

FAUCETS 101:

COMPRESSION
FAUCETS

FIXING A LEAKY COMPRESSION FAUCET

IF YOU HAVE THE FAUCET TURNED OFF AND WATER IS STILL COMING OUT OF THE SPOUT, THE STEM IS YOUR PROBLEM.

SO, HOW DO YOU DETERMINE WHICH STEM IT IS?

YOU COULD GUESS, YOUR ODDS OF GUESSING CORRECTLY ARE PRETTY GOOD - BUT THERE'S A BETTER WAY:

TURN OFF THE SHUTOFF VALVES LOCATED BENEATH THE SINK (SEE PICTURE BELOW) ONE AT A TIME. THE LEAK WILL STOP WHEN YOU TURN OFF THE VALVE ATTACHED TO THE DEFECTIVE SIDE.

HOT?

OR

COLD?

NEXT...



(ABOVE)
SHUTOFF
VALVES
BENEATH
SINK

(RIGHT) MAIN
SHUTOFF NEAR
STREET



BE SURE TO TURN OFF THE WATER AT THE SHUTOFF VALVES OR THE MAIN SHUTOFF...

YOU MAY NEED A
METER KEY TO
TURN OFF (AND ON)
THE MAIN VALVE AT
THE STREET



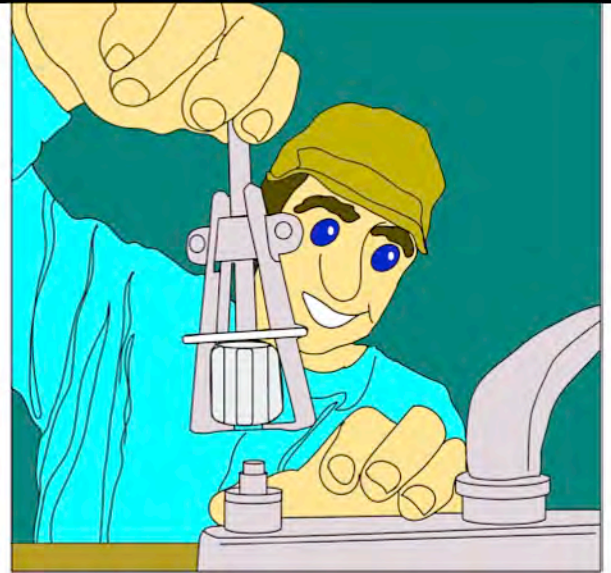
CLOSE OFF THE DRAIN SO YOU WON'T LOSE SMALL PARTS AND PUT A TOWEL IN THE SINK TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO IT FROM DROPPED PARTS OR TOOLS.

IF YOU'VE DETERMINED THAT THE PROBLEM IS WITH THE STEMS (WATER IS LEAKING FROM THE HANDLES OR DRIPPING FROM *INSIDE* THE SPOUT), THE NEXT THING TO DO IS TO REMOVE THE HANDLES.

BEGIN BY REMOVING THE INDEX BUTTON IF NECESSARY AND TAKING OUT THE SCREW IN THE CENTER OF THE HANDLE.

IF THE HANDLE IS DIFFICULT TO REMOVE, USE A HANDLE PULLER (PART # 20200155*), WHICH WORKS LIKE UNCORKING A WINE BOTTLE: THE PULLER'S SHAFT FITS INTO THE SCREW HOLE AND THE ARMS GO UNDER THE BASE OF THE HANDLE.

SOME "FIT-ALL" HANDLES HAVE SET SCREWS ON THE SIDE OF THE HANDLE, SO BE SURE TO LOOK FOR THESE IF YOU HAVE GENERIC HANDLES.



* ALSO CHOOSE FROM PART # 20200190, MSPP'S HEAVY-DUTY HANDLE PULLER



CONE
ESCUTCHEON



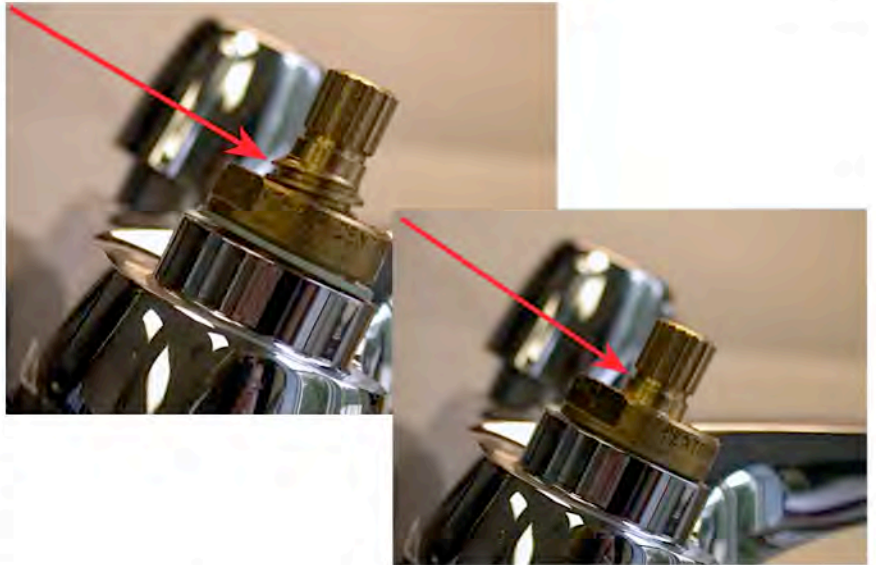
TUBE ESCUTCHEON



FLANGE

IF YOU'RE WORKING ON A TUB FAUCET, YOU'LL NEED TO REMOVE THE ESCUTCHEONS. IF YOU HAVE A CONE TYPE, IT WILL ALMOST ALWAYS SCREW OFF. IF YOU HAVE A TUBE ESCUTCHEON (SLEEVE), WITH A SEPARATE RING (FLANGE) AROUND IT AT THE BACK, LOOK FOR THE HOLE ON THE EDGE AND LOOSEN THE SCREW BESIDE THE HOLE AND PULL OFF. YOU CAN NOW UNSCREW THE TUBE WITH ADJUSTABLE SOFT-JAW PLIERS, (PART #20200178). THIS WILL PREVENT THE TUBE FROM BEING SCRATCHED.

A COMPRESSION FAUCET HAS TWO HANDLES AND AS YOU TURN THE HANDLE IT OPENS A GAP BETWEEN THE VALVE SEAT AND A WASHER LETTING WATER THROUGH. IN THE NEAR RIGHT PHOTO YOU SEE A STEM IN THE "OPEN" POSITION (THE ARROW POINTS TO THE THREADS). LOCATED FARTHER DOWN THE STEM IS THE WASHER THAT ALLOWS WATER FLOW. AT THE FAR RIGHT IS THE SAME STEM IN THE "CLOSED" POSITION. NOTICE HOW THE THREADS ARE NOT VISIBLE.



NEXT, USING PLIERS OR A WRENCH, LOOSEN THE STEM BY TURNING IT COUNTERCLOCKWISE. LEAVE THE PACKING NUT IN PLACE.

TAKE THE STEM OUT WITH THE BONNET IN PLACE.

AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STEM THERE IS A RUBBER WASHER, SECURED BY A SCREW. THIS IS THE WASHER THAT REGULATES THE WATER FLOW AND IT SHOULD BE FLAT, FLEXIBLE AND SMOOTH.

IF YOU HAVE A CONE ESCUTCHEON, THE PACKING NUT MAY COME OFF A THREADED NIPPLE INSIDE THE "CONE". TRY TO REMOVE THE NUT AND RETURN IT TO THE STEM BONNET.



BELOW SHOWS WHAT YOU SEE LOOKING DOWN INTO THE FAUCET AFTER YOU TAKE THE STEM OUT. THE HEXAGONAL AREA IN THE MIDDLE SHOWS WHERE THE VALVE STEM IS. (YOU MAY NEED A FLASHLIGHT TO SEE IT SINCE IT IS DOWN IN THE FAUCET).

THE WASHERS, THE THREADS AND THE SEAT ARE ALL SUSCEPTIBLE TO WEAR.

INSPECT THE VALVE SEAT WITH YOUR FINGERTIP. IT SHOULD FEEL SMOOTH. IF IT DOESN'T, IT SHOULD BE REPLACED.

IF YOU NEED TO REPLACE THE SEAT AND IT HAS A SQUARE OR HEXAGONAL HOLE IN THE CENTER, YOU CAN REMOVE IT WITH A SEAT WRENCH. (PART # 20301415 OR 20205166).

TO FINISH YOUR REPAIR, PUT IN A NEW STEM AND FOLLOW THE STEPS BACKWARDS TO REASSEMBLE THE FAUCET.



TUB FAUCETS ARE SPECIAL

AND WHY IS THAT?

REASON #1:

YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SHUT OFF YOUR BATHTUB VALVES DIRECTLY. YOU MAY HAVE TO TURN THE WATER OFF TO THE ENTIRE HOUSE. (SEE PAGE 1).

REASON #2:

BATHTUB HANDLES HAVE A TENDENCY TO GET STUCK IN PLACE, MORE SO THAN LAVATORY AND/OR KITCHEN HANDLES. BE SURE TO HAVE A HANDLE PULLER READY.

REASON #3:

THE STEM IS THREADED INTO THE VALVE BODY, AND IN MANY CASES IT CAN ONLY BE REMOVED USING A DEEP SOCKET WRENCH.



A FEW CLOSING NOTES...

THE REPAIR DESCRIBED ON THE PREVIOUS PAGES APPLIES TO ALL KINDS OF COMPRESSION FAUCETS, WHETHER THEY'RE LAVATORY, TUB OR KITCHEN. HOWEVER, THERE ARE MANUFACTURER'S VARIATIONS IN THESE FAUCETS, AND AS SUCH, THERE WILL BE SOME DIFFERENCES IN HOW EACH FAUCET COMES APART. WE'VE PRESENTED THE GENERAL IDEA IN THESE PAGES, AND WITH ATTENTION AND CARE, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE REPAIR.

NEXT UP...

FAUCETS 101:

Fixing a Leaky Faucet Ceramic, Washerless or Single Lever