



## How to Keep Drains Clean

### Things You'll Need:

- Sink drain screen
- Baking soda
- Vinegar
- Effervescent antacid tablets
- Plunger

1. The main cause of kitchen clogs is an accumulation of grease in the pipes. Dishwashing detergents temporarily disburse grease, but once the water goes down the drain, grease clings to the walls of the pipes. Once the grease is in the pipes, any little piece of food passing through is likely to stick. It's not long before the kitchen drain is running slow, and then stops running altogether.
2. Install a mesh screen in your kitchen and bathroom drains to catch any loose particles of food in the kitchen and any loose hair in the bathroom. To make the screen most effective, clean it by wiping any food particles or hair into the trash after each use.
3. Pour boiling water down your drains to clear any build up that might have accumulated. Every three months, pour 2 cups baking soda and then 1 cup of vinegar (separately) down each sink drain. After 30 minutes or so, pour boiling water down the drain. Wait five minutes and follow it with cold water to clear out any residue. After cooking, let any grease cool and solidify in the pan. Before washing the pan or placing in the dishwasher, wipe as much grease as you can out of the pan into the garbage.
4. Use a plunger properly. The idea behind a plunger is that it creates a seal and causes suction, thereby dislodging the clog. This isn't difficult in the kitchen with one sink, but most kitchens have a double sink. Before using the plunger in a double kitchen sink, be sure to have someone hold the drain plug in the other sink while you plunge. The bathroom drains are a little different. Bathroom sinks and showers have an overflow hole. You need to cover the overflow so the plunger can create a tight seal.
5. Drop three effervescent antacid tablets down a drain at the first sign of a clogged drain. Wash them down with a cup of vinegar. When the vinegar stops bubbling, pour very hot water or boiling water down the drain to rinse everything away. If you decide you need to use drain cleaner, use a natural one.
6. Do not ever use any harsh acid or chemicals. Do not mix drain cleaners.
6. **NEVER use any harsh acid or chemicals in your drain and do not mix drain cleaners.**