HOMEOWNER REPAIR GUIDE

INSTALLING A KITCHEN SINK AND FAUCET

TOOLS NEEDED
Screwdrivers
Adjustable wrench
Pipe wrench
Pliers

MATERIALS NEEDED
Plumber's putty
Silicone caulk

CHOOSING A SINK AND FAUCET

When you buy a new sink and faucet for your kitchen, think about both style and quality of material. Whether you choose porcelain or stainless steel, single-bowl or double, there are two basic styles of sinks commonly used in a kitchen. One is “self-rimming,” and the other has a separate trim ring. There is no real advantage to one style over the other; they just install a bit differently.

BUY A QUALITY FAUCET

With faucets, however, material can have a big effect on durability. It pays in the long run to buy a quality faucet. Models that have plastic parts won't last very long. Generally, the heavier the faucet, the better. And, buying a “brand name” faucet means that you'll be able to get replacement parts in the future.

ASSEMBLE THE SINK FIRST

After the opening is ready in the countertop, the first thing you'll want to do is assemble as much of the sink as you can before installing it in the counter.

1 MOUNT THE FAUCET

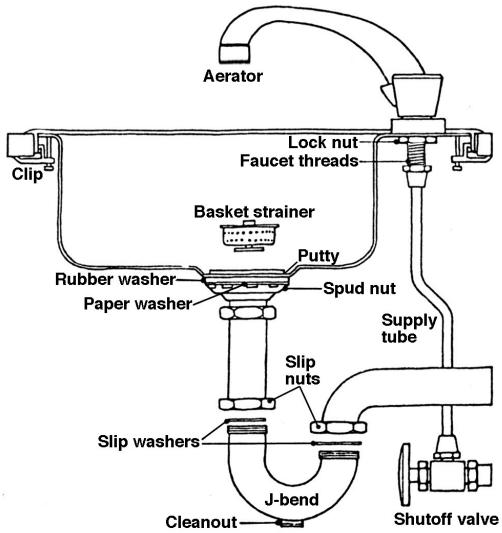
First, mount the faucet on the sink. Faucets are held to the sink by two large locknuts, underneath the sink *(see illustrations)*. Before mounting the faucet to the sink surface, take plumber's putty, roll it into a “snake” about the size of a pencil, and apply it to the bottom of the faucet. This will keep water from getting under there later. Then, put the faucet in place and tighten the nuts underneath, keeping the faucet lined up and straight.

2 INSTALL THE BASKET STRAINER(S)

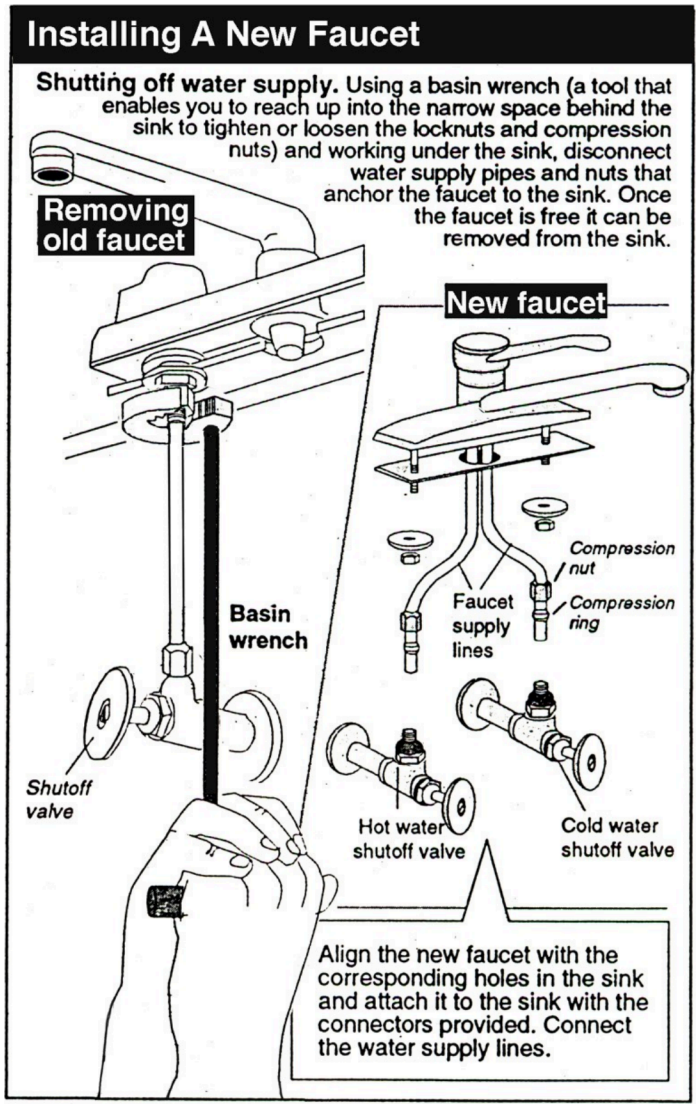
Next, install the basket strainer(s) on the sink drain(s). Apply plumber's putty to the underside of the strainer rim; then, assemble the washers as shown on the box. Stick the handles of a pair of pliers into the holes of the strainer from the top, to give you a “handle” to hold the strainer and keep it from slipping as you tighten the nut securely.

3 ATTACH THE SUPPLY LINES

Finally, attach the supply lines to the bottom of the faucet. The flexible ones made from plastic tubing are worth the dollar or two more that they cost.



Typical sink installation details



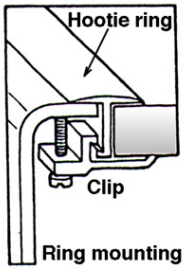
Removing the old faucet and installing a new one

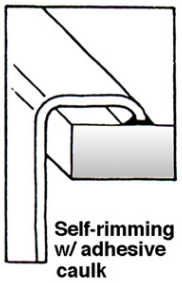
MOUNT THE SINK

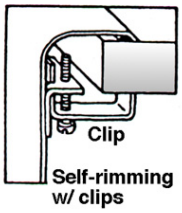
Now you can mount the sink. There are small clips that hold the sink in place. These clips attach to the trim ring, or – if you don't have a trim ring – to the sink itself *(see illustrations)*. Before you mount it, apply a bead of silicone caulk to the bottom of the sink edges to seal out water. Then, position the sink and tighten it down as evenly as possible.

> **NOTE**
> There is one style of enameled cast iron sink that is so heavy that it doesn't use clips. It is simply set into a bead of adhesive/caulk that holds it in place.

After you have mounted the sink in the counter, connect the supply lines to the water lines, and connect the trap to the sink drain. Clean up any excess caulk on the counter and any plumber's putty around the faucet or strainers to complete the job.







Ring mounting; self-rimming with adhesive caulk; self-rimming with clips

Home Repair Resource center

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

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