



How to fix a Leaking tap

Leaking taps are a common plumbing nuisance. The problem is usually a worn washer, which is very simple to fix.

WHAT TO DO?

Replace the washer in your tap.

HOW TO DO IT

Regulations in Western Australia define any work inside the pipes or tap ware as “plumbing work” which should be done by a plumber. So call a plumber, make a cup of tea and watch as they do the following simple job.

Method - the plumber will:

1. Cut off the water supply to the tap by turning off the isolating valve under the sink. Older houses may only have the water mains tap out at the water meter (usually in the garden). Open the leaking tap to release any water left in the pipe.
2. Plug the basin to avoid losing tap parts down the drain. Remove the tap's cover with a screwdriver to expose the screw. The screw is usually under the hot or cold sign. Some taps will have screws on the side.
3. Undo the screw and remove the handle.

Fix a leaking (hot water) tap
and save up to:



TANYA HA, an expert in environmental living and the author of *Greenology* and *The Australian Green Consumer Guide* provides advice on water saving in your home.



Department of Environment and Conservation
Department for Planning and Infrastructure



4. If the tap is enclosed with a metal cover, unscrew by hand or use a wrench. Use a cloth over the cover to protect the finish from scratches.
5. Use a spanner or wrench to unscrew the tap bonnet. Completely take out the spindle to see the large body washer, O-ring and the jumper valve (this one should just fall out. If not, pull it out with pliers).
6. Replace the body washer, O-ring and jumper valve then refit bonnet and spindle – make sure not to over tighten the nuts.
7. Reassemble the tap in reverse order, close it and then open the water mains.
8. Check that the leaking has stopped.
9. If your tap continues to leak after replacing the washers, it may need to be resealed. A licenced plumber will be able to reseal the tap.

WHY?

Not only does a leaking tap create an annoying noise, it can waste around 4,500 liters of water per year if left unchecked. With climate change resulting in less rainfall it is important to undertake permanent water efficiency measures to save as much water as possible. Fixing a tap also saves you money on your water bill!

When looking for a plumber, be sure to choose an endorsed waterwise plumber. See www.watercorporation.com.au under: "Being waterwise". "Waterwise specialists" for a list of waterwise plumbers.