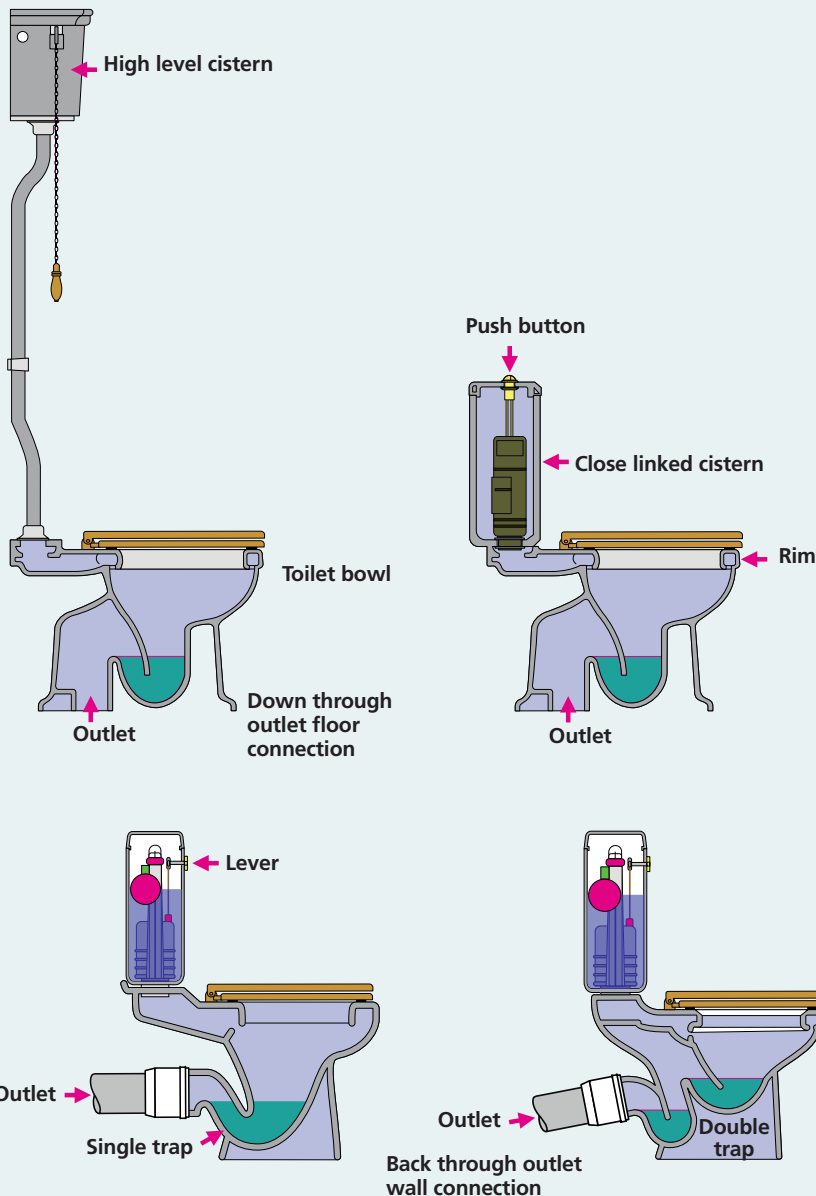


# How to...

# unblock a toilet

## Signs of a blocked toilet



If the water takes a long time to drain out of the toilet bowl, or the water is rising towards the rim, this is a sign that your toilet has a blockage in the soil pipe. You need to urgently find the cause of the blockage before it becomes unusable.

### Some of the common causes of a blockage:

- Using too much toilet paper or using kitchen tissue paper, which doesn't dissolve like normal toilet paper.
- Disposal of sanitary towels, nappies or wet wipes.
- Children's toys and household waste.

If you know the cause of the blockage, it is a lot easier to solve the problem.

# How to... unblock a toilet

## Tools and equipment needed for unblocking a toilet

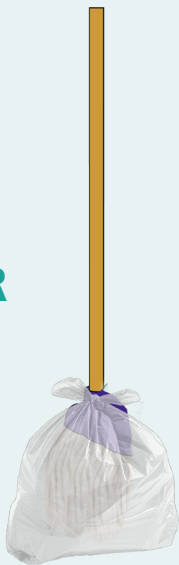
Plungers come in different sizes. They're one of the best ways to clear a blockage from a toilet. If there is a solid blockage within the pipe, you will need different equipment. Alternatively, you will need to get professional help.



Kitchen gloves

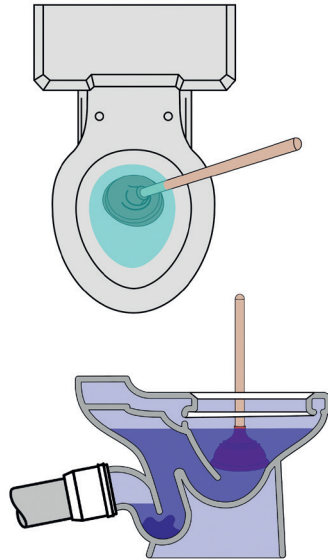
Plunger

OR



If you haven't got a plunger use a mop with a bag over it. Make sure it's tied securely.

## Step 1:

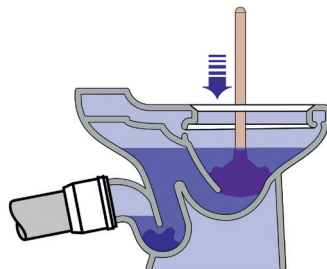


If there is no water inside the toilet bowl, you need to get a bucket of water and fill up the toilet bowl halfway to the rim.

When you use the plunger, it will force the water down through the trap and out of the outlet into the soil pipe, hopefully releasing the blockage.

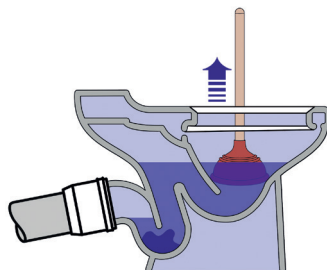
Place the plunger over the trap outlet inside the bowl, so that no air or water can pass through the rubber cup.

## Step 2:



Push down gently, then pull up without releasing the suction around the trap outlet.

Increase the force gently until the water starts to recede. You may have to add more water to the bowl and repeat the process until the blockage is clear.



If you're happy that you have removed the blockage, then take out the plunger before flushing the toilet to see if the flow has returned to normal.

Flush the toilet a couple of times to double check. If the blockage has gone, wash the plunger inside the bowl and pull the flush. Now your plunger is clean and ready if you need to use it in the future.

**If you are unsuccessful in removing the blockage, you will need to get professional help.**

# How to... unblock a toilet

## Unblocking a toilet with baking soda

Another way to unblock a toilet is to use baking soda which comes in a powder or crystal form.

When mixing white vinegar with baking soda, it starts a chemical reaction, which is also used for descaling and removing dirt within a pipes.



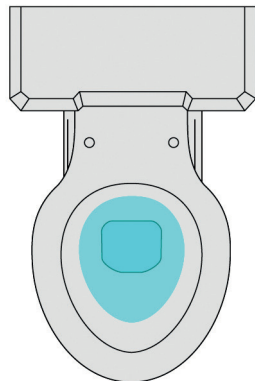
**Do not use this method if your toilet is connected to a septic tank or cesspit. The chemicals involved could destroy the enzymes that make it work properly.**

### Step 1:

Pour half a cup of baking soda into the toilet bowl.

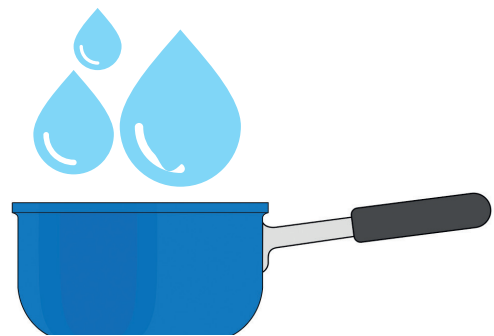


1/2 cup



### Step 2:

Heat 2 to 3 litres of water in a large saucepan.

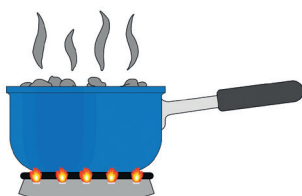


### Step 3:

Add half a cup of white vinegar before the water boils.



1/2 cup



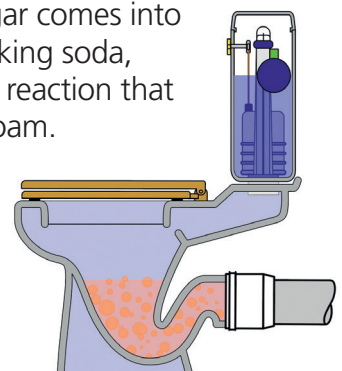
Carry the saucepan to the toilet. Take great care when doing so because the pan and liquid will be extremely hot.

### Step 4:

Carefully pour the water into the toilet bowl and close the lid.

When the hot vinegar comes into contact with the baking soda, it causes a chemical reaction that generates a lot of foam.

Wait for 30 minutes then flush the toilet.



**If you are unsuccessful in removing the blockage, you will need to get professional help.**