

Summary Report for Individual Task  
052-12K-1012  
Clear Waste System Stoppages  
Status: Approved

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**Distribution Restriction:** Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

**Destruction Notice:** None

**Foreign Disclosure: FD5** - This product/publication has been reviewed by the product developers in coordination with the installation/activity name foreign disclosure authority. This product is releasable to students from all requesting foreign countries without restrictions.

**Condition:** Given a mission to clear waste system stoppages, a structure with one or multiple waste system stoppages, completed service water and sewer system, construction or field prints (if available), pipe fitters tool kit 1/8 to 2 inch, pipe fitters tool kit 2 to 4 inch, tool kit carpenters squad, tool kit pioneer engineer squad, goggles/safety glasses and appropriate doctrine. This task should not be trained in MOPP 4.

**Standard:** Clear all waste system stoppages without causing damage to the system, structure, equipment and without injury to personnel.

**Special Condition:** None

**Safety Risk:** Medium

**MOPP 4:** Never

<b>Task Statements</b>
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**Cue:** Soldier receives a mission to clear waste system stoppages.

<b>DANGER</b>
None

<b>WARNING</b>
None

<b>CAUTION</b>
Repeated disassembly and assembly of the plumbing components can lead to premature failure. It is recommended that this task be trained at the facility designated for this purpose.

**Remarks:** None

**Notes:** - If available the Soldier should review the construction or field prints to determine possible areas for stoppages and access points to assist in clearing the stoppages.

- This task may be trained with simulated stoppages. The Soldier performing the task may be directed to perform the steps necessary to clear the stoppages on one or more of the fixtures available at the structure.

## Performance Steps

1. Determine the drains or lines with stoppages.

- a. Check for standing water in fixtures or drains.
- b. Run service water into fixtures or drains until water backs up or pools.

2. Clears stoppages in fixtures.

Note: Soldier may choose one or both, mechanical or chemical methods to clear the stoppages. When using the chemical method, follow the manufactures directions and ensure proper protective equipment is worn (at a minimum eye protection, respirator and rubber gloves).

a. Clear a stoppage in a water closet.

(1) Clear a stoppage using a plunger.

(a) Pump the plunger up and down until the water level drops.

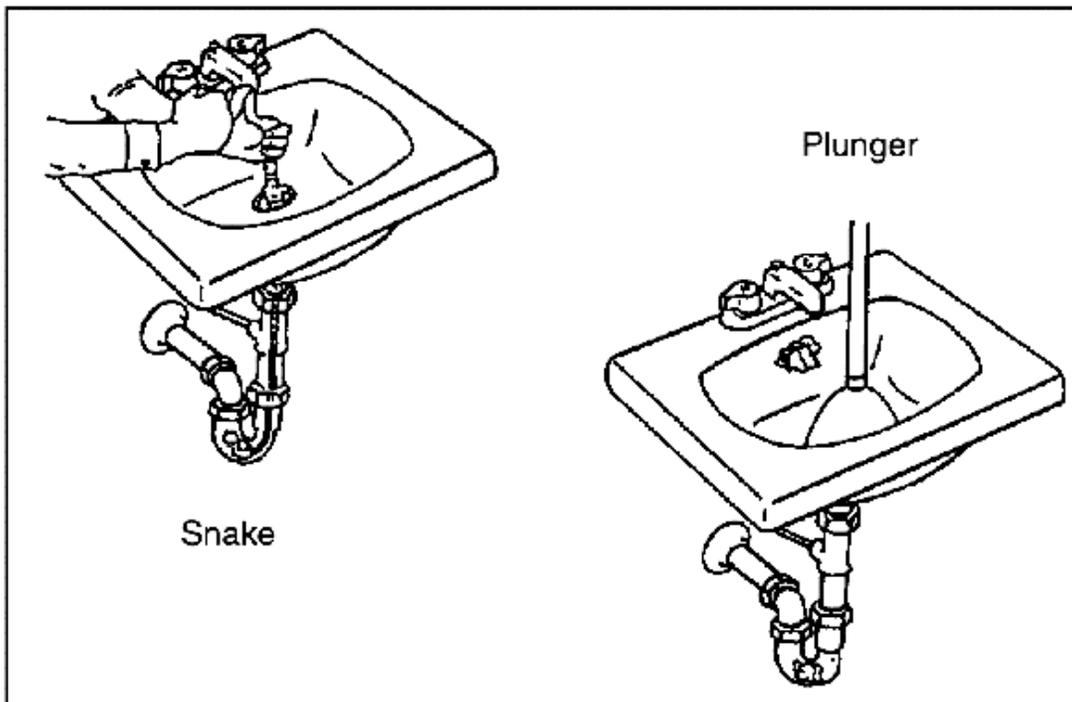
(b) Place toilet paper in the bowl and flush the water closet to check if the stoppage is cleared.

(2) Clear a stoppage using a water-closet snake.

(a) Push the snake into the bowl, and turn the handle clockwise with a push-pull action until the water level drops.

(b) Place toilet paper in the bowl and flush the water closet to check if the stoppage is cleared.

b. Clear a stoppage in a lavatory P-trap.



052-12K-1012-1  
Lavatory P-Trap

(1) Clear a stoppage using a plunger.

(a) Place a wet rag in the bowl's overflow opening.

(b) Remove the plug (on lavatories with a pop-up plug).

(c) Set the plunger over the waste outlet, and push it up and down until the water completely drains out of the bowl.

(d) Remove the rag from the overflow opening, and replace the pop-up plug.

(2) Clear a stoppage using a snake, 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide.

(a) Remove the plug (on lavatories with a pop-up plug).

(b) Push the snake down into the waste outlet as far as it will go.

(c) Perform a push-pull and turning action with the snake until the water completely drains out of the bowl.

c. Clear a stoppage in a lavatory drain line.

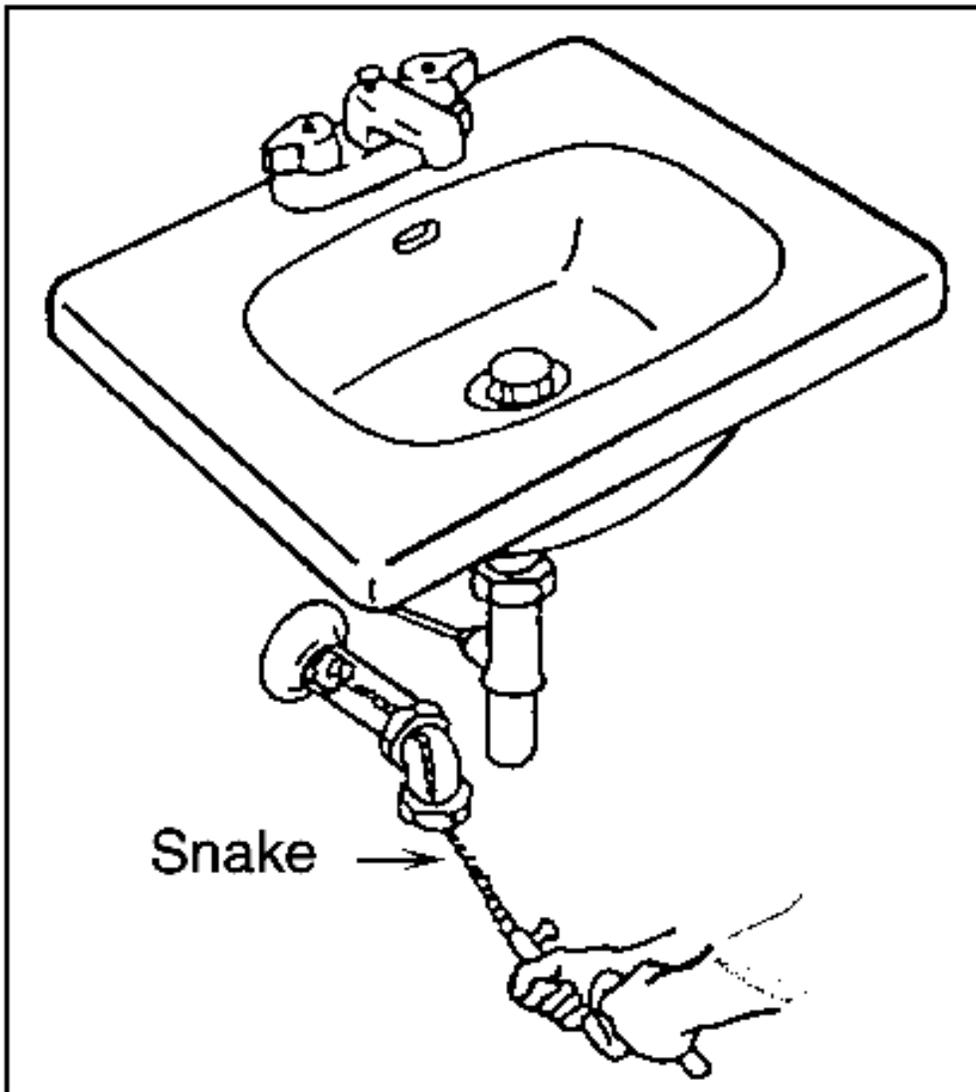


Figure 052-12K-1012-2  
Lavatory Drain Line

- (1) Place a bucket under the P-trap to catch the water spillage, and disassemble the P-trap.
- (2) Push the snake into the drain line, turning it with a push-pull action until it moves freely.
- (3) Remove the snake, replace the P-trap, and turn on the water service.

d. Clear a stoppage in a urinal with an exposed P-trap.

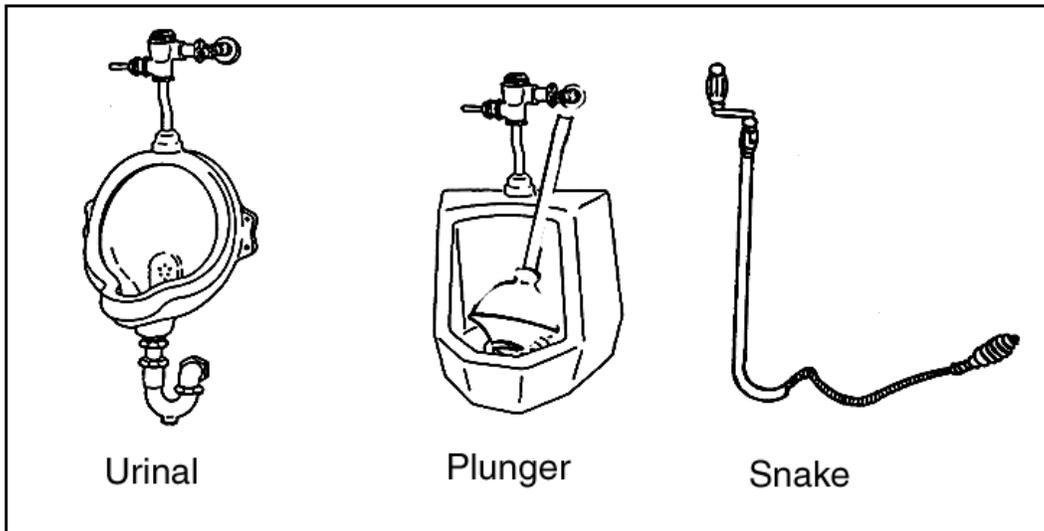


Figure 052-12K-1012-3  
Urinal With an Exposed P-Trap

(1) Clear a stoppage using a plunger.

(a) Place a wet rag in the bowl's overflow opening.

(b) Place the plunger over the waste outlet and push it up and down until the water completely drains out of the bowl.

(c) Remove the rag from the overflow opening.

(2) Clear a stoppage using a snake, 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide.

(a) Push the snake down into the waste outlet as far as it will go.

(b) Perform a push-pull and turning action until the water completely drains out of the bowl.

e. Clear a stoppage in a urinal with a water seal.

(1) Clear a stoppage using a plunger.

(a) Pump the plunger up and down until the water level drops.

(b) Place toilet paper in the bowl, and flush the water closet to check if the stoppage is cleared.

(2) Clear a stoppage using a snake, 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide.

(a) Push the snake into the bowl and turn the handle clockwise with a push-pull action until the water level drops.

(b) Place toilet paper in the bowl, and flush the water closet to check if the stoppage has cleared.

f. Clear a stoppage in a bathtub.

(1) Clear a stoppage in a bathtub P-trap drain using a 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide snake.

(a) Remove the stopper linkage and the overflow cover.

(b) Push a 1/4- to 1/2-inch-wide drain snake into the overflow opening until it meets resistance.

(c) Turn the snake using a push-pull motion until it turns freely.

(d) Remove the snake, turn on the water supply, and check to see if the stoppage has cleared.

(e) Replace the overflow cover and the linkage.

(2) Clear a stoppage in a bathtub drum-trap drain using a 1/1 to 1/2 inch wide snake.

(a) Remove the drum-trap cover and gasket, and push a 1/4- to 1/2-inch-wide snake into the trap's lower line to search for stoppage.

(b) Clear any stoppage. If no stoppage is found in the lower line, remove the snake and push it into the upper line.

(c) Turn the snake with a push-pull action to remove the stoppage.

(d) Replace the gasket cover, turn on the water service, and check to see if the stoppage has cleared.

g. Clear a stoppage in a shower drain using a 1/4-inch to 1/2-inch-wide snake.

(1) Remove the strainer from the drain.

(2) Push the snake into the drain, and turn the snake with a push-pull action until it moves.

(3) Remove the snake, and replace the strainer.

Note: Clear a stoppage in a floor drain the same as in a shower drain. A floor drain may have the strainer cemented to the floor. If so, remove it by chipping the cement around the strainer. Once the stoppage is cleared, cement the strainer back in place.

3. Clear a stoppage in a branch line and a main line.

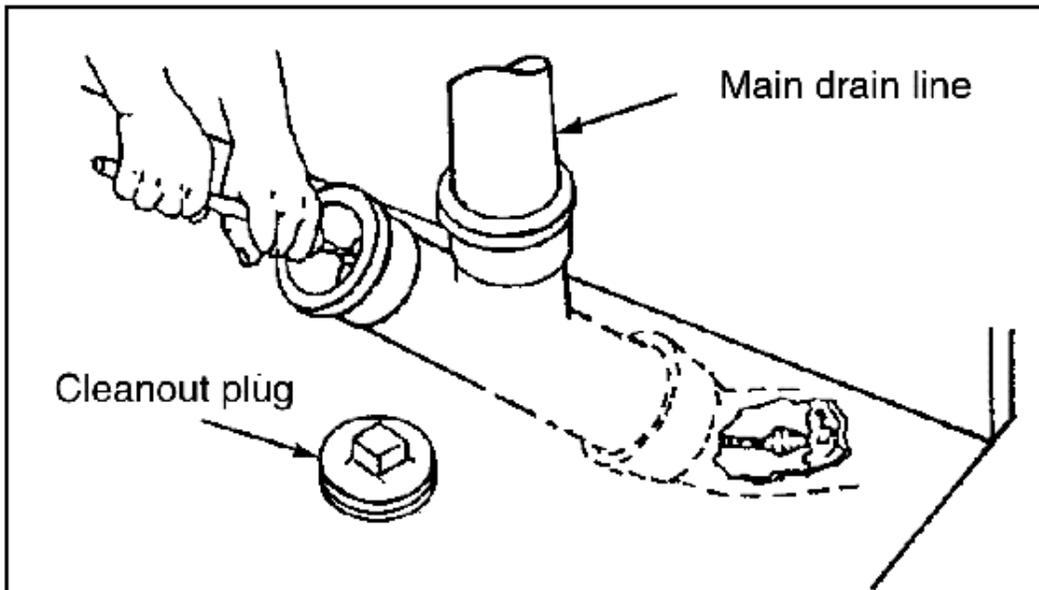


Figure 052-12K-1012-4  
Branch and Main Line

a. Clear a stoppage in a branch line.

- (1) Remove the closest cleanout plug.
- (2) Clear the stoppage using a snake.
- (3) Replace the cleanout plug.

b. Clear a stoppage in a main line.

- (1) Remove the closest cleanout plug.
- (2) Clear the stoppage using a 3/4- to 1-inch-wide heavy-duty snake.
- (3) Replace the cleanout plug.

4. Clear stoppage from a grease trap.

- a. Remove the top cover and dip out the grease with a ladle.
- b. Scrape the walls and bottom after the grease is scooped out.
- c. Flush with clear water.

(Asterisks indicates a leader performance step.)

**Evaluation Guidance:** Score the Soldier GO if all steps are passed (P). Score the soldier NO-GO if any step is failed (F). If the soldier fails any step, show him how to do it correctly.

**Evaluation Preparation:** Setup: Provide the Soldier with the items listed in the conditions. Brief soldier: Tell the soldier that he will be required to complete the performance measures according to the standards set forth in the task.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO-GO	N/A
1. Determined the drains or lines with stoppages.			
2. Cleared stoppages in fixtures.			
3. Cleared stoppages in branch and main lines.			
4. Cleared stoppage from a grease trap.			

**Supporting Reference(s):**

Step Number	Reference ID	Reference Name	Required	Primary
	TM 3-34.70	Plumbing, Pipe Fitting, and Sewerage	Yes	No

**Environment:** Environmental protection is not just the law but the right thing to do. It is a continual process and starts with deliberate planning. Always be alert to ways to protect our environment during training and missions. In doing so, you will contribute to the sustainment of our training resources while protecting people and the environment from harmful effects. Refer to FM 3-34.5 Environmental Considerations and GTA 05-08-002 ENVIRONMENTAL-RELATED RISK ASSESSMENT. Comply with unit Standing Operating Procedures (SOP), Operations Orders (OPORD), local regulations, and/or host nation laws for disposal of solid waste (i.e. scrap steel, plastic, and copper pipes etc.) generated by construction tasks.

**Safety:** In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with ATP 5-19, Risk Management. Leaders will complete the current Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheet in accordance with the TRADOC Safety Officer during the planning and completion of each task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). Note: During MOPP training, leaders must ensure personnel are monitored for potential heat injury. Local policies and procedures must be followed during times of increased heat category in order to avoid heat related injury. Consider the MOPP work/rest cycles and water replacement guidelines IAW FM 3-11.4, Multiservice Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) Protection, FM 3-11.5, Multiservice Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Decontamination. Soldier needs to wear all safety items while doing this task. All tools and unused material will be picked-up and stored in its proper area.

**Prerequisite Individual Tasks :** None

**Supporting Individual Tasks :**

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
052-12K-1061	Maintain Plumbing Tools	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Approved
052-248-1040	Interpret Plumbing Prints and Drawings	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Approved

**Supported Individual Tasks :** None

**Supported Collective Tasks :** None