

Household tips . . . Continued from Page 2

Stopped up sinks may never become a problem if you use preventive maintenance. Use a drain cover to catch lint and hair. Once a week, turn faucets on full-force to flush out material that might have collected.

If stoppage does occur, try a plunger first. Seal the sink's overflow opening with a rag. Remove the strainer.

Position the plunger over the opening and fill the sink with several inches of water.

Push / release ten to twelve times without breaking the suction. If this does not remove the clog, check the drain.

Remove the drainpipe with an adjustable wrench. Be sure there's a bucket underneath to catch water and debris.

Probe the pipes with a coat hanger or other heavy wire to remove any obstruction.

A portable light will prove invaluable in illuminating the dark, cramped work area under most sinks. Some, such as a First Alert Ready-Lite, can be stood on end so both hands are free to work. In addition, the head swivels 45 degrees up and 45 degrees down to direct the beam wherever it's needed so no "helper" is necessary to hold the light.

If the above steps fail, call a plumber.

Knowing how to replace a fuse is essential to household harmony. The two most important items to have on hand are more fuses and a flashlight. New rechargeable lights like First Alert Ready-Lite can be plugged into electrical outlets so they're easy to find—even in the dark. Because Ready-Lite stores up power, it can be operated for more than two and a half hours—plenty of time to complete most household jobs.

First, find the fusebox—usually located in the basement of houses and on a wall in apartments. Older residences have screw-in fuses with glass windows that let you quickly identify the blown fuse.

Unplug the appliance that caused the fuse to blow (usually the last one turned on.)

Replace the blown fuse with one of the same amps.

If the fuse blows again and the offending appliance is unplugged, there may be a problem in the wiring. Call an electrician.

Newer buildings have circuit breakers, a series of switches that open to break the electric current when overloaded. Again, it is important to unplug the offending appliance first, then reset the switch.

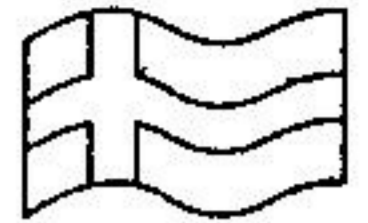
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