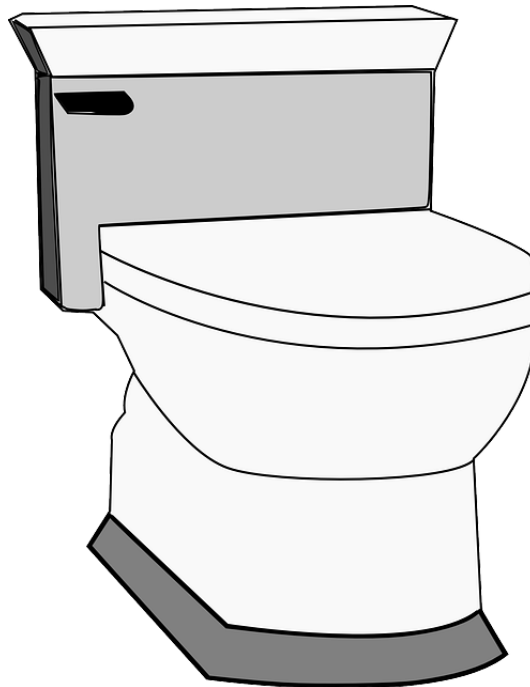


How to Unclog Your Toilet if Plunging isn't Working



This is not an uncommon scenario: your toilet isn't flushing, so you rely on your old friend, the plunger, to do its trick. After several unsuccessful attempts, your hands are hurting and you're sweating. Still, you plunge away, willing it to work at this point but to no avail. A wave of frustration hits you and then resignation. What now? Fortunately, [we know all about toilet problems](#), and there are other ways to correct your commode. But before we get to those, it's important to rule out some bigger problems first.

If the water in the bowl bubbles up a little when flushed, and you know there should be nothing in there clogging it, you may have a stopped sewer line. If water bubbles back in shower or tub when the toilet is flushed, this is also an indication of a stopped sewer line or branch waste line. If you dropped an object in the toilet and the bowl fills and overflows, chances are you'll need to have the toilet pulled, the object removed and the toilet re-set. This would be a job for your plumber.

If you're pretty sure it's just an organic stoppage, you can try these:

Soap It

Dish soap can work as a lubricant for clogged debris. Pour up to a half-cup of liquid dish soap in the toilet and wait 30 minutes. Note that if the water level is low, try flushing to determine if the clog is free. Don't flush if the water level is high because that can cause an overflow. Apply the plunger again to see if this breaks down the clog and drains the water.

Hot Water

The hot water approach involves hot, not boiling water. Very important: If the water is too hot, it can actually crack the toilet bowl. Pour the water directly onto the clogged drain and wait five to ten minutes. If the water level is low, try flushing, and if the level is high, give the plunger another stab.

Baking Soda and Vinegar

If the above methods aren't working, it's time to head to the pantry. The combination of baking soda and vinegar might clear your clog. Pour one cup of baking soda into the toilet bowl, followed by one cup of vinegar. Let the mixture fiz and work for about 30 minutes. Give it a flush, and if the clog remains, try plunging the toilet once more.

Snake It Out

This tool has multiple names: plumbing snake, toilet auger, and closet auger. Its purpose is to maneuver through the toilet drain and clear out blockage. Push the plumbing snake through the drain while cranking it clockwise until it stops. You may feel it grasp something, at which point you can carefully pull the snake out of the drain and remove the debris. Give it another plunge and then a flush. One caveat: only try this as a last resort because if you flip this tool the wrong way it can crack the toilet.

Safety Tip

As we've previously mentioned, [it's critical that you don't mix chemicals](#) when attempting to unclog any drain. The toxins can be very dangerous, even lethal. Do NOT use any combination of bleach, Lysol, Windex, alcohol or other type of cleaner.

Give Us a Call

Alan Tinker Plumbing & Rodding can unclog your toilet (along with other drains) so that it's back in working shape! While you can certainly try the above methods, we have the expertise to solve the problem safely and efficiently. Contact us, and we'll get back to you ASAP! Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).