

### DISC-TYPE FAUCET

- Disc faucets may have one or two handles. Water is controlled by turning on the two discs. If the discs are worn they may cause the faucet to leak. Turning the handles will not stop the leak.
- First turn off the water and remove the handle. Use pliers to pull the assembly out of the faucet. Beneath the disc unit is the seat assembly or seal. Replacing the O-ring may stop the leak or you may need to replace the whole disc assembly if the faucet is old. Some discs snap a part into a separate bonnet assembly and bottom cap.
- To repair a leaking single-handle disc. Remove the handle to expose the disc assembly. Remove the screws and take out the assembly. There may be 3 O-rings seals. The leak may be between these seals. Clean and replace the seals. If it still leaks replace the whole unit. Place the 3 O-rings into their recess in the bottom of the disc unit. Install new unit, tighten screws & replace the handle.

### CARTRIDGE FAUCET

- Cartridge faucets have only 1 moving part. The stem slides up and down to open and close the faucet and rotates to regulate the flow of the hot and cold water. Any leak will require replacement of the cartridge. First turn off the water.
- Remove handle then remove the cartridge. Look for retainer clip at the rear of the faucet just below the handle. You may have to remove a set screw or snap-in hot-cold button & a handle pin or screw. On some faucets the swing spout must come off first. The clip may be hiding beneath the handle inside a lift out tube. Retainer clips can be pried out with a screwdriver.
- Once the clip is removed the cartridge pulls out. Use pliers on new unit pushing it into place with the flat arrow marked up. If you use lubricant on cartridge make sure it is silicone grease.



HERNANDO COUNTY UTILITIES  
Hours of Operation  
Lobby Hours 8:00 am- 5:00 pm  
Monday - Friday

Administration Office:  
21030 Cortez Blvd  
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Spring Hill Fl 34606  
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[www.hernandocounty.us/utills](http://www.hernandocounty.us/utills)

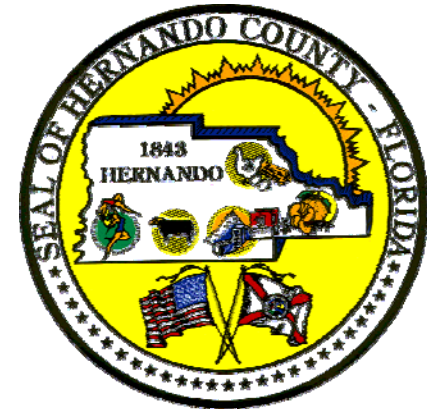
Other Sources  
Southwest Florida Water Management  
800-423-1476 ext. 4757  
[www.WaterMatters.org](http://www.WaterMatters.org)

Hernando County Extension Office  
352-754-4433  
[www.co.hernando.fl.us/county.extension/fyn](http://www.co.hernando.fl.us/county.extension/fyn)

## FIX HOUSEHOLLD LEAKS



Hernando County  
Utilities  
Department



At Your Service

PHONE: 352-754-4037

## TOILETS

**Leak; inside your toilet can waste over 100 gallons of water per day.**

Some leaks are silent, some produce a running water sound and others may be visible as a small trickle running from the rim to the water in the bowl.



To detect a silent leak remove the toilet tank lid and any color cleaning agents. Add dye packets or a few drops of food coloring to the tank. Wait about 20 minutes. If the tank is leaking color will show up in the bowl. Flush as soon as possible so color don't stain the bowl.

### FIX LEAKS

**FIRST TURN OFF WATER** The water level in the tank should be about 1/2 inch below the top of the overflow tube in the middle of the tank. To adjust the water level, use a screwdriver to adjust the screw on the end of the float arm or bend the float arm down (very gently) until the correct water level is achieved.

- If you have to jiggle the handle to stop the water from running after you flush you should try to tighten or replace the flush handle. To tighten use an adjustable wrench to tighten the nut attached to the handle on the inside of the tank.
- Check for holes and cracks in the float ball. If the ball is full of water or no longer appears to float it needs to be replaced. Replace by unscrewing it from its tubing and screwing another in its place.
- Adjust lift chain so it hangs straight from handle with approximately 1/2 inch slack.

• Check flapper or flush valve at the bottom of the tank. If it looks worn or corroded, it needs to be cleaned or changed.

• If the water don't shut off, replace both the flapper and the ballcock.

• If these fixes don't work call a plumber.



**Flappers**

Keep your toilet water-efficient by choosing the right flapper.

**Look for more info on how to fix a leak**

**[www.doityourself.com](http://www.doityourself.com)**

## FAUCETS / SHOWER HEADS

Another place to look for leaks is faucets or shower heads. Water losses caused by dripping can range from several gallons to hundreds of gallons per day. Check your faucets regularly for leaks at the faucet head and seepage at the base and connections.

### WASHER TYPE BATH & SHOWER FAUCETS

• Washer-type faucets work with a rubber or composition washer that closes onto a metal washer seat. The washer can become hardened, worn or the seat wears, causing the faucet to leak. Closing the faucet tighter will stop the leak for a short while. However it can cause internal damage to the faucet.



• To take apart a bath/shower faucet for repair **FIRST TURN OFF WATER** If there is a turnoff-valve beneath the fixture turn off the water at that point. If not turn off at the main house valve. Also turn off the hot water supply at the hot water heater.

• The cap either unscrews or snaps off. Loosen the screw beneath the cap, lift or pry the handle off the broached stem. Remove the stem by rotating it in the "on" direction. It will thread out.

• Examine the stem clean if it is just dirty. If the threads are badly corroded or worn, you can match and replace them, Reinstall the handle if you have difficulty turning it, clean chips from the faucet cavity, but do not use harsh abrasives or a file.

• On some faucets you have to remove its handle, escutcheon and packing nut. The packing nut may be buried deeply in the wall, requiring a socket wrench.

• Look at the washer, located on the lower end of the stem. If the washer is squeezed flat or has a groove worn in it replace it. This should stop the dripping. If not take the parts to a retailer so you can match the new parts to the old one.

• It is important to install the correct faucet washer.

A swiveling washer is preferable which usually outlasts a fixed washer.

• If your faucet leaks around the stem rather than from the spigot, install new packing.

• Your bath and shower faucets may have a renewable seat that can be smoothed with a seat-dressing or removed and replaced using a seat wrench. For replacing and repacking the washer, follow the same instructions provided for a washer-type faucet. Some faucets may need a complete replacement of the combination stem/seat unit.

• Once you have installed the new parts put your faucet together in the reverse order that you took it apart. Spread a bit of petroleum jelly or silicone grease on the threads of the stem to lubricate the faucet's action.

### WASHERLESS FAUCETS

• Leak in a washerless faucet usually indicates that the working parts need repacking. Follow the instructions for changing the replacement parts. Washerless faucets on tubs and showers are repaired in the same way as those on sink and washbasins.

### DIAPHRAGM-TYPE FAUCETS

• The diaphragm faucet is washerless but is similar to washer-type faucets. A rubber diaphragm between the stem & seat creates a straight-down, frictionless close. As with a washer type faucet, diaphragm faucets have two handles. Remove stem by using the same steps as the washer-type faucet. You will find a swiveling disc. If the diaphragm doesn't come out with the stem it is still inside the faucet. You can use pliers to peel it from inside and pull it out. Install new diaphragm around the swiveling disc, then replace the stem in the faucet. If the faucet is leaking around the stem, replace the stem's O-ring before reinstalling the stem.

**For more info look on**

**[www.wikihow.com](http://www.wikihow.com)**

