

WORST-CASE SCENARIO.

HOW TO UNCLOG THE OFFICE TOILET WITHOUT A PLUNGER

- 1 Wait several minutes.**
Often clogs will resolve themselves with time.
- 2 Prepare more water.**
Hold a full pitcher of water three feet above the rim of the bowl.
- 3 Pour and flush.**
Pour the water into the bowl as you flush the toilet. The added water and pressure increases the force of the flush.
- 4 Check the bowl.**
If it is still clogged, continue.
- 5 Get a wire coat hanger.**
Untwist the hanger until it is relatively straight.
- 6 Tie a small hand towel to the hanger.**
Create a loop at one end of the hanger to give you a better grip. Tie the hand towel in a knot at the other end. The knot should be approximately the same size as the opening at the bottom of the bowl. Make another small loop in the hanger just below the towel to prevent it from sliding off.

7 **Push the hanger through the clog.**
Continue pushing as far as you can.

8 **Plunge.**
Move the hanger up and down and in small circles to clear the clog.

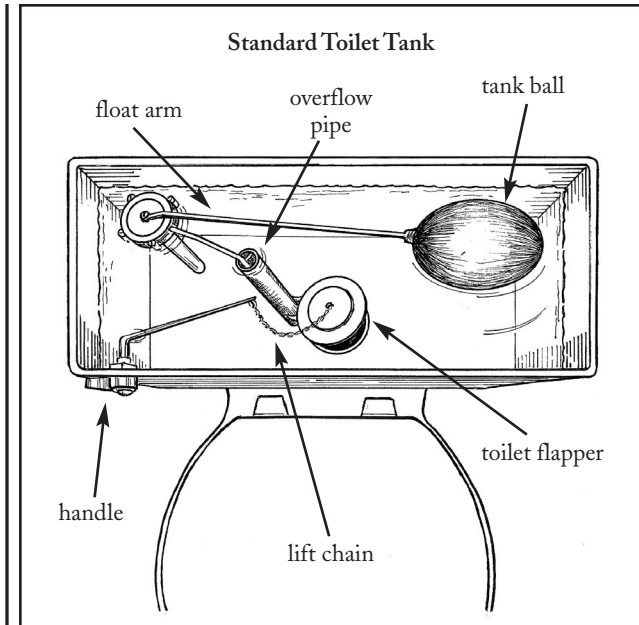
9 **Withdraw the hanger.**

10 **Flush.**
If the clog does not clear, wait 10 minutes, then repeat steps 7 through 10. If the water level in the bowl remains high and close to the rim, do not try to flush the toilet.

IF PUSHING THE HANDLE DOES NOT FLUSH THE TOILET

1 **Remove the toilet tank lid.**
If the toilet does not have a tank—often the case with high-pressure toilets in office buildings—do not try to fix a non-flushing toilet. Just leave and call maintenance.

2 **Check the back of the handle.**
The handle should be connected inside the tank to one end of the “lift chain,” or to a thin rod (float arm) connected to the chain. At its other end, the lift chain should be connected to the toilet flapper. One of the connections is most likely broken.



3 **Turn off the water.**
Turn the water off at the valve just below the tank. Put on a pair of thick rubber gloves.

4 **Pull up the lift chain.**
Tank water may be contaminated with waste if the trap seal is broken. Using your gloved hand or a hanger, pull up the chain. The toilet will flush. If the water supply is still on, the tank will begin filling quickly, so you will need to work fast.

5 Re-connect the flapper and chain.

Attach the chain to the handle using a paperclip, safety pin, or twist tie.

6 Turn the water back on.

7 Wash your hands thoroughly.

Use antibacterial soap or hydrogen peroxide.

Be Aware

Occasionally the toilet will not flush because the flapper has become dislodged and is not seating properly, causing the water to keep running into the bowl and the tank to remain empty. Jiggle the handle slightly to reseal the flapper properly.

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