



## Using the Drain Rods

1. Wear your protective equipment including dust mask and goggles.
2. Screw two or three rods together first, use your spanners to lock them tightly, then push the one end with the appropriate attachment, into the opening.
3. As you push each section through, attach another section and lock it tight. Remember to rotate the rods as you work.
4. If you are working on a drain or other pipe, do not work too far away from the mouth of the pipe when pushing the rods. If the rods jam they will flex and possibly break.
5. The rods are flexible but do not bend them too far. They will break and maybe cause injury.
6. If you are cleaning a chimney, be careful not to dislodge a brick or a chimney pot by pushing the rods too hard.
7. Stop work if someone approaches you.
8. Do not leave open manholes unattended. Replace the manhole or drain covers as soon as possible.
9. Always wash your hands when you stop work, for whatever reason, even if it's only for a short while.
10. Always clean the drain rods thoroughly before returning them to the hire company.
11. If your equipment does not work properly, do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

**Please store this leaflet safely. It may be required for further information**



Hire Association Europe  
2450 Regents Court  
The Crescent  
Birmingham Business Park  
Solihull B37 7YE

Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600  
Fax: 44 (0) 121 333 4109  
Email: [mail@hae.org.uk](mailto:mail@hae.org.uk)  
website: [www.hae.org.uk](http://www.hae.org.uk)

## Drain Rods

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

### It is important to read all of this leaflet BEFORE using the Drain Rods

1. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
2. Working in drains and manholes, or up chimneys can be hazardous. Take great care.
3. Dirty, stagnant water may contain harmful bacteria. Do not immerse your hands if you have cuts or open sores.
4. Drain rods are designed to clear blocked drain and soil pipes, or for cleaning chimneys. You must use the right attachment.
5. The action of these drain rods can cause injury or damage if not used in a careful and controlled way.
6. If you have not used drain rods before, familiarise yourself with the equipment before you start work.
7. You will need as a minimum the following items of personal protective equipment: goggles: EN166 or BS2092, Dust mask – a minimum of EN149 FFP3(s) protection; heavy duty waterproof gloves.
8. These drain rods must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
9. Drain rods are designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using them.



Every effort has been made by HAE/EHA to ensure that the information given in this document and supporting material is accurate and not misleading. HAE/EHA cannot accept responsibility for any loss or liability perceived to have arisen from the use of any such document/material. Only Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments have the force of law and only the courts can authoritatively interpret the law.

## DRAINS

1. Confined spaces like manholes that have no natural ventilation often have a build-up of noxious or toxic fumes. Make sure your place of work is safe.
2. If you are removing a manhole cover, use the correct manhole keys to lift it, take care, manhole covers are heavy.
3. Look for, and use, a rodding eye if there is no one near to where you suspect the drain blockage might be. A rodding eye is an extension of the pipe at its most susceptible point. Used purely for rodding blockages.

## CHIMNEYS

1. A large amount of soot will fall into the fireplace of any chimney you clean. Seal as much of the fireplace opening as possible. Move, or cover, furniture and valuables.
2. Be extra careful if the chimney is old, you may dislodge loose bricks or cement that will fall down the chimney or outside the building.
3. Remember soot will billow around like fine black dust, and minimise the mess and clean it away as soon as possible.

## Before Starting Work...



### WORK AREA

1. Make sure that your work area is clear and safe and that no-one is near to you or could distract you.
2. Protect other people from danger. Warn others to keep away, put barriers around your work area. You must put barriers around open manholes.

### OPERATORS

1. After using drain rods you must always wash your hands before you eat, drink, smoke or do anything else.
2. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever you use these drain rods. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
3. You must wear goggles (EN166 or BS2092) when you are working with drain rods. Remember the supported end will move while being bent.

4. You will need to wear an appropriate dust mask (with a minimum of EN149 FFP3(s) protection) when you are cleaning chimneys or when your work creates dust.
5. Wear heavy duty waterproof gloves.
6. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
7. Do not work in dirty water if you have exposed open cuts, cover them with waterproof plasters. Serious diseases can be caught from bacteria in dirty water.
8. If you report ill to your doctor after working in dirty water, tell him you were cleaning drains.

### DRAIN RODS

1. Check your drain rods and attachments. If anything is found damaged, do not use the drain rods – contact the car hire company.
2. If you plan to connect more than one set of rods together, you must check that they have the same end screw connections.

3. Screw each section of rod on tightly. Use spanners to do this, hand tight is not sufficient.
4. Twisting these drain rods round and round while pushing or pulling them inside a pipe helps to ease their progress. If you twist them the wrong way it can also unscrew them at any point and you may lose half your rods up the pipe.
5. Check what type of drain rods you have and which way to twist them to prevent them unscrewing. Check with the hire company.
6. Check on how your equipment works before you use it, you must understand it.

### ACCESSORIES

1. If you are cleaning a drainpipe, choose the best head (attachment) to fit on the end of the rod. Your hire company can supply you with a drill, cutter, brush, corkscrew, a wheel, or several other different attachments.
2. If you are cleaning a chimney you will need a suitable vacuum cleaner to clean up the last of the soot after you have removed the bulk of it. You will also need dust sheets, polythene sheet to seal the fireplace, a container for the soot and a circular sweep's brush.