

Checklist: 5 Tips to Prevent Common Faucet Repairs

Blog: Are You Prepared for Faucet Repair in Atlanta?

Faucet repairs are one of the most common reasons to call out a plumber. They're also easy to avoid in many instances. If you're like many homeowners, however, you don't know how to prevent faucet problems. Follow these simple tips to improve the lifespan of your faucet:

- **Don't over tighten the handle.** When turning off the water, you may feel tempted to tighten the knobs as much as possible, but this is counterintuitive. Instead of creating a tighter seal, you may actually cause a leak. There is a washer inside the handle. The washer stops the flow of water when you turn off the faucet. If you tighten the knob too much, it may cause this washer to wear out prematurely. Damaged washers are one of the most common reasons for dripping faucets.
- **Clean off the aerator with a toothbrush.** Touch the opening of your faucet with your fingertip. You should feel a mesh-like screen covering it. This is the aerator. The job of the aerator is to combine air with water as it leaves the faucet. This creates a smooth, uniform stream of water. If the aerator is dirty or clogged, it may cause splashing or spraying.
- **Wipe down the faucet every day.** Use a damp, soft cloth to wipe down the exterior of the faucet each day. This will help keep your faucet looking its best, while also protecting the finish. Calcium deposits may build up over time, and if you don't take care to clean them away in a timely manner, it may damage the interior components of your faucet.
- **Install a water softener.** Hard water is very common. Unfortunately, it can also wreak havoc on your faucets. The minerals found in hard water build up inside the faucet. Over time, this may lead to reduced water pressure or rust. Have a plumber install a water softener to help control the mineral levels of your tap water.
- **Keep an eye out for water leaks.** Even the best faucets will wear out at some point. You never know when it may happen, but the earlier you catch a leak, the better. Faucets can leak from anywhere, although around the base is very common. If you notice water pooling around your faucet, wipe it up immediately. Come back in a few hours, and if the water reappeared, you most likely have a leak. Check the seal around the base of your faucet. You may need to add more plumber's putty to reseal it. If that doesn't resolve the problem, you'll want to hire a plumber to repair the faucet.