How to Clear a Clogged Drain

Clogged sinks and tubs are common household issues that can usually be resolved with a few simple steps. This guide will walk you through how to troubleshoot, and potentially resolve minor clogs before requesting maintenance service.

⚠️ Avoid Chemical Drain Cleaners! ⚠️

Chemical cleaners can damage pipes and are often not effective for serious clogs. Use only as a last resort and with extreme caution.

Use a Tool to Remove Hair and Debris

Our best tip for clearing clogged drains (especially when clogged with hair) is to use a sink snake or drain tool like the one in the photo below! You can purchase these inexpensive plastic debris removal tools at most hardware or grocery stores for only a few dollars.



1. Insert the snake into the drain opening as far as it will go.
2. Twist or crank the handle to catch the clog.
3. Slowly pull it out, removing any trapped debris.
4. Dispose of the debris and rinse the drain with hot water.

Tip: Use cleaning gloves, this can get a little messy!

Use Baking Soda and Vinegar (Also useful for odor and grime)

1. Pour ½ cup of baking soda down the drain.
2. Follow with 1 cup of white vinegar.

3. Let it fizz and sit for 15–30 minutes.
4. Flush with hot water.

Use Boiling Water (For Sinks Only)

1. Boil a kettle or large pot of water.
2. Slowly pour the boiling water directly down the drain.
3. Wait a few minutes and check for improved drainage.

⚠️ Important Note: Do not use boiling water in PVC (plastic) drain pipes — use hot tap water instead.

Please submit a maintenance request if:

- If the clog remains after trying these steps.
- Multiple drains are backing up at once.
- You notice sewage smells or water coming back up through other drains.

Contact Elite Rentals Maintenance: (208) 228-9400
Emergency After Hours Maintenance: (208) 497-5050

Preventative Tips:

- Use drain screens in sinks and tubs.
- Avoid pouring grease or food scraps down the drain.
- Clean stoppers and strainers weekly.
- Run garbage disposals several times per week to keep build up from occurring.

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CONTACT

info@eliterentalsidaho.com (208) 228-9400
1724 Cabellaro Drive
Ammon, ID 83406