

Changing a Sink Faucet

Level of Difficulty - 2

If you have an outdated faucet or one that's working improperly, updating it with a new faucet is a fairly simple job and is a great project for a budding do-it-yourselfer. This project gives you a lot of bang for the buck and you'll love the feeling of having installed it yourself.

Note the following instructions assume that you have hot and cold water shutoff valves beneath the sink. If your home doesn't have shutoff valves under the sink, this is a great time to install them and is well worth the additional time and expense.

Supplies and tools you'll need:

When you purchase your new faucet, pick up the following supplies from the plumbing section of your hardware or home improvement store:

- Faucet – note the hole pattern in your sink to be sure you purchase a suitable replacement faucet. If you're unsure, remove the old faucet and take it with you when you select your new faucet.
- Braided supply lines – check the length that you need based on your old faucet installation, before you go to the store.
- Nylon thread tape
- Clear silicone

Tools

- Adjustable Wrench or Basin Wrench – you can make an adjustable wrench work, but it can be tricky if you have little room to work.
- Bucket
- A few rags

Directions for Installing the Faucet

1. First, remove objects from beneath the sink, leaving yourself a clean workspace for the job. This is a simple project, but can be frustrating if you're working around a bunch of stuff that is in your way!
2. Turn off both the hot and cold water at the shutoff valves beneath the sink. Turn on the old faucet to drain all water from the water supply lines. *If after a minute or so, water continues to trickle out of the faucet in a steady stream, your shutoff valve is not completely closed. Turn the valve knob firmly until the supply of water stops completely.*
3. Remove the old faucet
 - a. Remove the drain assembly first, giving you better access for faucet removal. Put a bucket beneath the drain and remove the P-Trap by loosening the nuts at each end of the trap. Stick a rag in the wall end of the drain to keep sewer odors at bay.
 - b. If you have a popup drain, from under the sink, remove the pivot nut and pull the horizontal rod out of the drain. Take out the drain stopper and set aside. Then loosen the screw nut, which holds the drain assembly in place. Spin the screw nut all the way to the bottom of the treads, then push the drain assembly up so that the flange frees from the sink surface. You may have to gently rock or twist the drain to free it. By hand, unscrew the flange from the rest of the assembly and pull the assembly out from below.
 - c. To remove the faucet, disconnect the water supply lines by loosening the nut at the end of the existing supply line.
 - d. Remove the mounting nuts that hold the faucet in place
 - e. Lift the old faucet off of your sink.
 - f. Gently scrape off any old caulk or plumbers putty from around the popup drain and faucet holes. Give the sink a good cleaning to remove any soap and gunk buildup trapped behind the old faucet parts.
4. Install the new faucet – *The fun part!*
 - a. Set the new faucet and any included gasket into position on your sink. From below, screw mounting nuts onto the faucet. Position the faucet in its final spot and firmly, but by hand, tighten the mounting nuts.
 - b. Attach the water supply lines to the new faucet. If you already have braided supply lines, these can be reused if they are in good condition. If not, we recommend that you switch to braided supply lines for better connection and durability. *As a general rule, in*

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plumbing, if you are attaching a metal connecting nut to metal threads, wrap the treads with nylon thread tape to prevent leaks.

- c. Install the new popup drain assembly. Move the screw nut as far down the threads as it will go. Apply a bead of silicone to the under side of the drain flange. Position the assembly in the drain hole, from below. From above, thread the flange into the assembly and then position it in the sink. The pivot nut should be at the back side of the drain, towards the wall. Tighten the screw nut so that it is snug and that the rubber gasket is compressed firmly against the bottom of the sink. *Take care not to overtighten as the sink can be damaged.*
- d. Connect the stopper. Drop the lift rod into place from above. Remove the pivot nut and install the horizontal rod, aligning it with the new stopper. Move the rod up and down, verifying that the stopper is aligned properly, then re-install the pivot nut. Attach the rest of the drain assembly.
- e. Install the P-Trap. Carefully align the pieces tighten the connections. *If you have PVC pipe, you don't need a wrench, just firmly hand tighten. If you have metal drain pipes, you will probably need a wrench. We suggest swapping metal drain out for PVC pipe for ease of maintenance in the future.*
- f. Take the aerator out of the new faucet and run the water slowly. Check for leaks at the supply connections and around the drain and pipe. Increase the water pressure and if no leaks are apparent, stop the flow and re-install the aerator.
- g. Job complete! Enjoy your new faucet and the knowledge that you did it yourself!