

# HOW TO: REPAIR A LEAKY FAUCET

Listening to the persistent dripping of your faucet can not only drive you crazy, but also cost you big money over time. Instead of calling a plumber, learning how to repair it yourself will be a valuable lesson for any homeowner.

## Project Overview:

Level: Moderate

Estimated Time: 1 hour

Estimated Cost: Under \$50

## Tools:

VariouS Sized Washers    Lubricant  
Wrench                            Duct/Masking Tape  
Screwdriver  
Pliers  
Seat-Dressing Tool



## Instructions:

- Turn the water off with the shutoff valve under the sink or your house's main shutoff. The water heater's hot water supply also must be shut off. Verify that the shutoff valves work properly by turning on the faucet. No water should come out.
- Disassemble the faucet by taking the handle off and loosening the screw in the center of the handle under the ornamental cap.
- Pry the handle from its stem. Expose the remainder of the stem by loosening the packing nut underneath. Turn it counter-clockwise to remove and thread it out. Remove any chips from inside the cavity of the faucet.
- Examine the washer at the bottom of the stem and replace a flat or grooved washer to eliminate the dripping. Visit your local hardware store to buy the proper size and style washer for your faucet. Damaged brass screws also should be replaced.
- Locate the washer seat and determine if it needs repairing. If it does, follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding the proper use of a seat-dressing tool.
- Use a flashlight to look inside the faucet body for a square or hexagon-shaped hole at the core. Replace the washer seat if it's grooved for a screwdriver. Washer seats with a hole through the center but no indentations cannot be replaced and must be dressed using the seat-dressing instrument.
- Install the proper washer and tighten the screw. Installation instructions vary depending on washer type. Follow the manufacturer's instructions or consult your local Foxworth-Galbraith
- Reassemble the faucet by installing the parts in the reverse order from the disassembly. Rotate the handle to its appropriate position. Tighten the handle and the packing nut.
- Oil the stem's threads with a lubricant, such as Vaseline or grease.
- Turn the water on and check for leaks.

Helpful Hints: Avoid damaging or disfiguring your faucet by cover the tips of your wrench with heavy tape.