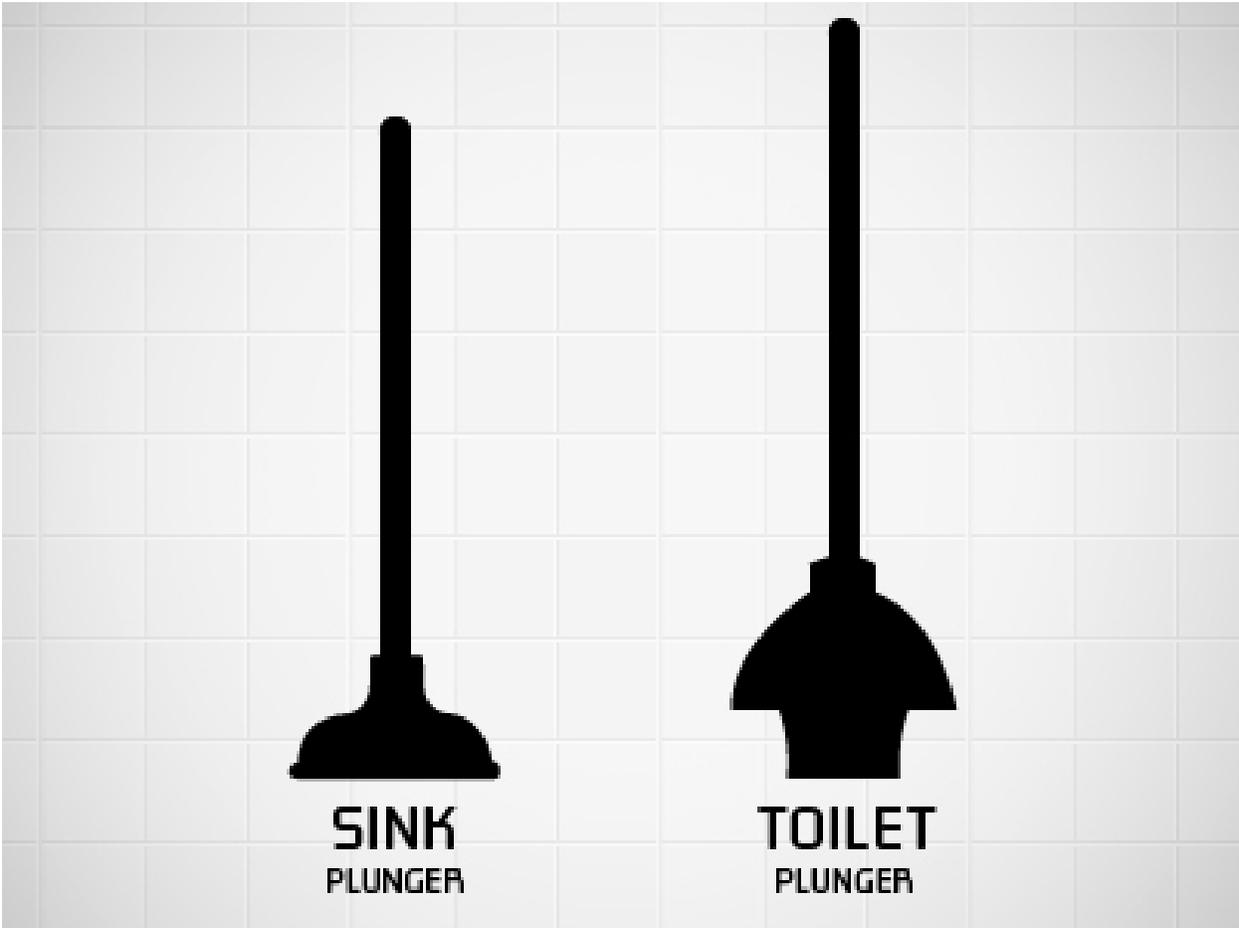


Resources – Home Repair

How to Pick the Perfect Plunger to Unclog Your Drain



## How to Pick the Perfect Plunger to Unclog Your Drain

<http://www.pitzersonehour.com/blog/article/how-to-pick-the-perfect-plunger-to-unclog-your-drain/>



Clogs are really annoying, no matter where they are. That's why we wrote a blog on [how to prevent annoying clogs](#).

But let's say that you've got one right now. Did you know you could be using the wrong plunger for the job?

The two main types of plungers are:

- Cup/Sink Plungers
- Flange/Toilet Plungers

Let's talk about each of these in detail so you'll know which to use for each DIY plumbing job and why. We'll even give you some plunging tips n' tricks to get the job done.

### **Cup/Sink Plungers**

The red rubber [cup plungers](#) are what most people think of when they think they need a plunger.



*(picture from Amazon)*

However, you shouldn't use this plunger for your toilet because it can't properly form a seal in the toilet to create suction.

The drains this plunger works best on are:

- Kitchen sinks
- Bathroom sinks
- Bathtubs

Basically, the cup plunger works well whenever you have a flat surface that the cup can easily form a seal around.

## Flange/Toilet Plungers

The [flange plunger](#) is designed specifically to unblock toilets. The flange (the rubber flap) can be folded out to fit snugly into the opening at the bottom of the toilet bowl in order to create the suction you need to loosen the clog.



*(picture from Amazon)*

While the flap can be folded in to be used just like the cup plunger, we'd suggest you keep a flange plunger specifically for the toilet and the cup plunger for less crappy jobs.

## Plunger Tips n' Tricks

So, now that you know where each plunger needs to be used, here are some tips n' tricks that will make you feel like a professional plumber:

- **Plunge up-and-down-** Keep the plunger handle straight and vertical. Tilting the plunger at an angle won't allow you to get the proper force you need and the seal can come loose.
- **Get air out of the plunger cup-** If you leave too much air in the cup, that air will compress every time you push the plunger down, acting like a shock absorber. That means the clog won't receive as much force. Let the plunger fill with water so it can add more force with each plunge.
- **Make sure the plunger is submerged-** There should be enough water in whatever you're trying to unclog in order for the plunger to be submerged, otherwise, the previous tip won't work. If the clog is on your toilet drain, don't flush it to add water unless you want to create a mess. Add enough water from a bucket until you can submerge the plunger.
- **Never use plungers after using toxic cleaning chemicals-** Plunging can create lots of backsplash, so don't use a plunger in tandem with toxic cleaning chemicals like Drano (which we don't recommend using, anyway), or you'll want get it on your clothes or skin.

### What if a plunger does not work?

If the plunger does not work, you need to use more aggressive means. We don't recommend using things like Drano because they hurt the environment and can possibly burn and damage your skin, eyes, and pipes.

You could use a mechanical snake, but those can actually compress or enlodge the clog, making things worse.

If you've got a stubborn plunger resistant clog, then your best bet is to [call a professional plumber](#).