

Make Friends with Your Plumber

by Terry Minor
Seminary Plumbing Supervisor

Most people don't give their drains much thought—as long as they work properly, that is. So what do you do when they don't? Here is what your plumbers would like you to know:

YOUR DRAINS ARE NOT TRASH CANS! If you put something down the kitchen or bathroom sink, that item must pass through a drain not much larger than a quarter! Any pieces larger than a dime can result in a clog.

DRAINS ARE NO PLACE FOR GREASE AND OILS. If you have observed what happens to grease in a pan when it cools off, that is exactly what happens in your pipes. You can plug them up in record time!

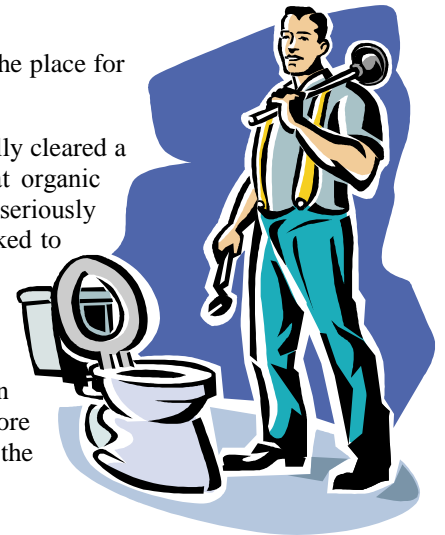
POURING CANDLE WAX DOWN DRAINS IS A BAD IDEA TOO. Drains are also not the place for candle wax. This will plug the drain even faster than grease.

DON'T USE A LIQUID DRAIN CLEANER. Have you ever known anyone who successfully cleared a drain with one of these products? We don't, either. They are chemicals designed to eat organic material, which can include the unsuspecting plumber's skin or clothing. You could risk seriously injuring the person who came to clear the clog! If you use such a product, you may be asked to pour vinegar down the drain to neutralize the chemical and wait 24 hours for service.

THERE IS A RIGHT WAY AND A WRONG WAY TO USE YOUR FOOD WASTE DISPOSER—and too many people use the wrong way. There should be nothing in the disposer until you have turned on the water and the disposer. Only after that should you begin "feeding" the waste material—no bones, no celery, no corn husks, very little rice, and no more than a cup of waste per minute. Anything you grind up has to have time to be flushed out of the lines before you add more, or you will have a clog.

KEEP STANDING WATER OFF THE BATHROOM FLOOR AND COUNTER.

In some countries, there are floor drains to catch any water that gets splashed out of the tub or lavatory. American housing units do not have these drains. Any water that remains on the floor can end up rotting the floor, or dripping into the unit below. Water left on the counter top can deteriorate the caulking and eventually ruin the counter top itself.



Campus Security

817-923-1921, ext. 4357 (HELP)

- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Call immediately if you see something suspicious (no matter how insignificant).
- Call if you are locked out of your home and the Housing Office is closed.
- If you have a life threatening emergency, call 911. Then call Campus Security.

Maintenance Requests

817-923-1921, ext. 2290

- Call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Maintenance Repairs
- Pest Control and Rodent Control
- There is someone ready to answer your call