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Replacing washers in your tap

Tools you'll need: a pair of pliers, a flathead screwdriver, adjustable spanner, rubber washers and a piece of wire wool.

Step 1: Stop the flow of water by turning off your stop tap.

Step 2: If you have a combi boiler, all you need to do is isolate the cold water.

Step 3: If you have a hot water tank, you'll need to switch off the immersion heater and then off turn the gate valve.



Picture of gate valve

Step 4: Now drain out the water in the pipes and plug the sink.

Step 5: Using the flathead screw driver, prise off the cap on top of the tap. This will uncover a little screw in the top which needs to be unscrewed, anti-clockwise.

Step 6: Pull up the head of the tap until it comes off, to reveal the packing nut.

Step 7: Use the adjustable spanner to un-tighten the packing nut while holding the tap with your other hand to stop it from moving.

Step 8: Once the packing nut is loose, unscrew the entire tap stem by hand. The old washer will be at the bottom of the tap stem. There may be a small nut keeping it in place so use the pliers to turn and remove it.

Step 9: Prise out the washer and replace it with a new one of the same size and put the small nut back in place to hold it in.

Step 10: Using wire wool, rub down the stem to remove any built up lime scale and dirt.

Step 11: Before putting the tap stem back, check the exposed inside (seat) of the tap and give the inside rim a rub with wire wool to remove any debris or lime scale.

Step 12: Then reassemble the tap. Don't forget to tighten up everything well.

Step 13: Turn the water back on and check the tap is working properly. Then unplug the sink.

If you have followed these steps and you still have a fault or if you're unsure, please contact us.