

# Tree Roots in Drains: Causes, Risks, and Removal Solutions

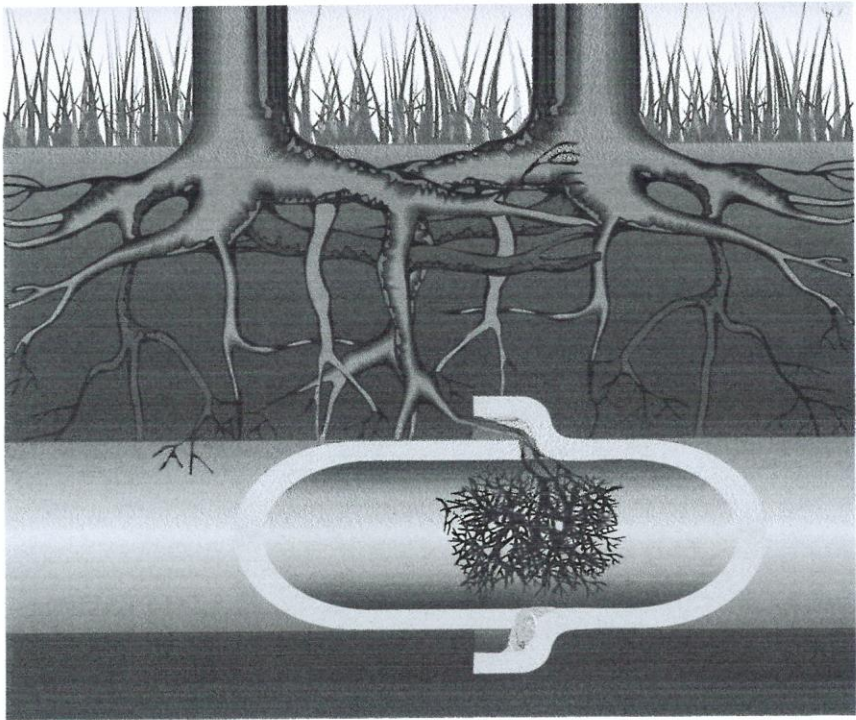
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**Tree roots in drains** are one of the most common and destructive drainage problems faced by homeowners and property managers in the UK. While trees offer beauty, shade, and increased property value, their roots can wreak havoc on underground pipework—causing blockages, structural damage, and costly repairs if left untreated.

In this article, we'll cover everything you need to know about **tree roots in drains**, including how they get there, the risks they pose, and the most effective removal and prevention methods.

## Why Do Tree Roots Invade Drains?

Roots naturally seek out water and nutrients to sustain the tree. Your drainage pipes—especially older ones made from clay or pitch fibre—can become a perfect target for thirsty roots. Here's how it happens:

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- **Cracks and Joints:** Small cracks, displaced joints, or loose pipe connections allow water to escape into the surrounding soil. This moisture attracts nearby tree roots.
- **Root Intrusion:** Fine roots penetrate the pipe through gaps and grow inside, often spreading rapidly along the flow of water.
- **Expansion:** As roots grow thicker, they can block the drain, break the pipe further, and cause major drainage failures.



## Risks of Tree Roots in Drains

Tree root intrusion isn't just a minor blockage—it can lead to serious drainage and structural problems, including:

- **Repeated Drain Blockages:** Roots trap toilet paper, grease, and debris, causing ongoing backups.
- **Cracked or Collapsed Pipes:** Aggressive root growth can destroy fragile pipes, especially older or poorly installed systems.
- **Flooding & Water Damage:** Overflowing drains can lead to internal and external flooding.
- **Increased Pest Activity:** Damaged pipes may attract rats, insects, or foul smells into your home.
- **Costly Repairs:** The longer root intrusion goes untreated, the more expensive and extensive the repairs become.



## Signs You Have Tree Roots in Drains

Not sure if **tree roots in drains** are your issue? Look out for these common signs:

- Gurgling sounds from toilets or drains
- Slow-draining sinks or showers
- Frequent or recurring blockages
- Overflowing external drain covers
- Localised wet patches in the garden
- Bad odours from outdoor or indoor drains

If you suspect root intrusion, act fast to prevent major damage.



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# How Are Tree Roots in Drains Diagnosed?

The best way to confirm root intrusion is with a **CCTV Drain Survey**. At Drainage & Plumbing Ltd, we use high-definition cameras to inspect your drains, identify the root mass, and assess the damage inside the pipes.

This non-invasive method gives you:

- A precise diagnosis
- Visual confirmation of the issue
- A tailored solution and cost estimate



## Tree Root Removal Solutions

Once confirmed, several professional methods can be used to remove **tree roots in drains**:

### 1. High-Pressure Jetting

Water jets are used to cut and flush away small to medium root masses. It's a quick and cost-effective first step.

### 2. CCTV-Controlled Root Cutting

Rotating cutting heads guided by CCTV break down thick or stubborn roots safely, without damaging your pipes.

### 3. Drain Relining

Once the roots are cleared, resin drain relining is applied to seal cracks and prevent future intrusion—without excavation.

### 4. Excavation & Pipe Replacement

In severe cases where the pipe is collapsed or beyond repair, excavation and full pipe replacement may be necessary.



## How to Prevent Tree Roots from Returning



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After treatment, it's important to take steps to avoid a repeat problem:

- **Regular CCTV Drain Inspections:** Early detection saves you thousands in future repairs.
- **Avoid Planting Trees Near Drains:** Keep trees with aggressive roots (e.g., willow, poplar, sycamore) at a safe distance.
- **Root Barriers:** Physical barriers can redirect root growth away from pipework.
- **Modern Pipe Materials:** Replacing clay or pitch fibre pipes with PVC or other modern materials increases resistance to root intrusion.

## Serving Purley & South East England

At **Drainage & Plumbing Ltd**, we specialise in diagnosing and removing **tree roots in drains** across **Purley, Croydon, Surrey**, and **South East England**. Our experienced drainage engineers are available 24/7 to help with root-related emergencies, repairs, and long-term protection.

## Need Help with Tree Roots in Drains?

If you suspect **tree roots in drains**, don't wait until it's too late. Contact our expert team today to book a CCTV drain survey or emergency root removal.

 Visit: <https://drainage-plumbing.co.uk>

 Call us now for same-day service in Purley & surrounding areas.

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