

# How to unblock clogged drains

**Blockages occur and many can be easily dealt with, without calling in specialist help. Try the steps below, if the blockage still hasn't cleared it's best to call an expert who will have the tools and experience to be able to rectify the problem.**

Unblocking drains can be relatively easy, but it's a pretty dirty job. You will need a good pair of rubber gloves, a set of drain rods and a strong stomach!

#### **Unblocking drains\***

1. Identify the manhole cover that provides access to the drains and remove the cover
2. Assemble two or three rods along with the rubber disk. Insert slowly into the drain so that the rubber disk penetrates two or three feet - this will most likely require the addition of extra lengths of drain rods.

This should be inserted at the deepest end of the blocked manhole. Take care when adding or removing drain rods that the rod that is within the drain is never rotated counter

clockwise. This might result in the unscrewing of the rods or the rubber disk - that will totally block the drains, possibly resulting in very expensive remedial action!

3. With the rubber disk and rods in the drain, very quickly pull the rods in a backwards direction, repeating four or five times in quick succession. This is often sufficient to start the drains flowing. If the drains do not flow, try again but with more lengths of rod inserted.
4. The chamber should then be flushed thoroughly to remove all traces of debris. Sometimes the blockage is caused by a build up of fat in the chamber. Flush hot soapy water through the chamber to help remove any remaining debris.

Take care, manholes are very dangerous places as the gasses they contain can be overpowering. Do not go down into a manhole without someone at the top to make sure you are ok, professional builders have drowned in manholes because they were overcome by the fumes.

If you've tried the steps above and the blockage still hasn't cleared it's best to call in the professionals. At Sutton and East Surrey Water Services we have a team of drainage experts on hand to help whenever you need them. They are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and offer competitive prices with no hidden extras, so your problem can be quickly and efficiently resolved. ■

\*Please take care when trying to unblock drains, Sutton and East Surrey Water Services will not take responsibility for any injury or damage sustained whilst following these tips.

Call **020 8722 7004/5** or visit **www.h2oservices.com**

