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## How to replace a grohe faucet head

Allen Lyle installing a new kitchen faucet.Replacing the kitchen faucet in your home is not that difficult. Here's how to go about it:Gather all of your tools including paper towels for cleaning up spills, a cup for capturing water, a towel to cushion your back, wrenches, and Teflon plumber's tape.Turn the water off and disconnect the hot and cold supply lines.Unscrew the locking nuts holding the old fixture in place using a sink installation tool, and remove the existing faucet.Clean the sink thoroughly under and around the faucet area.Position the new faucet following the instructions that came with it.Wrap plumber's tape around the male threads on the cut-off valves to prevent leaking.Reconnect the hot and cold supply lines.Turn the water back on and check for leaks.To find out more, check out our article on How to Install a Kitchen Sink Faucet.VIDEO TRANSCRIPTAllen Lyle: Have you ever thought you've wanted to replace your kitchen faucet? It's not that it's that difficult but it does take a lot of patience. I'm OK with plumbing work, but I'm not that ok with patience. But, let me show you how easy it can be.Obviously we're going to take this out. We're going to replace it with a different fixture and you would think the first thing you would want to do is to turn the water off. Actually the first thing you want to do is gather all of your tools together. A couple things I like to have handy are paper towels, just in case because you will have a little bit of extra water in the line, mop that up. I also have a regular towel that I keep. This is not for water, this is for my back because we're going to be inside the cabinet.Make sure the cabinet is completely cleaned out. And I also keep a little cup or something just in case I have a little bit of water that again I can just capture and keep it handy. Alright, so I've got my tools, I've got some wrenches, I've got some tape here, some Teflon tape, and the most important tool for me are my glasses. Now it's time to turn off the water.This handy faucet and sink installer tool makes this job much easier. I like this tool. I always open up the lines just to release any extra pressure. Put my towel down, and I'll see you in about a week or so.Alight first thing, I'm going to disconnect the water supply line. This tool is especially handy for this job because space is so limited. I'm disconnecting both water supply lines and in this case the hose for the sprayer. Then the next step is removing the lock nuts that hold the faucet in place.OK, we're ready for our new faucet. The manufacturer's instructions will tell you how to assemble the new faucet. And because this is a single handled unit, I'm using the trim ring to cover the extra holes in the sink top. Alright, I've got everything in place. I'll feed this down the center hole in the first three. We'll talk about the fourth hole in just a moment. This faucet has its own supply lines so we can disconnect the old ones from the shut off valves. Later we'll attach the new ones directly to those valves.First, the locking nut slides up over the supply lines and onto the threaded base to secure the faucet. Before we connect the supply lines, we need to wrap the thread of the valves with Teflon tape. An important thing when you are applying Teflon tape is that you want to make sure it is being wrapped in the same direction as you would when you're turning the nut to tighten it. This will help ensure a completely water tight seal once the supply line is in place.Just make sure you have the hot and cold supply lines connected to the appropriate valves. Then you can turn the water back on, check for leaks, and test the new faucet. How about that?Alright, for that fourth hole that had a sprayer in it, which we don't need anymore because it's actually incorporated in the faucet, we are going to put a soap dispenser. You can also use this for hand lotion but I have found that it works really good just to put your dishwashing soap in it. That way if you're washing dishes by hand, you just squirt a little bit right into the sink and you're ready to roll.Now, it takes a little bit of effort again, you're crawling under the sink to install this, but the nice thing is that you're not having to crawl under there every time to fill up the dispenser because you can actually fill it up from the topside. This requires one more locknut before threading on the dispenser bottle.Alight, we've got our faucet in, we've got our soap dispenser in, a final little brush up and a wipe down. Photo: istockphoto.comHas your old kitchen faucet seen better days? Whether yours is leaking water or is simply outdated, replacing a kitchen faucet is among the most popular do-it-yourself projects in the grand scheme of a full kitchen renovation.Unfortunately, it's not always as simple as it sounds, swapping out an old chrome faucet for one with a trendy brushed nickel finish. The entire replacement task might go without a hitch, but because faucet configuration (and under-sink conditions) vary, chances are you'll run into a snag or two during the process. By knowing what to expect—and what could potentially go wrong—you can avoid common pitfalls and recognize when it's time to throw in the towel and call a plumber. Here, we've outlined six necessary considerations before you get started on a kitchen faucet replacement.Some jobs are better left to the prosGet free, no-commitment estimates from licensed plumbers near you. + 1. Always shut off the water before replacing a kitchen faucet.Before the work can start in earnest, you'll have to shut off the water to the existing faucet. Most of the time this is a cinch, accomplished by simply twisting On/Off valves located on the hot and cold water supply lines (connected to the underside of the faucet) to "OFF," using just your fingers.If your existing faucet is at least a few years old, it's not unusual for the valves to be stuck or rusted, making them virtually impossible to budge. Applying heat to the valve with a hair dryer will often loosen the valve enough that you can close it. Alternately, use locking pliers to grab the valve and gently coax it to the Off position. Be aware, however, that excess twisting pressure could break the valve and/or the supply line, which will result in water shooting out and flooding the cabinet. For this reason, before you attempt to loosen a stuck shutoff valve, it's a good idea to shut off your home's main water valve (often located inside a basement or crawlspace where the water line enters the house).If you can't locate the main valve, you can always use pliers to turn off the water at the meter (located in your yard beneath a small manhole-like cover).Photo: istockphoto.com2. Removing the old faucet is often trickier than it sounds.Once the water is off, removing the old faucet is a matter of loosening the nuts that hold it in place (from beneath the sink) and then lifting the faucet out of the holes. Unfortunately, this step can be easier said than done. The space under the sink where the faucet attaches is often narrow and, due to its location, pitch black. You'll need a strong work light to illuminate the area and an adjustable wrench to loosen the nuts.RELATED: 10 Plumbing Tips Everyone Needs to KnowLike the shutoff valves, the nuts holding the faucet in place can be stuck or rusted. If you run into this problem, try brushing away as much corrosion as possible with a wire brush and then spraying penetration oil, such as Liquid Wrench (available from Amazon), on the nuts to help dissolve the corrosion. It can take from 30 minutes to overnight for the oil to work. If you try loosening the nuts again with the wrench and they still won't turn, they will have to be cut off with a reciprocating saw or a hacksaw. Some do-it-yourselfers opt to call a plumber at this point.3. Spare your aching back with the help of scrap plywood.Of all the repair projects you can undertake around your home—even the ones such as painting baseboards where you have to bend and stoop or cleaning out gutters where you have to climb and stretch—few of them are as uncomfortable as trying to wiggle into the confined space under a kitchen sink. In addition to crawling into the cabinet to see where the faucet attaches to the countertop, you're also lying across an uneven surface: The inside floor of the cabinet is generally a few inches higher than the kitchen floor, so your back has to contort to the difference, which never feels good.A little trick to ease the discomfort is to insert a small sheet of plywood inside the cabinet. The sheet should be narrow enough to fit through the door's opening, but wide enough to lay on and long enough to support your back and rear end. Use six to eight quart-size cans of paint (or cans of similar size) to support the end of the plywood sheet that extends out into the kitchen—that should give you a flat surface on which to lie as you replace the faucet.4. Know your limits.Sometimes, you simply can't wedge your body far enough beneath the sink to have a clear path to reach the nuts holding the old faucet in place. When it looks like you'll have to remove additional plumbing like the sink drain trap or the garbage disposal, what should be a two-hour faucet-replacement job can quickly turn into an entire weekend plumbing project. If you don't have plumbing experience, it's often better to call a plumber rather than attempting to remove and then reinstall additional plumbing elements.RELATED: 12 Things Your Plumber Wishes You KnewPhoto: istockphoto.com5. Choose the correct replacement faucet.Before you head to the home improvement center to buy a faucet based simply on its shape and finish, get to know your current sink hardware. The best way to do so is by removing it: With the old faucet removed, you can make note of the number of holes in the sink and the distance between the center of left-most hole to the center of the hole on the far right. This is known as measuring "on center (OC)" and is the industry standard for measuring sinks' holes. The actual diameter of the holes doesn't matter. Installation of the replacement faucet will go the smoothest when you select one that fits the same hole configuration. Plus, with the old faucet removed, you can even take it with you to ensure that you get an exact match.A typical, two-handle kitchen faucet installs over a set of three holes, with the two outside holes being eight inches apart. Updating to a stylish single-handle faucet that requires only one hole to install when you have three is still possible. For this, you'd need to purchase a separate base plate, called an "escutcheon plate," that matches the finish of the new faucet and extends long enough to cover up the unused holes.The reverse situation occurs when you want to go from one handle to two, necessitating two additional holes. In this case, you can bore additional holes in the sink (or in the countertop behind, depending on your existing faucet configuration) to accommodate the new faucet. Note that this moves the project out of the do-it-yourself category, though: Boring new holes in a granite or quartz sink or countertop should be done by a countertop contractor who has the equipment to bore the new holes cleanly without cracking the countertop material.6. Bring in a pro for wall-mounting a faucet.Faucets that attach directly to the wall behind the sink are the newest and trendiest faucets around, appealing to those who want Old World appeal as well as those who are looking to create a semi-pro chef's kitchen by installing a wall-mount faucet with a rotating and extending faucet arm. Unfortunately, this is one of the most involved replacements a homeowner can ask for. Making the switch from a sink-mounted (or countertop-mounted) faucet to a wall-mounted faucet involves opening up the wall behind the sink and running new water-supply lines—definitely a job for a plumber. Not to mention, you'll probably want to replace your old sink or countertop to get rid of the faucet holes left behind.Some jobs are better left to the prosGet free, no-commitment estimates from licensed plumbers near you. +

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