



Tips and trends for homeowners, buyers and sellers

## Can You Fix Your Own Plumbing?

**P**lumbing work can be costly, depending upon how complicated the problem is. To save money, it may make sense to tackle a smaller scale plumbing project yourself. Here's a guide on when you can do plumbing yourself and when you should pick up the phone to call for assistance.

### When to do it yourself



**Clearing out a backed-up drain** — If you have a drain that's running

slow, try pouring boiling water in the sink, followed by half a cup of baking soda. Let that combination sit for a bit, then follow up with one cup of vinegar and one cup of hot water. You'll want to block the drain to make sure the fizzing happens in the drain.



**Fixing a running toilet** — Did you know that

a running toilet can waste upwards of 200 gallons of water a day? This problem is usually caused by a faulty flapper valve. You'll want to find an exact replacement of your flapper valve, turn off the water, drain the tank and replace the valve.

**Unclogging a toilet** —

A plunger can be one of your most useful household items. This is what you will want to use first when attempting to unclog a toilet at home. If this doesn't do the trick, try using a snake or auger, which you can pick up from any hardware store.



### When to call a professional



**Any kind of leak** — A leak may seem like a small problem, but there's always a chance that this seemingly small leak is leading to a larger issue. To save yourself from any future frustration, call a plumber to come out.



**Major appliance installations** — A licensed plumber will be able to properly install major appliances or fixtures. They will be able to troubleshoot problems that may come up, properly disconnect and reconnect pipes, as well as fix any damage sustained during the install.

## Say Yes to CRS

Buying or selling a home can seem like an overwhelming task. But the right REALTOR® can make the process easier—and more profitable.

A Certified Residential Specialist (CRS), with years of experience and success, will help you make smart decisions in a fast-paced, complex and competitive marketplace.

To earn the CRS Designation, REALTORS® must demonstrate outstanding professional achievements—including high-volume sales—and pursue advanced training in areas such as finance, marketing and technology. They must also maintain membership in the National Association of REALTORS® and abide by its Code of Ethics.

Work with a top-producing REALTOR®—contact a CRS today.



**BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE THOMSEN TEAM, A MEMBER OF THE RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE COUNCIL**