



## **BLOCKED DRAINS**

Whether it be a blocked toilet, basin, shower, drain grate, sewer or stormwater blockage; Smith Brothers Plumbing has the experience and technology to determine the cause and location to fix the problem as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Blocked or overflowing drains not only smell and are inconvenient, but are also potentially serious health risks. Stagnant water, particularly waste water breeds bacteria.

Extensive damage from flooding can happen during heavy rain with blocked stormwater drains.

Blocked drains don't happen overnight, they usually build up over time so take the time to understand why drains block and how you can help prevent the problem, saving yourself inconvenience and money.

### **Causes of Blocked Drains**

- Trees planted too close to sewer and stormwater pipes clog pipes with tree roots and can eventually damage the pipe work.
- Fat, oil and grease solidify and stick to the inside of drains catching solids and gradually cause blockages. Never disposed of down the sink.
- Large amounts of hair clogs drains. Prevent hair going down shower or basin drains.
- Excessive toilet paper is a common cause of a blocked toilet.
- Cement or plaster from repairs disposed of down drains.
- Nappy liners, sanitary pads and tampons disposed of down the toilet. Put in the bin instead.
- Aging or broken pipes in old homes.
- Ground movement and reactive soils causing broken pipes.

### **Detecting Blocked Drains**

Blocked drains generally don't happen overnight, they get gradually worse until they completely block and it is an emergency call out at an inopportune time. If you suspect you have a drain that is partially blocked, call us to clear it as soon as possible, don't wait. It will save you money by reducing the work involved and in some cases prevent damage to pipe work.

#### **Look out for:**

- Unpleasant smells coming up from drain grates.
- Gurgling or gulping sounds coming from the floor waste or toilet when water is in use.
- The water level in the toilet rising above or falling below normal levels.
- The outside drain overflowing, especially after the washing machine has been in use.
- The floor drain overflowing during a shower.
- Outside areas that are too wet with excessive plant or grass growth
- Areas where plants and trees have died from wet roots.
- Stagnant, undrained smelly water pooling in outside areas

### **Clearing Blockages**

Smith Brothers Plumbing operate equipment ranging from electric power drain cleaning machines to high velocity water jets to de-scale and/or de-root sewer or storm water drains from household pipe work to major sewer and stormwater assets.

In most cases, the high pressure drain cleaner reveal that tree roots searching for water have broken into the sewer or stormwater line and caused the blockage. In some cases a camera inspection of the line may be necessary to determine exactly where the problem is.

#### **Chemical Tree Root Treatment**

Tree roots are the most common cause of blocked drains in Australia. A combination of herbicides is placed in sewer drains as foam to eliminate roots and prevent further structural damage of the sewer pipe caused by live tree roots. Roots are killed and potential blockages are avoided. Only roots within the pipe and a very short distance outside the pipe are affected. Trees and shrubs immediately above ground are not harmed.

#### **Preventative Maintenance**

Have your sewer and stormwater drains checked regularly and follow up on any signs of blockage. Roots left growing in your pipes over a long period will eventually destroy your pipes and replacement will be necessary.

Preventative maintenance programmes can be designed to meet your budget and unique requirements. The program may include CCTV inspection, cleaning, leak detection, repairs, replacement, renovation (including re-lining), tree root inhibitor treatment or a combination of these.

#### **Reoccurring Blockages & Pipe Replacement**

For reoccurring blockages the CCTV drain camera can be utilised to locate the cause of the problem. As a specialist in drain cleaning and pipe management, we are confident that in 98% of sewer line blockages, we can clear the blockage effectively without digging or replacing the pipe work. This will save you money and the inconvenience of excavation or demolition.