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KITCHEN & BATHROOM DRAINAGE ISSUES

TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

1. SLOW DRAINAGE (KITCHEN OR BATHROOM)

Clogged Pipes: One of the most common reasons for slow drainage is a clogged pipe. This can be caused by food debris in the kitchen (especially grease) or soap scum and hair in the bathroom.

How to Fix:

- Use a plunger and drain unblocker to try and dislodge the clog.
- Pour hot water down the drain to help dissolve grease or soap buildup (in the kitchen or bathroom).

Drain Trap Blockage: The drain trap (often located under the sink) can collect debris over time, which might slow down drainage.

How to Fix:

- Turn off the water supply.
- Remove the drain trap under the sink (using a wrench if necessary).
- Clear out any debris or blockages.

2. BAD ODOR FROM DRAINS (KITCHEN OR BATHROOM)

Bacterial Build-up: Organic matter like food particles (in the kitchen) or hair and soap (in the bathroom) can create a breeding ground for bacteria, which can cause unpleasant odors.

How to Fix:

- Clean your drain regularly by using a mix of baking soda and vinegar followed by hot water.
- Pour some bleach or a drain cleaner into the drain to kill any bacteria or mold.

Dry P-Trap: If a sink has not been used for some time, the P-trap can dry out, causing sewer gases to escape through the drain.

How to Fix:

- Run water down the drain to refill the P-trap and prevent the odor from escaping.

3. GURGLING NOISES (KITCHEN OR BATHROOM)

Clogged Vent Pipe: Gurgling sounds often occur when there's a partial clog in the vent pipe, preventing air from flowing freely through the system.

Blockage in the Drain Pipe: A slow-moving drain with a partial blockage can create air bubbles and gurgling sounds as water struggles to move through.

How to Fix:

- Use a plunger and drain unblocker to clear any blockages.
- If necessary, remove the drain trap to check for blockages.

4. STANDING WATER (KITCHEN OR BATHROOM)

Clogged Drain: If there's standing water in the sink, it's usually due to a clog somewhere in the drain pipe.

How to Fix:

- Use a plunger and drain unblocker to dislodge the clog.

Sewer Line Issues: In some cases, standing water can be caused by a blockage in the main sewer line.

How to Fix:

- If you suspect a blockage in the main sewer line (e.g., you have multiple drains backing up), it's best to contact your landlord to assess the situation.

5. LEAKS AROUND THE SINK (KITCHEN OR BATHROOM)

Loose Drain Connections: If you notice water pooling around the sink, the issue could be a loose connection between the drain pipe and the sink.

How to Fix:

- Inspect the drain pipe connections for any signs of leaks.

Cracked Sink or Pipes: A cracked sink or pipe could be leaking water and causing pooling.

How to Fix:

- Check the sink and pipes for visible cracks. If the sink or pipe is cracked, please contact your landlord, it may need to be replaced.
- Faulty Fittings/Taps: Sometimes, the leak may not come from the drain but from the Fitting(s)/Taps itself.

6. BLOCKED KITCHEN SINK DRAIN

Grease Buildup: Grease from cooking often builds up inside kitchen drain pipes, which can quickly lead to blockages.

How to Fix:

Never pour grease or oils down the sink. If you do have a grease buildup, pour a mixture of baking soda and vinegar down the drain, followed by boiling water to clear the clog.

Food Debris: Food particles can also build up and block the drain.

How to Fix:

- Regularly use a drain strainer to catch food particles.
- Clean the drain regularly by flushing it with hot water or a natural cleaning solution (e.g., vinegar and baking soda).

7. BLOCKED BATHROOM SINK OR SHOWER DRAIN

Hair Clogs: Hair is the most common cause of blockages in bathroom sinks or shower drains.

How to Fix:

- Use a plunger and drain unblocker to remove hair clogs from the drain.
- A simple and natural solution is to pour a mixture of baking soda and vinegar down the drain, followed by hot water to help break up hair and soap scum.

Soap Scum: Soap scum can build up in the drain over time, slowing down water flow.

How to Fix:

- Use a mixture of vinegar and hot water to clean soap scum from the drain.

8. GENERAL DRAIN MAINTENANCE TIPS

- **Clean Drains Regularly:** Pour boiling water down your kitchen and bathroom drains once a week to help prevent buildup.
- **Use Drain Screens:** Install screens or strainers in your sinks and showers to catch food particles, hair, and other debris before they enter the drain.
- **Avoid Harsh Chemicals:** While chemical drain cleaners can sometimes clear blockages, they can also cause damage to your pipes. Opt for more natural or gentle cleaning methods when possible.

WHEN TO CALL A PROFESSIONAL

If your drain problems persist despite troubleshooting, or if you suspect a major issue (like a clog in the main sewer line), it's best to contact your landlord.

Issues like persistent backups, sewer odors, or repeated gurgling require professional assessment to avoid further damage or potential health hazards.

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LOG MAINTENANCE REQUEST