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## Stopped Up Drain

Cooperative Extension Service  
*South Dakota State University*

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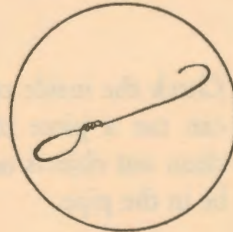
# Stopped Up Drain

Cooperative Extension Service  
 South Dakota State University, Brookings  
 U. S. Department of Agriculture

## Things That You May Need



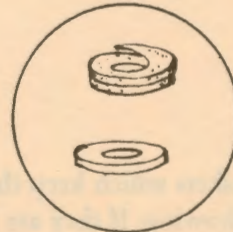
PLUNGER OR  
 "PLUMBER'S FRIEND"



PIECE OF WIRE TO  
 HOOK INTO AND PULL AN  
 OBJECT OUT OF THE DRAIN



ADJUSTABLE  
 WRENCH



PACKING OR NEW GASKETS  
 FOR USE IN STOPPING ANY LEAKS  
 IN THE JOINTS OF THE TRAPS



A "SNAKE" MADE OF  
 STEEL FOR USE IN PUSHING  
 THROUGH SLUDGE IN THE DRAIN

You will not always have or need all of these tools to repair a stopped up drain. But it would be a good idea to write down next to the drawings the person or place that might have one or more of them available.



If your sink does not drain properly first TRY THE PLUNGER. Many times this will make the drain work as it should. But if the plunger does not open the drain, then you will need to remove the SINK TRAP.

"Stopped Up Drain" is especially adapted for use in this series from a similar publication of the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare—Public Health Service.

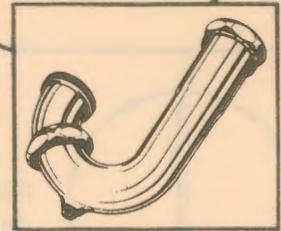
Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. John T. Stone, Dean of Extension, South Dakota State University, Brookings.

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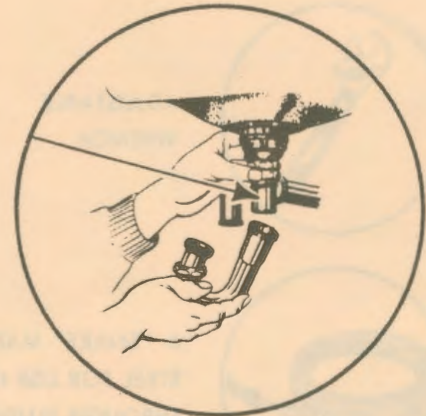


When you remove the trap, water in the sink and trap will be released onto the floor. **PUT A LARGE PAN UNDER THE TRAP** to catch the water before unscrewing the trap. There are two **CAP NUTS** which must be unscrewed. Use the adjustable wrench. After you have unscrewed the cap nuts, the trap will slip off.



Check the inside of the trap. You can use a piece of wire to help clean out objects or dirt that may be in the pipe.

The location of the two gaskets which keep the trap from leaking are shown in this drawing. If they are not in good shape, replace them. String can be used temporarily if you do not have new gaskets handy.



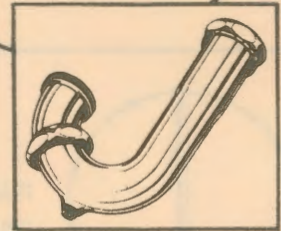
Sometimes the drain pipe becomes clogged between the trap and the main sewer line. There is a special tool for cleaning a drain pipe. It is called a **SNAKE** and is made of special metal. With the trap removed, you can force the metal snake down the drain pipe to open up a clogged place.



**Tub or Shower**

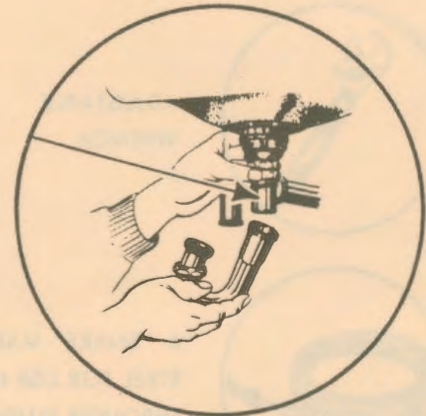
The trap of a tub or shower does not often become clogged although it can sometimes happen. If it does happen, it usually will be caused by objects such as hairpins. You will need to remove the trap and clean it out.

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