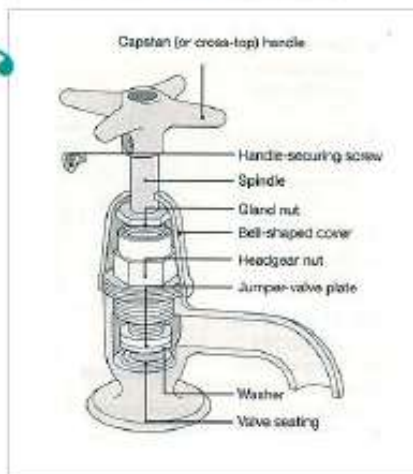


changing a washer

A dripping tap is usually an indication that the washer needs to be replaced.



Replacing a washer

Turn off the water at the stop-valve. Draw off any water in the pipe supplying the tap by turning it on and letting the water drain away.

Once all the water has been drained away, put the plug into the plughole to avoid losing any small parts should they get dropped into the sink.

Then, using an adjustable spanner, unscrew the top plate by prising the spanner in an anti clockwise direction.

This will reveal the retaining screw underneath the top plate. Unscrew the retaining screw and keep it in a safe place. The head can now be removed.

Using a spanner undo the headgear nut by turning it in an anti clockwise direction. It is advisable to grip the body of the tap with a pipe wrench (first protecting the tap with a cloth) or by hand to prevent the tap turning and fracturing the connecting pipework.

If the headgear nut is difficult to turn apply penetrating oil around the joint and allow 10 minutes for it to penetrate the joint.

Remove the rubber washer at the base of the tap by prising it off with the tip of a flat headed screwdriver. There may be a small nut holding the washer in place, which needs to be unscrewed first before the old washer can be removed.

Fit the new washer and grease the thread at the base of the tap before reassembling.

Replacing washer on a kitchen mixer tap

First, turn off the water at the stop-cock. Then drain off any water in the pipes by turning the taps on until the water stops running and then turn them off.

Locate the retaining screw behind the spout and remove it. If the tap unit does not have a retaining screw, turn the spout so it's in line with the body of the tap and pull it up sharply. The spout should come away from the body of the tap.

There will probably be two O-rings (washers) on the bottom of the spout, so make a note of their positions and remove them with a penknife.

Smear the new O-rings with silicone grease and fit them in the correct position on the bottom of the spout.

Lubricate the inside of the spout end with petroleum jelly and then refit it to the body of the tap.