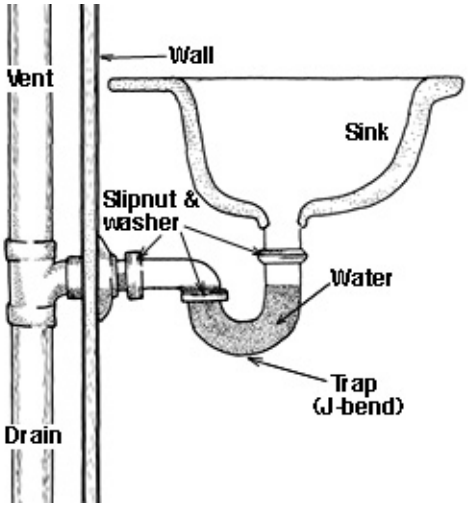
HOMEOWNER REPAIR GUIDE

TRAPS

Traps are the J-shaped devices connected to the bottom of sinks. They retain about a cup of water in order to prevent sewer gas from moving from the drain system into the house via the sink drain. Whether made from plastic or metal, they assemble the same way.



Sink trap (J-bend)

WHEN REPLACING A TRAP

DO	DON'T
Check the old trap for weak spots; replace it if there is a soft place or corrosion. Always use new washers even if re-using old pipe.	Tighten with a pipe wrench; hand tighten only. A pipe wrench can distort the fittings so they will never seal correctly.
Buy a medium-quality-or-better trap to make your job of installing it easier.	Force pieces together; if they won't fit easily, they will leak, no matter what you do.
Install the washers the way described by the manufacturer.	Glue pieces of plastic trap together to stop a drip. If it drips, it's not assembled properly – start over.

Home Repair Resource Center empowers homeowners to maintain their homes for sustainable and diverse communities.

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