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Faucets: Care and Maintenance

Cooperative Extension Service
South Dakota State University

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Faucets

Care and Maintenance

Cooperative Extension Service
 South Dakota State University, Brookings
 U. S. Department of Agriculture

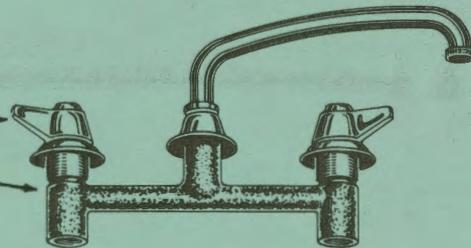
"Faucets—Care and Maintenance" is especially adapted for use in this series from a similar publication of the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare—Public Health Service.

Keep your mixing faucets bright and shiny clean to help provide more healthful conditions in your home and you may also help to prevent costly repairs.

You can use a cleanser to keep the finish of your faucets clean. You should do this regularly.

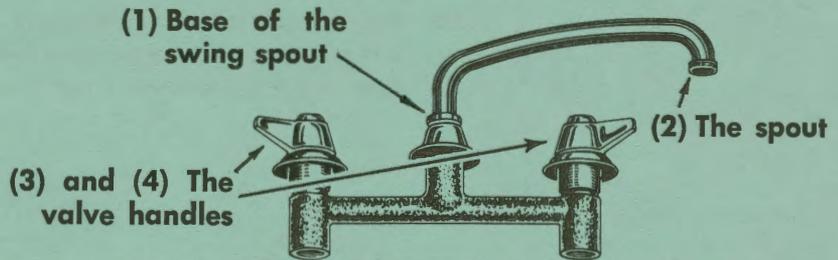
This part of your faucet is out of sight when it is installed on the sink and usually does not need maintenance.

Always **TURN OFF THE WATER** before you begin repairing your faucets. Be sure you know where the turn-off valve is.



If Your Faucet Leaks . . .

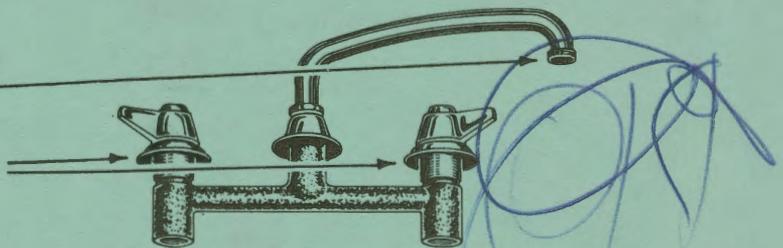
. . . you will usually find it will be from one of these four places



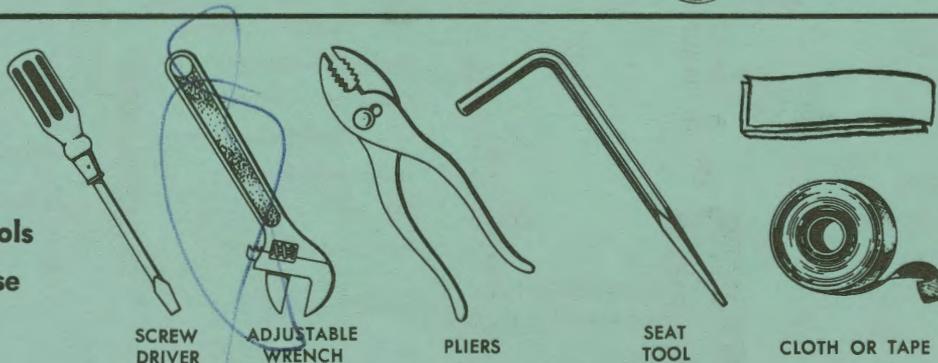
Three other places for possible leaks . . .

If you find the leak is here, the faucet washer, and perhaps the washer seat, needs to be replaced.

If the leak is here, then the O-ring should be replaced.



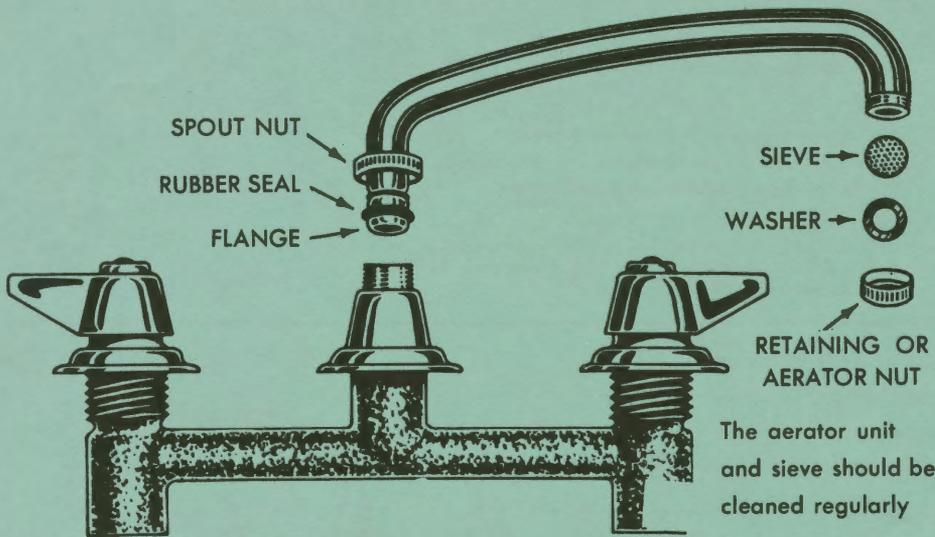
You'll Need Tools Like These



When making repairs you should use the cloth or tape between the wrench or pliers to keep from scratching the chrome finish of your faucets.

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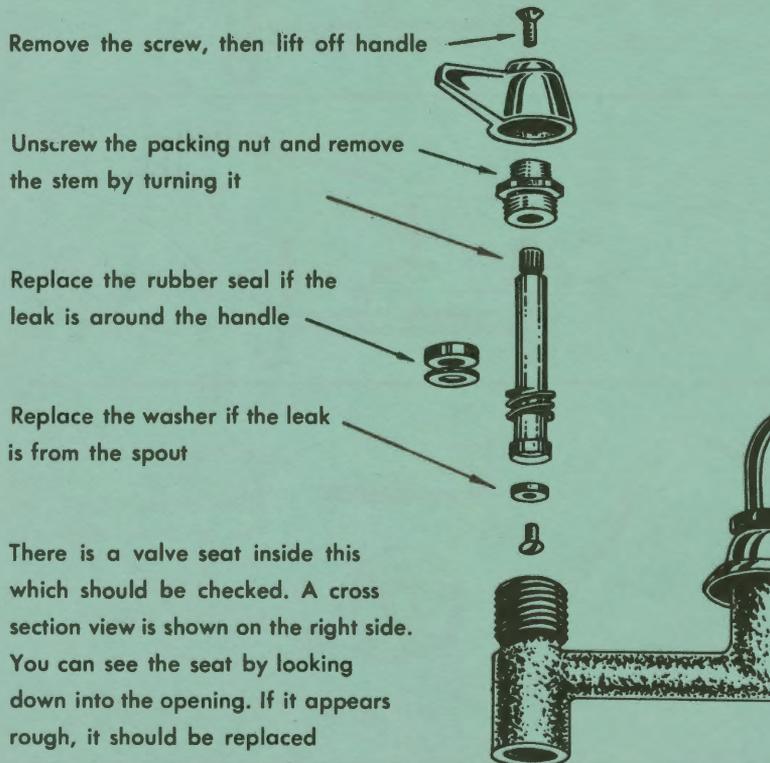
Repair of the Swing Spout



If you find the leak is around the base of the swing spout, you must replace the rubber seal. You do this by first unscrewing the spout nut. Then the spout can be lifted from the base. Pull off the old seal with the fingers and replace it with a new seal. Return the spout to its base and tighten the spout nut.

Steps in Repairing the Faucet

(These instructions apply to faucets on both sides of the spout. Here is a hint: as you repair the faucet place the various parts in a tin can or pie tin to keep from losing them.)



If the valve seat is worn or scratched, a new washer will soon become rough and will leak

Use the seat removing tool to remove the worn seat. The valve seat is made of very soft metal. Replace the seat carefully to avoid scratching it

