

# Fixing that leaky faucet

A leaky faucet is more than annoying... it's costly and a waste of valuable energy.

"If your tap leaks 25 drops a minute, you are losing at least a gallon of water a day," says Michael C. Hammar, a home improvement consultant and spokesman for the 1978 Do It Yourself Exhibition. "Most often the problem behind a leaky spout is just a worn out washer. The repair work is so simple, that for 10 minutes of your time and the cost of a 10 cent washer, you can stop both the aggravation and the waste."

To repair a stem faucet (i.e. one tap for cold, one for hot), you need a slothead screwdriver, an adjustable wrench and a flat or beveled washer. Wrap the jaws of the wrench with plastic tape to prevent damage to any finished surfaces.

Turn off the water under the sink or at the main valve as the water line enters the house. Leave a tap on in the basement to allow the water to drain from lines while the main water is off.

Begin the project by dismantling the faucet. First, remove the decorative cap or clip which hides the screw in the centre of the tap handle. Take out the screw and remove the decorative bonnet or handle.

With the adjustable wrench, loosen and remove the packing nut which sits under the handle. Now you will see a spindle or stem assembly that contains a stem sealant (packing washer) or an "O" ring, a stem and, in the base, a seat washer.

Remove the screw holding the washer and take out the washer which will be either flat or beveled, and have a hole in the middle. Replace the old washer with one of the same size and shape.

While the faucet is disassembled, check other possible problem areas such as the "O" ring, which may also need replacement, and the seat, located down inside the tap and against which the seat washer rubs.

"The seat should be smooth and free from cracks and pitting or it will quickly wear out a new washer," says Hammar. "Depending on the type of faucet, the seat can either be removed and replaced or refaced in position with an inexpensive seat dressing tool."

When finished, reassemble the faucet the way it was taken apart.

# Corn . . .

(Continued from page 5) at two-thirds the depth of the kernel.

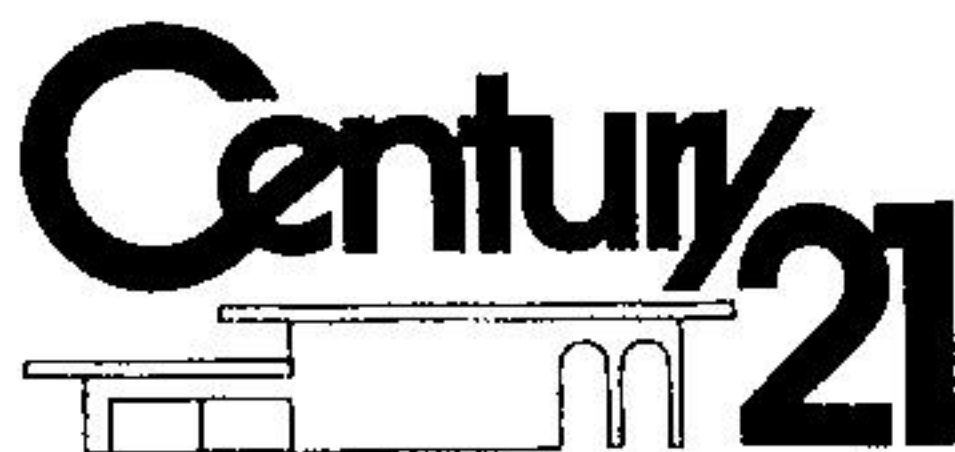
For cream style corn, cut kernels at half the kernel depth. Reverse the knife and scrape the cob to remove juice and hearts of the kernels.

For corn on the cob, trim the ends of fresh corn which have had husks and silk removed. Wash thoroughly, then blanch small cobs for seven minutes, medium cobs for nine minutes and large cobs for 11 minutes. Chill cobs quickly in cold water and drain.

Package corn in freezer containers or freezer bags, then label with contents, serving size (quantity) and date. Freeze immediately.

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