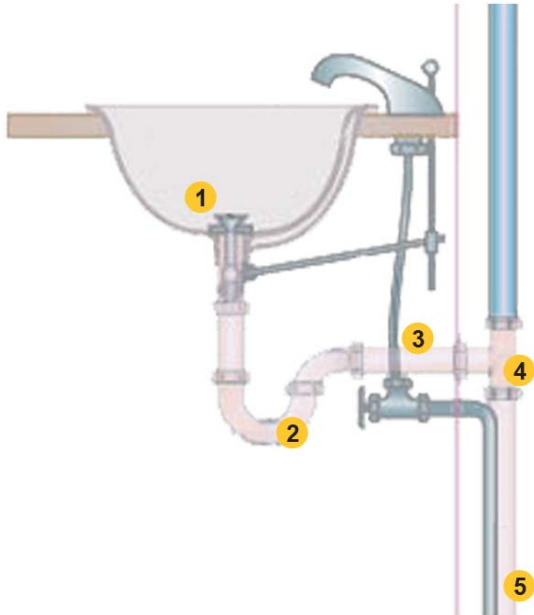


Clearing Plumbing Clogs

Level of Difficulty 2-3

Diagnosing and clearing most plumbing clogs can be a simple and relatively quick job to do. On occasion, what seems to be a simple job can become more involved and you may choose to bring in a plumber if the clog is outside of your reach. You can check a few common areas where clogs accumulate and eliminate those before having to call in a professional.



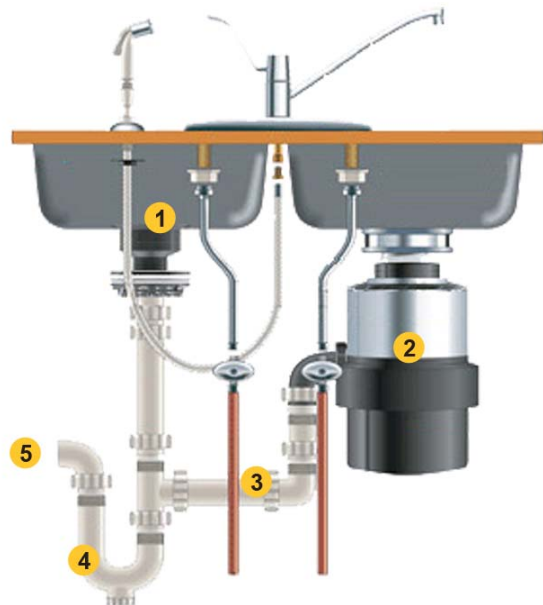
Bathroom Sink (left)

1. Check the pop-up drain. Remove the stopper and clean. Remove any buildup.
2. Check the trap. You can reach it with a drain auger through the drain, or if you have PVC pipes, just remove the trap and inspect.
3. With the trap removed, check along the line leading to the stack inside your wall.
4. Check the fitting where the trap feeds into the stack.
5. If the clog is still not cleared and is further down the stack, consider calling in a professional.

Kitchen Sink (right)

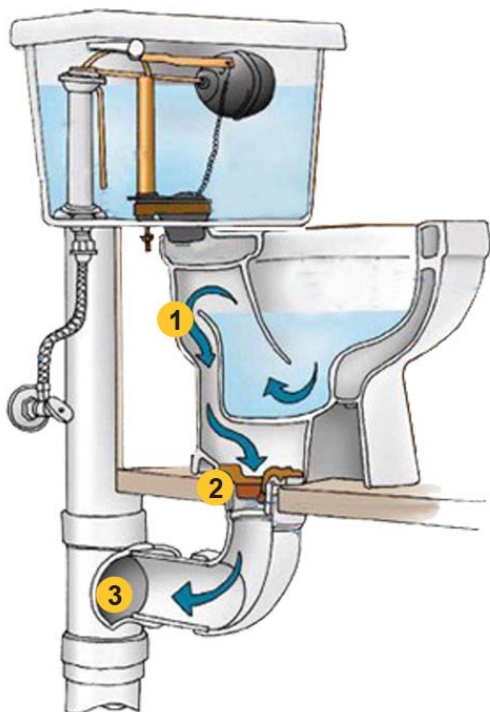
First, ask yourself, is the water draining from one side and not the other? If so, See steps 1-3. If water is standing in both sides of the sink, see steps 4-5

1. Check and clean the strainer and the pipe connections directly below it.
2. If the disposal turns, but doesn't drain, try pouring a large pot of boiling water into the disposal. Then plug the other side of the sink and try to plunge the clog out.
3. If the hot water doesn't clear the clog, remove the elbow at 3 and inspect the pipe.
4. If a drain plug is present, as shown, put a bucket under it and remove the plug. Now use a drain auger to clear the line to the stack.
5. If the clog is located beyond where the drain line enters the stack in your wall, consider calling in a professional.



Clearing Plumbing Clogs

Level of Difficulty 2-3



Toilet

1. Try plunging the toilet first. Make sure there is enough water in the stool to cover the stopper. Plunge up and down, without breaking contact between the toilet bowl and the plunger.
2. If plunging fails, use a closet auger to free the clog. A closet auger will reach all the way through the toilet and down into the drain pipe.
3. If the clog persists, consider calling in a professional.

Bathtub or Shower Drain

1. Inspect the drain at the strainer or popup. Clear any buildup and run hot water down the drain.
2. If you have a drain plug in the trap, you can remove the plug and use a drain auger to clear a clog at each of the locations marked 2, 3, and 4.
3. If you have no drain plug, remove the overflow plate (the lever for the drain stopper) and use a drain auger through the overflow tube to clear a clog at locations 2-4.

