

Cleanout Installation / Replacement

The Access Point Every Drain System Needs

When it comes to clearing clogs, performing inspections, or doing emergency repairs, a cleanout is your home's secret plumbing superhero. If you don't have one—or if the existing one is damaged—you're flying blind when it matters most.

Installing or replacing a cleanout gives you fast, safe access to your underground drain or sewer line. It's one of the smartest preventative plumbing investments a homeowner can make.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN OUR TECHNICIAN ARRIVES

Here's how your cleanout service visit will typically go:

1. **Initial Assessment & Location Scouting**
 - Confirm whether a cleanout exists and where
 - Evaluate layout of main drain line and access points
 - Use diagnostic tools or camera if needed
2. **Installation or Replacement Planning**
 - Mark location for the new cleanout if one isn't present
 - For replacements, determine whether the existing cleanout is broken, buried, or corroded
 - Discuss any access challenges (e.g., concrete, landscaping, slope)
3. **Excavation or Exposure**
 - Carefully dig to expose the drain pipe (usually 12–24 inches deep, more if under slab)
 - Protect surrounding structures and property
4. **Fitting & Sealing**
 - Install new two-way ABS or PVC cleanout with watertight fittings
 - Ensure proper slope, secure caps, and accessibility above ground
5. **Test & Backfill**
 - Run water or camera to verify clear access
 - Backfill, compact, and restore surface (basic fill-in included; landscaping or concrete extra)

Time Estimate:

- **2–4 hours** for typical installs
- Up to **6–8 hours** for deep, obstructed, or hard-to-access lines

WHAT IS THIS SERVICE / FIXTURE FOR? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

A **cleanout** is a capped pipe that provides direct access to your main sewer or drain line. Plumbers use it to insert drain snakes, hydro jetting hoses, or inspection cameras.

Why It's So Important:

- **Emergency Access:** Rapidly clears major backups without removing toilets or cutting pipes
- **Prevention Tool:** Makes regular maintenance and inspections simple
- **Cost Control:** Without a cleanout, clearing clogs or diagnosing issues can be messy, invasive, and expensive
- **Code Compliance:** Required by plumbing code in most cities for accessibility and safety

Think of it like a service door for your sewer line — when you need to get in, you'll be glad it's there.

REPAIR OR REPLACE? YOUR OPTIONS

Our technician may recommend the following based on your current setup:

- **Repair** — If a cap is damaged or fitting is loose
- **Spot Repair** — Replace just the cleanout fitting, keeping rest of pipe intact
- **Full Replacement** — Install a new cleanout if the old one is buried, broken, or improperly sloped
- **Upgrade** — Add a two-way cleanout for both upstream and downstream access

COMPARE YOUR OPTIONS

Option	Pros	Cons	Budget	When Ideal	Time to Complete
Repair	Fast, inexpensive, minimal digging	Only for minor issues (e.g., broken cap)	\$	Damaged cap or loose connection	30–60 minutes
Spot Repair	Fixes access without disturbing entire line	May not resolve slope or deeper issues	\$\$	Cracked fitting or blocked access	1–3 hours
Full Replacement	Long-term access, fixes slope/depth issues	Requires digging and pipe access	\$\$\$	Missing cleanout, buried or corroded pipe	3–8 hours
Upgrade	Adds bi-directional access for full system coverage	Slightly higher cost due to added fitting	\$\$–\$\$\$	Homes with recurring clogs, roots, or long pipe runs	3–6 hours

HOMEOWNER TIPS & TRICKS

- **Know Your Cleanout Location:** Mark it with a flag or decorative cover stone
- **Inspect Once a Year:** Make sure it's visible, accessible, and capped
- **Use Proper Caps:** Always keep a threaded, watertight cap installed to prevent odors and infiltration
- **Don't Wait for a Backup:** If you don't have a cleanout, install one proactively—it can save thousands during emergencies
- **Landscaping Tip:** Avoid burying cleanouts under mulch, bushes, or concrete

Don't Let a Clog Catch You Off Guard.

A cleanout is your first line of defense in plumbing emergencies — and a smart investment in your home's long-term health. Whether you're adding one for the first time or replacing an old one, Bayshore Plumbers has you covered with expert care and honest recommendations.

 **Call us today** to schedule a cleanout evaluation or installation — and keep your sewer lines ready for anything.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's):

1. What is a cleanout and why do I need one?

A cleanout is a capped access point to your main sewer or drain line, allowing plumbers to easily clear clogs, perform inspections, or make repairs. Without one, resolving blockages can require removing toilets, cutting pipes, or even digging through floors.

2. How do I know if my home already has a cleanout?

Our technician can quickly check if a cleanout exists by inspecting the property and, if needed, using a camera or diagnostic tools. Many older homes don't have visible or code-compliant cleanouts — and in an emergency, that can cost you time and money.

3. What happens during a cleanout installation?

We locate the best access point on your main sewer line, carefully dig to expose it, and install a secure, code-compliant cleanout pipe. After testing, we backfill the area and restore the surface. The process typically takes **2–4 hours**, or longer if the line is deep or obstructed.

4. Do I really need to replace an old or buried cleanout?

Yes, if your existing cleanout is cracked, corroded, improperly sloped, or buried and inaccessible, it's smart to replace it. A modern, visible cleanout saves time during future service calls and ensures you're up to current plumbing code.

5. What's the benefit of a two-way cleanout upgrade?

A two-way cleanout allows access to both directions of your drain line — upstream and downstream — making it easier and faster to clear clogs no matter where they are. It's a smart choice for homes with frequent backups or tree root issues.

6. Will this damage my yard or concrete?

We minimize disruption as much as possible. For lawn or soil areas, we restore the surface after backfilling. If your line is under concrete or heavy landscaping, we'll discuss your options upfront and provide a clean, professional plan to restore the area afterward.