

Home Improvement Tips

Solutions for bathtub and clogged toilets

Today's Beaver home improvement tip is about how to unstop bathtub drains and clogged toilets.

To unstop bathtub drains, try running the hot water for 5 to 10 minutes. If that doesn't work, the next step is to try using a plunger on the drain, remembering first to plug the overflow outlet so the plunger suction can work.

If the plunger doesn't solve the problem, the drain trap cover will have to be

removed. The drain is usually mounted directly underneath the tub, and removing the drain trap cover can be tricky. First, apply a good grade of penetrating oil to the drain trap cover. Let it sit for a while and then try to remove the trap cover with a large wrench. If it still won't budge, it may be necessary to cut notches on the cover edge with a hacksaw - then you could try using a hammer and punch or a chisel to move the cover. Once the cover is removed, try a

drain auger to unclog stopped pipes.

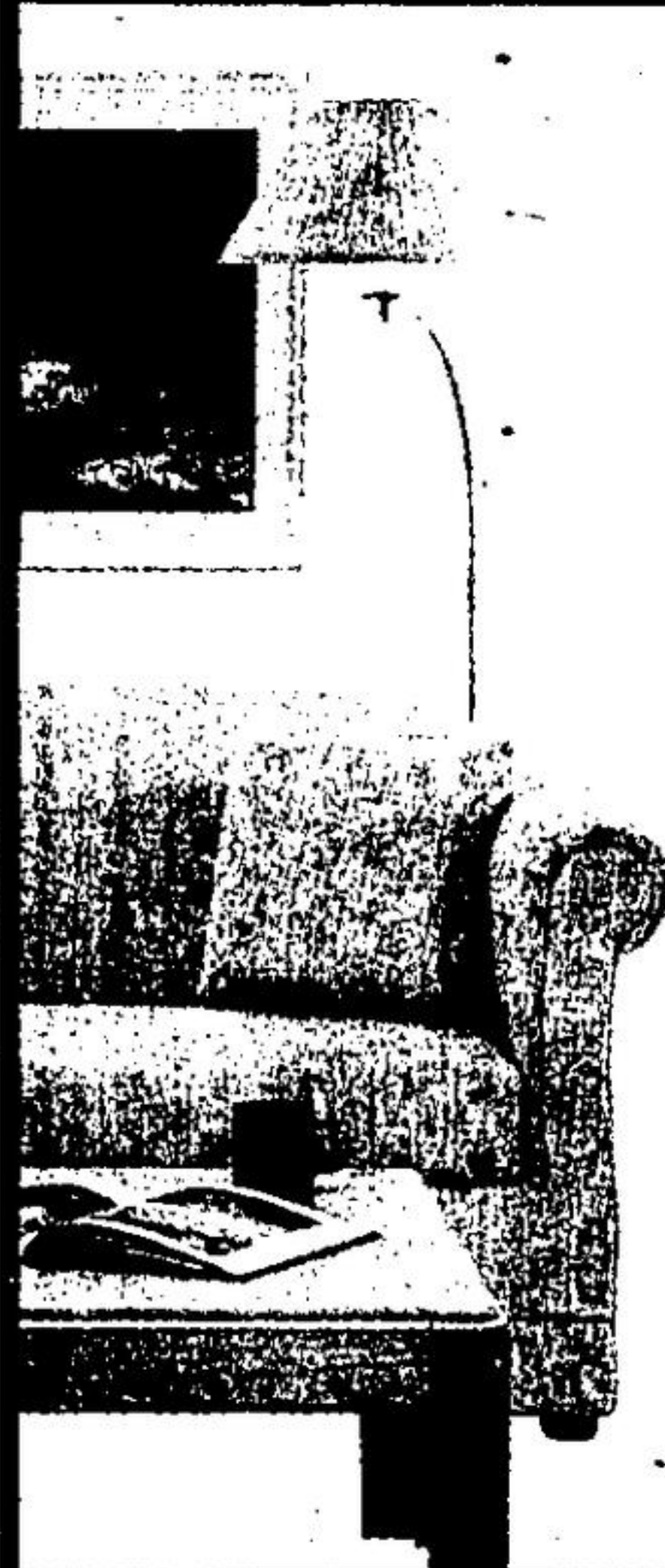
In most cases, a toilet can be unclogged using a plunger. Be sure to have sufficient water in the toilet bowl when using a plunger. If the plunger doesn't work, try using the auger or plumber's snake in the bowl and continue to crank it until it becomes tight. This cranking and pulling action will usually solve the problem and remove the clog. If neither the plunger, auger or snake

work, it may be necessary to remove the toilet from the floor, turn it upside down and force the obstruction out from the top or bottom. If you do have to remove the toilet from the floor, use either a pre-formed "o" ring or fresh plumber's putty when resealing the toi-

let on the floor.

Good luck, and remember, if you need further advice or assistance, pick up a brochure or talk to the approachable home improvement experts at Beaver Lumber.

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