

14 DON'TS

When Unclogging a Drain

The Professional Plumber's Guide to DIY Drain Cleaning

We've all been there – your bathroom sink has been running slow for almost a month and you've been meaning to either pick up some liquid drain cleaner or call a plumber to take care of it...but it still drains (eventually) so this “to-do” has made its way down your list. Then, before you know it, it's not draining at all and you're in a pickle. Now it's decision time...try to tackle this yourself, or call a plumber. If you're the type of person to take on your own projects, like clearing a drain, we've got some tips for you. If you're not a do-it-yourselfer, give us a call.



TIP

*Laminate Page 2
and Put It under
All of Your Sinks*

Preventative Tips to Avoid Plumbing Problems

1. DON'T: use your toilet as a garbage disposal.

2. DON'T: overload your actual garbage disposal with stringy, pasty, or greasy kitchen waste. Some of the most problematic foods for your garbage disposal are celery trimmings, onion skins, eggshells, and cooked rice. These actually make great compost.

3. DON'T: forget to use drain strains to catch hair and other objects before they can clog the drain.



Drain Cleaning Don'ts

Just because you saw it online, doesn't make it a good idea...

4. DON'T: start unprepared. Make sure that you have the necessary equipment on hand before you get started:

- an adjustable wrench
- basin wrench
- closet auger
- fire-resistant cloth
- hacksaw
- metal file
- pipe wrench
- plumber's snake (hand auger)
- plunger
- propane torch
- tongue-and-groove pliers
- tubing cutter
- silicone sealant
- mastic
- Teflon tape
- hands-free flashlight
- rubber gloves
- sturdy stepstool

5. DON'T: forget to turn off all the water in your home before attempting any plumbing repair.

6. DON'T: put off fixing faulty plumbing. A dripping tap or small leak are often signs that there is a bigger problem, so ignoring the warning signs could cost you even more money in the long term.

7. DON'T: bite off more than you can chew. Begin your solo DIY plumbing career with a relatively small, out-of-the-wall fix, such as installing a new showerhead or replacing a kitchen or bathroom faucet.

8. DON'T: use a garden hose. Believe it or not, many homeowners think that the extra pressure of a garden hose will help unclog

their drain. The water pressure isn't strong enough, and you'll only make a mess.

9. DON'T: use chemical drain cleaners. These, too, can be a mess, and often don't work when you're dealing with a solid obstruction.

10. DON'T: use coat hangers and other household implements. Fishing a coat hanger or other household object down your drain is ineffective and likely to result in the object getting stuck in the drain!

11. DON'T: use a drain auger. For those who are inexperienced with drain cleaning, the potential to damage the plumbing is very real.

12. DON'T: attempt a plumbing fix on a Sunday or holiday. If things go wrong, you won't be able to pick up the parts and tools you need from your local hardware store (best case scenario) and you will pay through the nose for an emergency visit from a qualified plumber (if disaster strikes).

13. DON'T: forget to photograph the plumbing setup from several angles. That way you're not faced with a "I don't remember which piece connects to what!?!?" panic when you try to put everything back together again.

14. DON'T: ignore damp patches or stains and don't paint over the damage. It could be the sign of a serious plumbing problem, so you may need to call in an expert to find and address the core of the problem.

Call in a Pro for Serious Problems

- **Sewer Trouble** - outdoor sewer lines can cause big problems. Between digging, hitting utility lines, tree roots, and remembering to replace the clean out cap, you could run into many problems too big for a do-it-yourselfer to handle.
- **Leaks behind a Wall** - leaky pipes behind a wall are extremely difficult to pinpoint. It could turn into a tile and drywall nightmare and you may still need a professional plumber to find the leak.
- **Installations** - any combination of plumbing and electrical work, such as installing a washing machine or dishwasher, can get you in over your head. An amateur installation may void your warranty and more importantly, it's dangerous.



Using the latest advances in plumbing technology, including video camera inspections and hydro jetting, our plumbing professionals can safely remove even the toughest clogs.

“Herrmann Services, Alan Colquhoun, came through again with marvelous plumbing work on our current property. If you go out of business, I’m moving to Canada.”

- Carrie M.

“They get 5 stars continually from me! What a great group of people- from the schedulers to the workmen to the follow-up call! Thanks for making what can be a painful experience not painful at all!”

- Tracey H.

Call Herrmann Services if you need drain cleaning or plumbing help at **(513) 737-8423**.

