

CLEANING FAUCET AERATORS

TO HELP REDUCE LEAD EXPOSURE

LEAD CAN ENTER YOUR WATER THROUGH FIXTURES, SOLDERED JOINTS, OR PIPES.

Lead from soldered joints and old pipes can contaminate water as it stands in your home's plumbing. Cleaning faucet aerators and screens is crucial to remove debris buildup.

WHAT IS A FAUCET AERATOR?

A faucet aerator device is attached to the tip of a faucet. It reduces water flow, filters out debris, and prevents water from splashing. As water flows through the screen, it mixes with air and flows more evenly.



HOW OFTEN SHOULD I CLEAN AERATORS?

It's recommended you replace the aerator annually, and then clean the aerator twice a year. If the aerator appears to need frequent cleaning or becomes worn, the aerator may need to be replaced more often.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLEANING AERATORS

YOU WILL NEED:

- ✓ Rag
- ✓ Masking tape
- ✓ Wrench or pliers
- ✓ Old toothbrush
- ✓ White vinegar
- ✓ Small plastic tub
- ✓ Extra aerators
- ✓ Extra washers

IF YOUR FAUCET HAS AN AERATOR THAT YOU CAN OFF, FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS:

- Place a rag in the sink drain in case you drop any pieces.
- If you need to a wrench or pliers, wrap masking tape around the tips of the wrench or pliers, or on the aerator.
- Unscrew the aerator.
- Separate each part— aerator housing, aerator and rubberwasher.
- Remove small bits on the screen and other parts.
- Soak the parts in white vinegar for a few minutes.
- Scrub them with a brush.
- Replace the aerator and rubber washer if they are in poor condition.
- Put the aerator parts back together.
- Screw the aerator back onto the faucet.
- Repeat these steps for all faucets.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Can't find the aerator?

Some faucets have hidden aerators. If you have a hidden aerator, follow the manufacturer's instruction.



If you have a water filter attached to a faucet, the faucet will not have an aerator.