



Maintain, Service & Unclog Your Drains: A Homeowners Guide



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12 Signs You Have a Clogged Drain

How to Tell if Your Drain is Clogged

Dealing with plumbing problems in your home can be an exercise in 'too-little-too-late' if you aren't aware of the signs preceding them. You don't want to be the person standing in ankle-deep water typing in 'plumbing services near me' frantically on your phone.

With that in mind, we've developed a handy guide for homeowners to learn the 12 most common signs of a clogged drain and what to do before it is too late. Read on, think about your specific plumbing system, and see how you can apply these pivotal plumbing service tips.

12 Signs You Have a Clogged Drain

Not all drain systems are alike, but these tell-tale dozen signs are usually not good for your pipes.

- 1) **Slow drainage:** If your sink drains or appliance is not draining at a proper pace, it is almost assuredly a clog. Check that any switch settings or objects are not preventing draining to be sure this is the case.
- 2) **Water backing up:** This can follow a slow drain that ultimately clogs, or it can happen abruptly. Either way, as soon as you see a water backup, it is a sign to troubleshoot your drain for obvious blockages.
- 3) **Bad odors:** Rotting organic compounds or still water stuck in pipes can create bad odors emanating from your drains and sinks.
- 4) **Toilet overflowing:** The obvious symptoms like water rushing up and out of your toilet always tell a story of trouble below the surface.
- 5) **Toilet bubbling and/or not flushing:** Most household toilets are simple and efficient systems. When there are issues, you should immediately check to make sure a clog isn't present.

- 6) **Rising water bills:** If you have consistent water usage at your property but all of a sudden the [bill is rising](#), it might represent a clog rendering the system inefficient. This is especially true if there is a break in a pipe where the clog is – a large outflow of water can be very costly.
- 7) **Change in water pressure:** Most pump systems will not greatly differ in water pressure unless adjusted or something is clogging it. If you haven't changed anything, look for clogs.
- 8) **Debris from water fixtures:** Flushing or draining hazardous materials can create grime and gunk in your pipes. Oils, fibrous foods, packaging, and many other particles can come back through as a warning sign that your drain is clogged.
- 9) **Unexplained puddles or dampness:** If a drain is clogged, it will often create water buildups that can leak through problem areas in pipes. If you are noticing an influx of these damp spots, try to make them out and see if you can find the source.
- 10) **Strange noises:** Pipes and other structural support around your drain system can emit strange noises such as gurgling or creaking if a clog is present. These often are from water disruption or pressure on pipes.
- 11) **Plant growth near water pipes:** If there is a clog that leads to a slight leak near soil, extra plant growth can be a key indicator that too much water is escaping your pipe and drain systems.
- 12) **Fruit flies and drain flies:** [These pests](#) are attracted to the organic or hazardous materials that get stuck in clogged pipes. Don't just swat them away – take their presence as a warning.

Depending on your region and location, there are plenty of other signs that drains might be getting clogged. This quick checklist is a good place to start, however.

What are the causes of a blocked drainage system?

We've found that these common issues are some of the things that can badly clog a drain.

- **Hair:** One of the most common household causes of blocked drains, human and pet hair will lead to slow shower drains or sink clogs over time.
- **Broken pipes:** Drain and pipe systems are often reliant on their counterparts to properly balance everything. If one pipe is broken, it can start to affect the rest of your drain system immediately.

- **Improper material disposal:** Chemicals, solids, and food waste can all contribute to a clogged drain.
- **Grease:** Grease can solidify in pipes to cause blockages – don't rely on the very imperfect solution of running hot water to 'prevent' a clogged drain pipe.
- **Toiletries:** Cosmetics and other consumer compounds can contain chemicals that contribute to clogged conduits. Always be careful with particularly [viscous toiletries](#) and avoid putting them down a drain.
- **Damaged pipes:** Similar to a broken pipe causing issues, warped or offset pipes can also cause inefficient systems.
- **Poor pipe installation:** Install jobs near roots, poor design that causes pressure or buildup, and improper use of safety seals can all cause drain blockages via poor installation.
- **Foreign objects:** Oftentimes, the simplest explanation can be the most frustrating – something is stuck in your drainage system. Whether this is an item that shouldn't have been put down the drain (such as plastic or metals), or just buildup that turns into a solid, it all must go.
- **Water flow:** If your municipal or private [water supply is hard](#) or contains impurities such as minerals that will clog the interior of your pipe, this will happen over time if not treated properly.
- **Plants and dirt:** Organic matter such as leaves and dirt can build up and cause blockages in drains, and roots can begin to grow through pipes if there are structural deficiencies.
- **Heavy storms:** Physical disruption of pipes can cause offset and imbalance systems – or even cause leaks and breaks. Harsh weather is one of the leading culprits for dislocating pipes and drain systems.

Effects of Blocked Drainage

When your pipes are clogged, bad effects happen to your home. Don't let these things happen as a result of not treating your water systems correctly:

- **Unpleasant odor:** Both a symptom and an independent issue that arises from clogged pipes, you don't want resulting unpleasant odors invading your home. Especially as these bad smells can represent unhealthy particles in the air, it's best to attend to them quickly.

- **Mold and pests:** When your drains and pipes are blocked, they can contain contaminated water, mold, and even disease-carrying insects. These can manifest into airborne spores and other health risks, so act quickly if you believe you have a clog.
- **Leaks:** The weight of standing water as well as rerouting or stopping water pressure can cause leaks in pipes.
- **Adverse health impacts:** In addition to mold and pests, there can be other airborne or water-laden pathogens that create an unhealthy environment. You don't want to be drinking contaminated water or washing yourself and products with it.
- **Contaminated water:** Contaminated water can harm your pipes, skin, clothing, and food products. All things considered, the compounding effects of a blocked drain are nothing to put off, so strongly consider calling a plumber if you cannot unclog your drain with simple home remedies.

These are just a few of the insidious effects of a blocked drain – but there are plenty more that you don't want to find out of. Don't leave the [health of your water ecosystem](#) to chance; get professional advice and/or services today.

Clogged Drain Repair in Phoenix, AZ

There's never a convenient time to have a clogged drain – and sometimes diagnosing and fixing them with home-based remedies is not sufficient. At Deer Valley Plumbing, we have decades of experience in helping homeowners in Phoenix live stress-free when it comes to the safety of their drain systems.

If you're looking to [schedule drain cleaning services](#) or learn more about how to unclog your sinks, please reach out for a free consultation. One phone call could make all the difference between smooth waters and a home disaster.

Do's and Don'ts: What Can You Pour Down the Drain?

“Don't pour that down the drain, it will clog it!”

Most of us have been admonished by someone about pouring grease or some other substance down a sink or other drain. However, there are far more culprits to a clogged pipe system than bacon grease, and knowing what is safe to flush or drain can save you money and headaches over the long run.

That's why we've put together this comprehensive guide about what not to pour down the drain and how to deal with common household items.

What Not to Put Down Your Drain

While none of these should instantaneously clog a kitchen sink or toilet, over time these items will significantly hurt your plumbing systems and pipes, so don't put these down them:

- **1) Grease:** Grease (along with fats and oils) are substances that cause kitchen plumbing issues. As these are binding agents once they cool down, they will rapidly clog pipes and drains. Put these in jars or cans to cool before disposing of them in the trash.
- **2) Expanding Food:** We're talking about the rice, pasta, and oatmeal of the world. Most starchy or grainy solids that puff up will cause blockages if they are poured down your drain. Scraping plates into the trash before rinsing is a must.
- **3) Coffee Grounds:** One of the most common causes of kitchen sink blockages, coffee grounds are harsh on pipes and do not get properly ground by garbage disposals.
- **4) Flour:** We don't recommend making a sourdough starter in your kitchen sink drain. Think of the consistency of bread dough – it pretty much just takes flour and water, so avoid a clog by not putting flour down the drain.
- **5) Eggshells:** Another seemingly harmless bi-product like coffee grounds, these are not easily disposed of and can get stuck in viscous pockets of other difficult-to-drain substances.

- **6) Fibrous Fruits and Veggies:** Produce like pumpkin, corn husks, and other tough-shelled fruits and veggies can easily clog your kitchen sink. Trash or compost them instead.
- **7) Paint:** Paint can immediately cause serious drainage issues – and subsequent health risks. There are reasons why there are hazardous waste labels on most paints, so avoid rinsing them down your drain.
- **8) Paper Products:** Specifically avoid anything non-toilet paper as any excess of fibrous paper can cause a clog. Items like paper towels, wipes, sanitary products, or packaging should never be put down a drain – they will not leave without professional assistance.
- **9) Harsh Cleaning Products:** These products might not necessarily clog your sinks and drains, but they can be hazardous to your health and eat away at your pipes. Check with specific labels on products to see how best to dispose of them.
- **10) Flushable Products:** Feminine hygiene products, baby wipes, and other ‘flushable’ products can all put significant strain on your drain. Some people (and even product packaging) will insist these are fine to flush, but take it from us – they are not.
- **11) Medication:** Another seemingly innocuous set of products in terms of clogging, medication is a leading source of contaminating water supplies. Be courteous to your own household as well as others by not flushing or draining unused medication.

There are dozens of other common products that can harm pipes – we always recommend thinking about how a material will react to confined spaces and water before putting it down a drain.

When a Clogged Sink Becomes a Bigger Problem

While specific product and single-drain issues are important to understand and prevent, there is one scenario that requires significant alarm and immediate professional assistance: a main line clog.

A main sewer line blockage can cause significant property damage as well as contaminate your water. Several telltale signs of this issue are:

- **Multiple drains are backed up at once:** Especially if you have not noticed issues prior and they quickly switched to gurgling, draining slowly, and emitting putrid smells.
- **Sewage forced up floor drains/sewer clean outs:** If water cannot pass through your main sewer line, then the sewage/wastewater will have to escape elsewhere. This will be either your sewer cleanout, sitting floor drains, or both.

-- **Water backs up in your shower when the toilet flushes:** This is the most common occurrence of displaced wastewater with nowhere to go, but there are other similar issues. These include toilet overflows while using a dishwasher or washing machine - basically anything that creates more water that cannot make it through the sewer lines.

If you experience one or more of these symptoms, it is not the time to poke around and see if you can implement a DIY fix. Call a plumbing professional today in order to save yourself hundreds or thousands of dollars - and most importantly, prevent wastewater from trashing your home and health.

Other Considerations and FAQs

Not all things are detrimental to put down sinks and drains, some are actually quite helpful – but there are many household items that can cause some confusion. Here are a few common questions and answers we find helpful:

Salt

We highly recommend this practice, and often people ask “why pour salt down the drain?” The answer is that salt will break down grease and emulsified fats by itself, and especially when combined with vinegar and hot water it can contribute to clearer pipes.

Coke

Coke and other colas are actually surprisingly decent pipe cleaners, so drain at will! They contain phosphoric acid, which will break down certain buildups in your pipes.

Vaseline

Though not as harmful as grease, Vaseline (petroleum jelly) is a viscous solution that can and will cause clogs.

Paint thinner

Do not pour paint thinner down the drain – turpentine and other mineral solvents used to remove paint will eat away at your pipes and contaminate your water supply.

Ammonia

Ammonia is water soluble and safe to drain. We recommend you dilute it with plenty of water to reduce harmful effects, and do not mix it with other household products if you do drain it, though.

Antifreeze

Antifreeze is a no-go for draining in your home. Ethylene glycol is harmful to your pipes and water supply, and should be contained and disposed of safely – never poured into a drain.

Vinegar

Vinegar is both safe and beneficial to pour down your drain. It acts as a natural cleaning solution and can remove blockages and harmful bacteria that cause foul odors.

Boiling water

Boiling water is typically safe to pour down most drains – but make sure to watch out for you and other people while doing it! In some extreme cases of damaged pipes, it could further degrade plastic seals, but those were likely already in serious jeopardy if water exacerbates it.

Milk

Yes - It's milk. How weak do you think pipes are?

REAL ANSWER: Milk is not necessarily harmful to your pipes and drains, but is extremely harmful to the environment when poured down your drain. Thus, we strongly recommend finding contained solutions or composting milk.

Alcohol

Alcohol is generally safe to pour down a drain in moderate quantities. If you need to dispose of large amounts of it, either dilute it or take time in between draining it so as not to over stress your pipes.

Can you mix baking soda and vinegar to clean drains?

Though not always the number one recommended long-term solution, baking soda and vinegar along with some hot water can prove to be a serviceable solution to clear your drains.

What can I pour down a smelly sink?

Baking soda and vinegar can help mitigate foul odors, as well as boiling water + citrus, or even just a soap and water compound. The most important thing is getting all buildup clean from disposals and drains – those are what typically cause foul odors.

Need drain cleaning? Contact Deer Valley Plumbing Today.

At Deer Valley plumbing, we have decades of experience helping homeowners make sustainable decisions to keep pipes and drains healthy. Our plumbing services include preemptive planning so that you won't be stuck calling us ankle-deep in water.

Read more about how to choose the right plumbing service for your home today. [We'd love to have a conversation about saving you time, money, and stress.](#)

How to Unclog a Sink

Steps to Unclog Your Sink

When it comes to a clogged drain and how to fix it, there are rarely one-size-fits-all solutions to your problems. Depending on your sink and clog, there can be a number of potential obstructions and remedies. Too often, people follow poor advice or use destructive products to unclog their drain. The reality is this can waste time, money, and end up causing more damage to a sink or pipes in the process.

Instead of taking a shortcut to partially unclog your sink once, we recommend you read our handy guide to unclogging a sink by using the proper resources. That way you'll know when to handle the problem on your own or consult a plumbing professional for the best results.

5 tips on how to unclog a sink (and when you should call for backup)

Plumbing service isn't all magic, and there are times when knowing a simple fix can save you a significant headache. However, many times something that seems like an easy solution will create long-term damage or not get the job done at all. Thus, familiarize yourself with a plan for your particular sink and drain set up so you can know when it's a home remedy vs. a professional cleanup.

- **Disposal**

If your kitchen sink or any other drain has a garbage disposal, running it should be your first attempt to clear a superficial blockage. Run cold water any time you are using your disposal, and make sure to remove any large items you can see before running it – and we can't stress the importance of making sure it is off before interacting with the drain.

While a garbage disposal is a feature of many kitchen sinks, it is not necessarily present in all of them. If your drain doesn't have a disposal but you would like to replicate this treatment, we recommend using a handheld auger or go straight to plunging.

- **Plunging**

How to plunge a sink: Clearing a clogged sink doesn't have to require professional help –

but knowing when it does is essential. If your drain is draining slowly, it might be able to be flushed out with running water and light plunging. However, if it is completely blocked, do not use home chemicals or add water; professional service is necessary in these instances.

- **Clean the U-Pipe/drain trap**

How to clean your drain trap: Grab a bucket and place it under the P-trap or U-bend. If there is water buildup, it will rush into the bucket as you clear the line. Unscrew the threaded caps on either side of the bent portion of the pipe, being careful not to damage any of the surrounding structure. From there, clean the bent section of debris, buildup, or any other material that might have gotten trapped. Reattach it and test your sink to see if your issue has been solved.

- **Snake the Drain**

How to snake a drain: You're going to need a plumber's snake- there are manual models or ones with attached electric drills for extra clearance. Wearing rubber gloves and goggles, feed the line slowly down the clogged pipe – it may take a few tries. Once you've gotten the snake to the blockage, rotate the tool to break up the gunk and grab hold of it. If the blockage is solid, use the auger head to pierce and turn to break it free. Remove the snake from the drain and test to see if your drain is now clog free.

- **Eco-Friendly Drain Cleaners**

There are several ways to unclog a sink without using toxic chemicals, including:

--Baking Soda and Vinegar: Clean the area around your sink before pouring 1:1 parts vinegar and baking soda down the drain – usually about ½ cup. Plug your drain and let the solution sit for an hour before running water until it runs cleanly through.

-- **Baking Soda and Salt:** This is another good substitute that should take care of many DIY-able clogs including light grease build up. Mix about ½ cup of each and pour it down the drain, letting it rest for several hours. Clear out with a hot water flush.

-- **Baking Soda, Lemon Juice, and Boiling Water:** This solution will both clean and freshen your drain without causing it harm. Pour it down the affected pipes and then wait an hour before running water to test the process.

These are all mild, eco-friendly cleaners that should be able to rid you of some light drain clogs. However, when the blockages are caused by more insidious or larger materials, you will likely need stronger products or professional assistance. The reality is that most chemical cleaners will not

mitigate your problem long term, and are going to end up being a waste of time and money more often than not.

How much is a plumber to unclog a sink?

While there are many similarities in typical household sinks, drains, and plumbing needs, it is important to realize that your home, region, and plumber will have varying costs. Thus, keep these things in mind when assessing potential remedies for a clog:

- **Top-notch service is worth it:** Cutting corners with quick fixes or using unlicensed bargain 'professionals' is a risky game to play with your plumbing. If the best technicians are willing to inspect and solve all your problems for a slightly higher premium, it will save you a bundle long-term when the problems stay gone for much longer.
- **Many home remedies are delaying the inevitable:** If you are unable to fully clean to the depth and quality of a professional, you might just be delaying a visit. This is especially true for chemical cleaners that will give you hope in the form of minor unclogs, but not truly drain anything other than your bank account.
- **Your time is valuable:** Unless you are a plumber, you are not getting paid to work on home drain clogs. If you are a plumber, we doubt you're reading this guide. Ultimately, the time and stress it takes to fix moderate-to-severe clogs can add up quickly. Thus, once you try some simpler methods to no avail, it's time to let the professionals step in.

In trying to appraise the potential cost of a fix, the best method is to get multiple quote from reputable plumbing companies. The honest and thorough professionals will save you time, money, and headaches in the long run.

Professional Unclogging Services with Deer Valley Plumbing

At Deer Valley Plumbing, we know that clearing a clog will also help clear your mind. We've spent decades saving people time, money, and stress by providing the most effective drain cleaning & clearing solutions in Phoenix. We pride ourselves on the most responsible processes and up-front communication so that you can enjoy your fixtures normally.

If you have a clog or other plumbing issues that need to be solved, don't waste any more time – [reach out today for full-service plumbing solutions.](#)

How to Clean Smelly Drains

Cleaning a Smelly Sink Drain

Smelly drains aren't just off-putting for you and your guests - they can also be indicative of health hazards and risky plumbing situations. Masking or ignoring the aroma is a big mistake on the way to more costly problems that require complex solutions.

Thus, we put together this handy guide on how to save time, money, and stress while addressing your drain if it is emitting foul odors. Read more to see if home remedies will work and when you need to bring in professional plumbing solutions.

Why Does My Sink Smell?

There are many blockage, product-based, or biological reasons for stinky drains. Some of the most common culprits for bad smelling drains include:

- **Grime buildup:** If your kitchen or bathroom drain is smelly and draining slowly in conjunction, it can indicate a grime buildup from hair, food, or grease. These clogs are tough to break up due to the fats that create the clog. In turn, you'll start to smell that funk sooner than later.
- **Clogged drains:** If your drain or sink is blocked by defects or irregular objects (coins, toy parts, packaging), then it will continue to trap any food or waste that goes down it. In turn, you will have a smelly sink drain.
- **Faulty plumbing:** Whether it's missing vent pipes, or misdirected wastewater from your [sump pump](#), there are multiple plumbing logistic issues that can cause smelly sinks. These especially require professional attention, as they could lead to significant structural damage down the line.
- **Sewer gases:** If your P-trap is dry or blocked, it can cause sewage smell to emanate from your sink. However, it can also be from a system defect, which is much more hazardous and needs to be treated immediately.

- **Leaking or blocked sewer line:** The connections and caps that run throughout most household pipes can become leaked or blocked. When this occurs in a sewage line, it can create bad smells and noxious fumes that have long-term health implications.

More than anything else, we advise taking bad smells as warning signs that something is amiss if you cannot clear them with simple remedies. Learning those and having the right professional plumbing solutions in mind can save you money and keep your household healthy.

How to Clean Sink Drains

When you start noticing that your sink smells bad, you should try the simplest methods to solve it first. In our experience, there are several consistent winners to neutralize foul odors:

- 1) **Baking soda and vinegar:** Especially for superficial bad smells, this can be a great way to freshen up a smelly sink. Mix equal parts baking soda and vinegar and run them down your kitchen sink drain (or wherever the odors are coming from). This is not a solution for heavier blockages, however.
- 2) **Ice and lemon (for garbage disposals):** Cut a lemon up into chunks and throw them into the drain alongside a reasonable number of ice cubes. Run the disposal until the ice cubes have dissipated and the lemon is all disposed of. This process will let the citrus and rind texture clean the blades while freshening up your drain.
- 3) **Clean the P-Trap:** Sometimes, the smell in your bathroom is from the P-Trap, but not the kind that immediately comes to mind. The curved portion of pipe under your sink can cause sewer gases to accumulate and odorize a room. Removing the aerator cap and removing any buildup or gunk can alleviate simple blockages or bio matter that is affecting your P-Trap.
- 4) **Clean the vent trap:** Your vent pipe carries sewer gases to exit points to be released safely outdoors. However, as it typically is released from a rooftop, it can get clogged with leaves, animal debris, or snow. As a result, it will push the sewer gases back into your drain and cause it to both smell and be harmful. Clean it out by spraying water with a hose into the external area – or more realistically get professional plumbing services so you are not putting yourself at risk.
- 5) **Hot water and vinegar:** Sometimes, the simplest solutions can provide respite from bad drain odors. Run a mixture of hot water and vinegar down a stinky sink to remove light buildup from organic matter and keep your pipes fresh.
- 6) **Use a plunger or an auger:** The most effective plumbing home-remedies are using tools that will physically remove buildup and bio matter from your drains and pipes. A plunger can

help pass the matter through if it is stuck, and you can use a hand auger to effectively clear drains, P-Traps, and other smelly areas of the materials causing the odor.

- 7) **Hydrojetting:** This professional plumbing solution is eco-friendly, safe for your pipes, and can help eliminate the toughest odor issues from any set of pipes. Hydrojetting is essentially pressure washing your pipes to scour them of the buildup and bio matter that is causing the most insidious smells. Grease, hair, and any other grime will be removed, and this practice can target clogs far deeper than typical remedies.

While we always advocate seeing if the simplest fixes work for home plumbing, the reality is that many remedies will just waste your time and money. Working with a reputable plumbing company will allow them to properly assess odor issues and only charge you for the necessary services to keep your plumbing ecosystem healthy.

How to Prevent Smelly Drains

In most cases, the best way to avoid stinky sinks is a prevention system. This means implementing best practices including:

- **Run the garbage disposal:** In order to keep things ultra-fresh in your kitchen sink, run the disposal for 20 seconds with water after putting anything down there. Quick pulses without proper water flow will just dice up matter and coat the blades/pipes, leading to smelly kitchen sinks.
- **Avoid certain materials:** Some things are better off scraped into the trash due to their density or biological composition. Food waste from oils, butter, grease, rice, pasta, or coffee grounds are exceptionally difficult and can lead to clogs/smells.
- **Use drain strainers:** Also known as a sink strainer, these metal sieves or mesh sieves cover your drain openings to catch larger items while still allowing water to pass through. Simply put, if it is getting caught in the drain strainer, there's a good chance it would be caught in your pipes.

These preventative plumbing tips will work wonders for your sinks and drains. Make sure to do them consistently in tandem for best results, and to consult a professional plumber if these methods are not enough to prevent odorous drains.

Get to the Bottom of Your Smelly Drain Problems

At Deer Valley Plumbing, we know how important it is to have reliable plumbing that doesn't stink up your house. That's why our experienced team of licensed plumbers will work hard to offer short and long term solutions to keep your plumbing ecosystem thriving.

If you are looking for top-notch [plumbing services in Phoenix](#), please reach out today. We'd love to help keep your property pristine and odor-free.

6 Critical Steps to Take When You Have a Leaking Pipe

Significant water damage from leaky pipes is a homeowner's worst nightmare. Knowing how to prevent plumbing issues, assess and fix minor ones, and turn to the professionals when appropriate are all key elements of keeping your plumbing ecosystem safe.

In this handy guide to leaking pipe protocol, we'll show you how to keep your home and property safe in a step-by-step manner. Read on to become a master of home plumbing protection.

What Causes a Leaking Drain Pipe?

There are a multitude of common household plumbing issues that cause a leaky drain pipe. Finding the source is going to be the most practical way to stop it, so look for disruptors such as:

- **Clogs:** Clogs in pipes will cause water to back up inside the drain. Standing water can eventually cause a leakage as the caulking or seals in threaded pipe joints will degrade.
- **High Water Pressure:** Excessive or uneven water pressure can put serious strain on your pipes. If you are exceeding the level of water pressure recommended, adjust down or consult a plumbing professional about how to do so.
- **Loose or Worn Connectors:** The connectors in hoses and pipes supply appliances with water, and are a primary source of leaks. Compression nuts, or water connectors to washer/dryers very commonly move during spin cycles, causing leaks.
- **Foundation Shifts:** If your house moves, it can cause damage to pipe joints. In turn, this will cause deterioration and leaks. This is a slow-moving cause typically, so a licensed plumber might be necessary to identify it early.
- **Corrosion:** If your pipes are affected by chemical or bio matter, they can corrode easier over time. Additionally, some older pipes will be subject to corrosion based on their material composition and location, and regardless of the reason, a corroded pipe will leak.
- **Change in Temperature:** As seasonal temperatures rise and fall, your [pipes will expand and contract](#). Unfortunately, this often leads to breakages and leaks, so if you are in a climate

that fluctuates rapidly or often, make sure to pay attention to the condition of your pipes seasonally.

- **Poorly Fitting Pipes:** Whether it is over-tight fittings, shoddy installation, or exposure to the elements, poorly fit pipes will leak quickly and cause long-term damage if not treated.

Ultimately, having a working knowledge of the common problems that cause leaks will be beneficial for you as a homeowner. However, in most cases, we recommend routine inspections by a qualified professional who will know to look for advanced symptoms of plumbing damage before they present by leaking.

What is the first thing you should do when you find/suspect a leak?

Put frankly, the first thing you should do when you find a leak is contact a plumbing professional. However, we also recommend that you know the fundamentals of identifying and fixing a leak should you choose the DIY route.

- 1) **Shut off Your Water and Clean Your Drains:** This is the first and most critical step in dealing with clogged or leaky drains. You need to know where your [water shut-off](#) is, and which drains can be cleaned easily. In fact, we recommend doing this as part of a yearly homeowner checklist.
- 2) **Assess the Situation:** Figure out where the leak has originated, and understand what type of pipe/materials it will require.
- 3) **Check the Nut:** A loose nut can be a primary source of a leak. Try tightening first by gripping the body of the tap with pliers and then using a spanner to turn the nut clockwise. Often, this will solve minor leaks.
- 4) **Inspect the drain for damage:** The next step is to see if your drains are compromised in any way. Clogged drain lines in sinks, bathtubs, showers, or even air conditioning units can be a primary source of leaking.
- 5) **Apply Plumber's Tape and Plumber's Putty:** If the damage is not significant, you can mend a pipe or drain with either plumber's tape, putty or both. Make sure that the water is off when you go to apply these items, and use proper silicone tape or pipe thread tape. By the time you are at this point, we recommend consulting a professional unless you have significant DIY experience with your specific plumbing system.
- 6) **Reassemble:** Given that a cause of leaking pipes is uneven or compromised assembly in the first place, making sure to put everything back together tightly and correctly is paramount. Make sure

that all threading is locked correctly and that the pipes are not sitting in a way that will be compromised when water runs through them.

In general, we do not recommend fixing leaks without having a plumber assess them. Though there can be easy DIY fixes, trying to fix a leak under the sink can lead to a whole new slew of plumbing problems.

Pros and Cons of DIY pipe repair

As we've gone over, it is doable to fix small plumbing problems on your own. It is certainly gratifying to do your own work and have it succeed, which can save you money.

However, the downsides usually far outweigh that feeling of satisfaction and a few dollars spent. Even while 'saving' money, you are spending your time and jeopardizing your health if some of these fixes aren't as quick and easy as you'd like.

Additionally, there are real hazards to your property if the fix does not go correctly. Additional leaks in pipes can cause water damage, electrical fires, mold, or more plumbing problems on top of your initial issue.

Thus, when we recommend consulting licensed plumbing professionals, it's so that you have a guarantee of top-notch service with a warranty on it in case something goes wrong. The level of service, peace of mind, and overall home health considerations are well-worth the expenditure in our experience. This is why we wrote this piece – so you can learn more about how to know when you need professional plumbing services.

Don't Risk Further Plumbing Damage, Contact Deer Valley Plumbing Today

When facing a plumbing leak, every second counts towards keeping your health and property safe. Deer Valley Plumbing has decades of experience in assessing, fixing, and preventing further damage from leaks. We know that the time, money, and stress we can save you will be evident in our outstanding work.

If you have leaky pipes, [please reach out to us immediately for qualified professional plumbing services](#). Taking action and getting proper help is the best next step for your household.

Plumbing Service and Drain Cleaning for Your Home

Finding the Best Plumbing Service in Phoenix

When it comes to professional plumbing service and drain cleaning solutions, knowledge is power. Keep reading so you'll know how to identify minor plumbing issues before they compound, when to turn to a reputable local plumbing service, and what to expect from the best in the business.

We've taken the time to compile a handy guide on residential plumbing repair so you can act quickly and with confidence when you know your pipes are at risk.

What are Plumbing Services?

Plumbing service typically refers to the design, installation, repair, and service of pipes and fixtures that bring water into a building. That's a wordy way of saying plumbing includes a lot of moving parts to get you potable, bacteria-free water into sinks, showers, bathrooms, and other appliances.

In terms of household plumbing services for homeowners, plumbing services often include stopping leaks, unclogging drains, repairing pipes, and more. Most of the plumbing services we cover will either be preventative or reactive, but a professional service will almost always save you time, money, and headache versus doing it yourself.

When to Call a Plumber

No household plumbing system is exactly alike, but there are some common symptoms that should necessitate a call to a local residential plumbing service as soon as possible:

- **Gurgling Sounds:** These can be indicators of backups, blockages, too much water pressure, or other issues with your pipes and drains.
- **Bad Odors:** Smelly sinks and drains can indicate clogged pipes that have built up biomatter that is unhealthy for you and your plumbing.

- **Leaks:** Don't take any sort of leaking pipes lightly – whether big or small, these are situations when a plumbing professional can save you the most time, headache, and long-term damage with their services.
- **No running water:** Just as concerning as too much water is far too little water. Make sure to figure out whether your water services are turned on, and if that is the case but there's no running water, it's time to call a plumber.
- **Main Sewage Line Blockage:** This is one of the most important issues to recognize early and call a plumbing professional to treat. If there are multiple drains blocked at once, or your pipes are gurgling and displacing water to other appliances (such as a toilet flush causing a shower to back up), then call your local plumber immediately.

We also highly recommend having a plumber come out annually to perform a routine inspection of your pipes and drains. Preventive work often proves to be the cheapest and most effective long-term solution.

Drain Cleaning Services

A licensed and reputable plumbing professional will have a suite of solutions for your pipes and drains. Among the most common, they should be offering:

Plunging Service

What is a plunger job?

When a toilet or sink is clogged, you can plunge it yourself if it is not too bad. However, plumbing professionals often use plungers in conjunction with their know-how and other drain clearing techniques to ensure that your problem does not remain superficial.

What is the correct plunger for a toilet/drain?

The main difference between types of plungers is in their attachments – material, shape, and rigidity. A [sink and standard plunger are slightly different than toilet plungers](#), but they will generally all work well, as they are usually used for toilets.

How do you unclog a toilet/drain?

Make sure the toilet bowl has enough water to cover the plunger attachment. Create a seal over the hole in the toilet or sink, and plunge up and down rapidly while not breaking that seal. Flush or run water through your toilet or sink afterward.

Snakes and Augers

What is the difference between an auger and a snake? Both of these tools can help you or a plumber clean buildup, biomatter, and other gunk out of pipes and drains. Snakes are generally used for smaller drains like kitchen or bathroom sinks. Augers will be used to break up material in showers, toilets, or larger drains.

Can Snaking a Drain Damage Pipes? Yes - If used improperly or with too much force, a snake can scratch pipes and remove protective coating that will ultimately lead to cracks.

Hydro Jetting

What is Hydro Jetting?

[Hydro Jetting](#) is a non-invasive plumbing technique that cleans pipes by removing blockages with high-powered jets. It is efficient, not abrasive on any of your plumbing systems, and has far more precise reach than any other modern drain cleaning technique.

How Much Does Hydro Jetting Cost?

Plumbing costs will almost always vary on the region, property type, fixtures, and level of professional service. For a technique as sophisticated as hydro jetting, we recommend going with the plumbing professional who provides the best value – and that doesn't necessarily mean the cheapest. The best plumber near you will prevent needing repeat service or paying for ineffective remedies.

Can Hydro Jetting Damage Pipes?

When done by licensed professionals, hydro jetting is not at risk of damaging your pipes, as they only use water for internal treatment. It is also highly eco-friendly, as a result.

How Long Does Hydro Jetting Take?

Depending on the extent of your drain cleaning needs, hydro jetting typically lasts between 1-3 hours.

Pipe Bursting

What is Pipe Bursting?

Pipe Bursting is a method that licensed plumbing technicians will use to solve a reoccurring clogged drain. It involves trenchless pipe or sewer replacement, allowing them to reach hard-to-reach or submerged systems without disrupting the area around it.

How much does it cost for pipe bursting?

Pipe bursting can be costly, as it is one of the last resort methods used by highly skilled professionals. It is often priced by the square foot, with entire jobs costing thousands of dollars. That being said, it is often the best and most valuable method to use when it is applicable.

Is Pipe Bursting Safe?

When performed by quality professionals, pipe bursting is designed to minimize property damage first and foremost. It is also environmentally friendly and reduces the risk of other sewer and pipe safety concerns due to its longevity as a treatment.

These are just a few of the most common and effective methods that a plumbing repair or drain service company will use. Always make sure to request a consultation and a description of services for more advanced techniques.

Drain Repair Services

An integral part of keeping your pipes safe is ensuring that your drains are in working order. Thus, if your drains are clogged, compromised, or in need of an update, your local plumbing professionals will be able to provide you service there, as well.

Drain Line Repair:

This can range from kitchen or bathroom sink lines all the way to extensive sewer repair fixes. The techniques and methods will vary, but you should be addressing clogs as soon as possible. We highly recommend letting a professional plumber treat your systems instead of attempting to use heavy-duty tools at home – this a common source of further damage.

Drain Line Installation:

If your home drain system is not providing quick solutions, a plumbing professional will conduct a drain inspection before coming up with a plan for installation. This can be a singular pipe addition, or a removal/repair/update or your entire drain line.

Having a working relationship with a licensed professional near you is extremely beneficial when dealing with risk-laden and potentially expensive damages related to poor drain systems. Modern procedures such as hydro jetting have made it much more valuable to use the top-of-line service offered by plumbers vs. older tools that might damage your property.

Find Reliable and Affordable Plumbing Services in Phoenix

At Deer Valley Plumbing, our goal is to provide modern service with honest and valuable pricing. This means that our rates reflect the level of expertise we provide – but you will get your money's worth for years to come.

If you are looking to solve your home plumbing issues and prevent future ones, DVP is the provider you need. [Please reach out to schedule an appointment today](#) – it could save you time, money, and stress by the bucketful.