

WHY DRAIN MAINTENANCE SHOULD BE PART OF YOUR SPRING CLEANING ROUTINE



A Clogged drain is more than just a minor inconvenience it can be expensive, smelly and a health hazard to you and your family. Large clogs can cause backups into the house which may require cleaning or replacing flooring, furniture and other items. In addition to causing problems in your home, it can also have negative impact on the environment. Clogs can strain municipal systems and interfere with natural waterways, affecting wildlife, fish and plants. Spring is the season for cleaning out closets and cupboards. Why not do the same for your drains?

The first step to good drain maintenance is to be careful with what you put into them. For environmental reasons, never pour toxic chemicals, paint, solvents or medications in your drain. Some chemicals may also be corrosive to pipes. Solid items such as cotton balls, paper towels or pre-moistened wipes should never be flushed down the toilet or put in a drain. Unlike toilet paper, these items aren't made to break down in a septic tank or sewer. Cooking fat, grease and oil can solidify in the pipe, causing nasty clogs.

Cleaning stoppers and drain covers on a weekly basis will help prevent a buildup of debris. Use a bent wire to pull out hair and other gunk that has accumulated. Be sure to place the debris in the trash. Use a non-corrosive, biodegradable drain cleaner to keep drains clear. Don't forget the garbage disposal. Clean it easily and naturally by grinding several cups of ice mixed with a tablespoon or two of salt. Flush with cold water then grind a cut lime or half a lemon to freshen and remove any remaining grease from the blades.