



Overview

When addressing blocked sewer and drain applications, it is important to consider what you are trying to remove from drains. There are a variety of products that can be used to solve the same problem. In many instances it comes down to preference, speed and type of product (i.e., acids, caustics, natural, neutral, solvent).

It's important to know what category each product falls into and how it can be matched to specific sewer and drain problems.

	Food	Grease	Hair	Motor/Crude Oil	Organic Matter	Paper	Cotton Rags	Sanitary Napkins	Mineral Scale	Sediment	Sludge	Soap Scum	Uric Salts	X-Ray Film Residue	Rubber-Safe	ABS/PVC-Safe	Septic Safe	USDA Authorized	Salmonella Free
Acid																			
Cobra*†	X		X		X	X	X	X								X		X	
Free Flow**									X			X	X			X	X	X	
Alkaline																			
Zep® Alkaline Drain Cleaner†	X	X	X		X						X	X			X	X	X		
So-Drox	X	X	X	X	X						X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Torpedo	X	X	X		X						X	X		X	X	X	X		
Zak†	X	X	X	X	X	X					X								
Biological																			
Carnivate†	X	X	X		X						X	X			X	X	X	X	X
DF5000	X	X			X						X				X	X	X		X
Heave-Ho†	X	X			X						X				X	X	X		X
Hi-Bred†	X	X			X						X				X	X	X		X
Power Pill	X	X			X						X				X	X	X		X
Zymox†	X	X			X						X				X	X	X		X
Solvent																			
Clean Buoy	X	X		X	X					X	X	X						X	
Mask†		X		X							X								X
Squeeky†	X	X		X	X					X	X	X						X	X
Surge†	X	X		X	X					X	X	X						X	

*Sulphuric Acid **Hydrochloric Acid †Not available in Canada

Acid – pH between 1 and 4. Good for removing mineral deposits, rust, paper, hard water deposits and uric acid salts. Will etch metals, diamond plate, aluminum, galvanized steel or other active metals. Very corrosive to skin, hands and eyes.

Caustic – pH greater than 13. Heavy caustic openers are designed for hair, grease, carbon, soils, fats, slime and sludge. The main ingredient is usually potassium hydroxide (KOH, potash) or sodium hydroxide (NaOH, caustic soda).

Biological – pH neutral. Products that contain live enzymes and bacteria. Very safe to use. They digest greases, fats, food, waste and other organic materials. These products are not fast drain openers and are considered maintainers. They are sensitive to conditions like extremely hot water (over 180°F), bleach or disinfectants.

Solvent – pH not applicable. Contain petroleum or d-limonene-based solvent. Great on greases, oils and fats. Usually flammable. d-limonene has an excellent citrus fragrance and can help deodorize a drain line or grease trap.