Greek)

Este folheto é sobre as causas e a prevenção de entupimentos de canos e bueiros em sua residência. Se precisar de uma tradução ou de mais informações no seu idioma, contacte o gabinete de habitação (housing office) da sua área, pelos números indicados abaixo. (Portuguese)

If you require this information in English recorded on tape or compact disc or in large print or braille please contact your area housing office.

Central Street 020 7527 6250
Holland Walk 020 7527 7480

Lyon Street 020 7527 6880
Upper Street 020 7527 5300



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Avoiding blockages to pipes and drains



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নালা এবং পাইপগুলিতে বাধা দিয়ে এমন বস্তু বর্জন করুন (Bengali)

Αποφυγή φραξίματος σωλήνων και αποχετευτικών αγωγών (Greek)

Evitar bloqueios nas tubagens e nos drenos (Portuguese)

Ka fogaanshaha xiridda tuubooyinka iyo bullaacadaha (Somali)

Cómo evitar obstrucciones en la tubería y los desagües (Spanish)

Boruların ve drenajların tıkanmasını önler (Turkish)





How do I know if my drain is blocked?

There are a number of signs that a drain or sewer is blocked, such as:

- the toilet or sink waste is not draining away
- there is a smell around drain covers
- liquid is coming out from around the drain cover

What causes blocked drains?

Blocked drains can happen for a number of reasons, but are mainly down to people's lifestyles and the way we dispose of our waste. Waste items that cause blockages can range from cooking fat to disposable items (such as nappies).

How to avoid blockages?

Using the correct disposal methods for many waste items will help keep your drains free flowing. These are some measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of having a blocked drain in your property:

- Remove hairs that get trapped in the basin/bath/shower plughole. These attract dirt and grease, which can lead to large build-ups restricting the flow of water in waste pipes.
- Regularly flush basin/bath/shower pipe work with disinfectant and a drain clearer, which can be purchased in most supermarkets. Use as instructed by the manufacturer. Never use hazardous chemicals to clear a blockage.
- Keep objects such as combs, bottles and toys away from the toilet area.
- Hanging toilet fresheners over the bowl can also cause blockages. Ensure that these are securely fixed or use a different method of freshening your toilet. These items should be sealed in plastic bags and placed in the bin. It has been estimated that people flushing disposable items cause two thirds of all blockages.
- Don't flush away disposable items such as nappies, wet wipes, facial tissues, cotton buds, sanitary towels, incontinence pads, bandages and condoms.
- Always avoid allowing food scraps to fall down the kitchen sink. Pull scraps out of the plughole, do not poke them through. Food scraps such as rice will swell up when wet and can cause a blockage. The use of a sink sieve when preparing food will prevent the traps on your sink from blocking.
- Never dispose of cooking oils or fats down a drain, kitchen sink, bathroom sink, bath or toilet.



They will solidify and cause a blockage. Put cooking oils or fats in a plastic bag or a jar for disposal in a dustbin.

- Don't overuse the amount of soap powder when doing your washing. Washing powders require a high water temperature to dissolve. In drains with a small incline, prolonged exposure to low temperatures can cause formation of 'grease-like' deposits that obstruct the flow through the drain. When washing clothes at low temperatures use liquids or biological powders especially made for low temperatures.
- Razor blades should never be flushed down the toilet. Place used blades into a rigid container such as a tin can, which can be thrown away at a public recycling point.
- Any unwanted or unused medicines should be returned to your local pharmacy.
- Do not put cement or plaster waste from DIY down sinks. It can settle at the bottom of drains and prevent the smooth flow of waste.