Faucets: Care and Maintenance

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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:

1. Base of the swing spout
2. The spout
3. and 4. The valve handles

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.

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.

You'll Need Tools Like These:

- Screwdriver
- Adjustable wrench
- Pliers
- Seat tool
- Cloth or tape
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.)

Remove the screw, then lift off handle

Unscrew the packing nut and remove the stem by turning it

Replace the rubber seal if the leak is around the handle

Replace the washer if the leak is from the spout

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

There is a valve seat inside this which should be checked. A cross section view is shown on the right side. You can see the seat by looking down into the opening. If it appears rough, it should be replaced