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How To Repair Leaky Faucet: Replace Defective Washer

Lesson 72 and 73 attempt to help you diagnose leaking faucet problems. If you find that the sounds of eternal dripping drive you crazy, then follow these easy steps and tranquility will again be yours. The faucet pictured in Fig. 72 is one of many common types. It appears old, but its mechanism is as modern as any manufactured today.

Utensils

Masking tape
Phillips screwdriver
Medium screwdriver, flat blade
Smooth-jawed wrench

Ingredients

Box of assorted screws and washers

Approximate Time: 30 To 45 Minutes

1. Shut off water supply beneath fixture or in basement.
2. Tape hexagonal nut to prevent damage by wrench jaws.
3. Remove hexagonal nut with wrench, turning counterclockwise. While doing so, make sure the faucet (Fig. 72) is slightly open. This will release spindle shaft, a metal rod in center of faucet.
4. Remove spindle shaft.
5. Remove the screw on the underside of shaft, turning counterclockwise.
6. If screw can not be removed due to oxidation, see recipe #41 removing a broken screw from metal.
7. Remove washer held in place by screw, edging it from its seat with either flat blade or Phillips screwdriver.
8. Clean all dirt from washer seat.
9. Select a washer (hot or cold as specified on assortment box) that fits most snugly into seat.
10. Select a new screw to fit and tighten washer into place until it bulges slightly. Only then will it be really secure and the "whistling faucet" syndrome averted.
11. Reassemble faucet.
12. Turn on water.
13. If leak persists, please see next recipe.

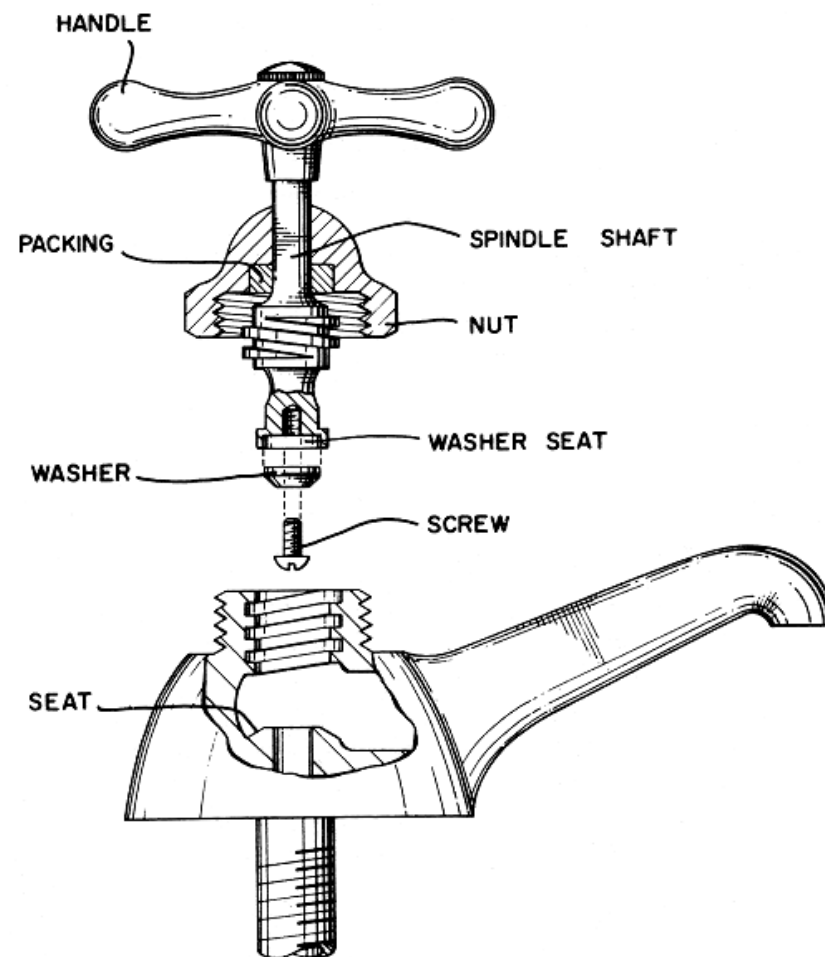


Figure 72.
Leaky Faucet: Replacing Defective Washer