

A Dripping Tap

Practical skills

The commonest household repair, and the part that usually needs it.

Educational reference. Two tap types, two different parts.

1

Isolate the water

The isolation valve under the basin, or the stopcock.

2

Open the tap

Drain the remaining water and confirm the supply is off.

3

Plug the drain

Small parts fall, and they are unreplaceable once gone.

4

Remove the handle and headgear

There is usually a hidden screw under the cap.

5

Replace the washer or cartridge

Traditional taps: a rubber washer. Quarter-turn taps: a ceramic

6

Reassemble and test slowly

Turn the water on gradually and check for leaks.

WHICH TYPE

Turns several times → rubber washer

Quarter turn only → ceramic cartridge

Take the old part to the shop to match it

Educational reference. If the tap body itself is leaking rather than the spout, replacing the whole tap is usually cheaper than repairing it.