

FCS5234-04

Making Simple Repairs: Using a Plunger to Unstop a Toilet¹

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There may be a time when your toilet is stopped up; the water will not drain out. You may be able to unstop it by using a plunger.

There are two types of plungers.

1. One type pf plunger is specifically designed for a toilet. (Fig. 1)



2. One type of plunger does not have the center section. It can be used for other types of drains as well as for toilets. (Fig. 2)



How To Fix

- Inspect the toilet. Wear rubber gloves and try to remove anything that you see (such as a child's toy) that is stopping it up. Sometimes children put great quantities of tissue or other items in the toilet that can be removed with a coat hanger.
- If the toilet is still stopped up, use a plunger. Place the plunger over the hole in the bottom of the toilet. (Fig. 3)



After the plunger is properly in place:

1. Press down on the plunger slowly and pull it up quickly.

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- 2. Repeat the process about 20-30 times.
- 3. Remove the plunger and flush the toilet (or pour water in the bowl of the toilet).
- 4. If the water still backs up, bail the water out to keep it from overflowing. Use the plunger again.
- 5. This will usually solve the problem. If it does not, contact your landlord or call a plumber.