



GROW

Home, Garden & Outdoors

DIY drain tips and hacks

Wallowa County Chieftain

When it comes to fixing household clogs, don't be afraid to do it yourself. With proper maintenance and the right products and tools on hand, you can skip the plumber and keep your drains running smoothly at their maximum capacity.

From hair-ridden showers to food-filled kitchen sinks, these tips will help conquer even the most demanding and difficult drainage issues.

Tough hair clogs got you harried?

Hair is the main culprit in most bathroom clogs. If you or a household member has



Courtesy of Getty Images

long hair, you are likely to have a greater amount of it in your drains. For hair-clogged drains, pour an entire bottle of a product specially formulated to break down hair clogs.

How about a drain check?

If possible, transfer water that won't drain and any lingering dregs in the sink basin into a bucket. Carefully re-

move stoppers and strainers from your drain. If you're removing screws, make sure to keep a close watch so they don't fall down the drain. If you need to remove stopper parts from under the sink, keep a bucket underneath the pipes. Remove all of the ghastly gunk and goo from stoppers and strainers. Run water to flush down remaining material and test the flow.

Plunge right in

Avoid over-flushing your toilet to prevent flooding the bowl and your bathroom floor. The best tool to unclog a toilet is a plunger with a flange, which is a smaller opening on the bottom of the plunger that resembles a cup. The flange fits perfectly into the toilet bowl drain to give your thrusts more power. Place the plunger into the toilet drain straight and vertical. Create a tight seal with the drain, with the plunger fully submerged in water. Plunge gently at first, then vigorously, in an up and down motion. With a stubborn clog, don't be shy; add some strength to your thrusts. If the clog remains, or the toilet still isn't flushing properly, you may need additional support. A drain snake can help break up the clog or a closet auger can help remove larger clogs or foreign objects, such as flushed toys.

Keep clogs from coming back

Even if you have short hair or your drains aren't currently clogged, it's a good idea to do a little maintenance to prevent future problems. Drain maintenance products are designed to help keep pipes clear and clean, prevent new clogs and keep them smelling fresh.

AWARD

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water, restoring streams and generating green, renewable energy."

These investments in irrigation systems are also investments in the future resiliency, competitiveness and livability of Oregon's rural economies."

By working with 12 districts together to plan these systems, FCA and Energy Trust offer economies of scale for projects that districts could not implement individually. This includes reducing the cost and time required for project planning and implementation, addressing key regulatory and institutional barriers, leveraging funding sources, and demonstrating how modern agricultural water management can mitigate the impacts of long-term drought.

"This well-earned national award reaffirms what we in Oregon have long known — our state is all about figuring out creative solutions that benefit both the environment and the economy," said Sen. Ron Wyden. "Both Energy Trust of Oregon and Farmers Conservation Alliance deserve huge praise for pioneering an approach that creates such significant gains for irrigation districts and taxpayers."

These water preservation and energy-saving efforts are especially helpful in 2016, as Oregon's snowpack is diminishing quickly in the unseasonably early hot weather, suggesting another lean irrigation year for Oregon farmers.

"As Oregon summers become hotter much earlier and pressure on our water supplies increases, improving our irrigation systems is more critical than ever," said Julie Davies

O'Shea, executive director, FCA. "Irrigation modernization creates a virtuous cycle. As districts begin improving their systems and saving on costs, they can then re-invest the money they've saved into additional projects."

The 12 districts implementing irrigation modernization through the program are:

- Arnold Irrigation District in Bend
- Central Oregon Irrigation District in Redmond
- East Fork Irrigation District in Hood River
- Hudson Bay District Improvement Company in Milton-Freewater
- Lone Pine Irrigation District in Terrebonne
- North Prairie Creek Ditch in Enterprise
- North Unit Irrigation District in Madras
- Ochoco Irrigation District in Prineville
- Swalley Irrigation District in Bend
- Three Sisters Irrigation District in Sisters
- Tumalo Irrigation District in Tumalo
- Westside Ditch in Lostine

All are expected to complete assessments by early 2017. A case study with more information about the Irrigation Modernization Program is available on CESA's website at www.cesa.org.

Energy Trust of Oregon is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to helping utility customers benefit from saving energy and generating renewable power. The agency's services, cash incentives and energy solutions have helped participating customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas save more than \$2.3 billion on energy bills.

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Wallowa County CHIEFTAIN





Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

You'll recognize this one: it's the state plant, Oregon Grape. Not only is it resistant to deer, but it can be a beautiful shrub. Note the varying shades and the way the light plays on it. This fine example is on the outside of the deer fence at Alder Slope Nursery.

DEER

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Good trees include: Japanese Flowering Cherry, Corkscrew Willow, Kousa Dogwood, English Hawthorn, Russian Olive, Holly,

Juniper, Green or white Ash, Norway Maple, Silver Maple, Paper Birch, Norway Spruce, White Spruce and Canada Hemlock.

Effective ground cover includes: Carpet Bugle (Ajuga reptans), Lilly-of-the-Valley (Convallaria majalis) and Periwinkle (Vinca minor).

Pretty shrubs of various sizes include: Butterfly Bush, American Bittersweet, Red Osier Dogwood, Mountain Laurel, Beauty Bush, Rhododendron, Potentilla (cinquefoil), Ore-

gon Grape and Lilac.

There are many species of Potentilla, by the way, so you do not have to end up with the one on the Wallowa County weed list.

These are just a few of the plants that might do well in your deer-pillaged landscape. A talk with your greenhouse representative or a search on the web will no doubt yield even more that will fit our growing region and your design scheme.

For a larger list visit <http://tinyurl.com/h6mf8jc>.



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