

Cleaning Your Aerators

Many taps have an aerator as part of the faucet assembly. Aerator screens are not intended to remove contaminants in the water, but may trap sediment or debris as water passes through the faucet. Lead-bearing sediment may end up in drinking water from physical corrosion of leaded solder and can build up in the aerator over time.



Step 1. Remove the aerator by twisting off with hands or pliers.



Step 2. One or more parts are contained within the aerator. Note the order and orientation of the parts as you remove them.



Step 3. Rinse the pieces with water and brush off the debris. For deposits that are difficult to remove, soak the parts in water for a few minutes and scrub with a toothbrush. Backwashing aerator components is also an effective cleaning method for many aerator types. Hold the removed aerator upside down under flowing water to backwash screens and mesh filters.



Step 4. Reassemble the aerator, screw it back onto the faucet and hand-tighten. If any parts are cracked or broken, replace them. If the washer has hardened it should be replaced.