



Tap Design

**Your taps can be practical,
easy to use and fashionable.**

The Facts

1. The capacity to wash yourself, your clothes and your dishes are three of the basic fundamentals of everyday life.

2. Good hygiene is an essential part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

3. Taps that are well designed for ease of operation, safety and located correctly are important for maintaining independence in daily life.

Tap design

If you have limited flexibility or movement in your hands operating some taps can become a difficult or painful task.

You may not only have difficulty turning some types of taps on and off but also with making the smaller movements required to regulate and control the water flow and temperature during use.

Mixer handles

Single mixer taps are much easier to operate when you have reduced flexibility and they also make the task of regulating the flow and temperature easier.

By replacing the regular mixer lever handle with a longer lever you can reach the taps of your basin, kitchen sink and washing tub when seated or when using a wheelchair. The use of a spout that can move rather than being fixed will also make use easier. Also ensure there is sufficient clearance under the spout to allow free movement.

Capstan handles

An alternative to a single lever mixer or where separate hot and cold water taps are required is a capstan handle.

Single mixer taps are easier to use than taps that must be gripped.

Hands free operation

There are a variety of different taps available that can be turned on and off without the use of your hands.

You may associate these type of taps with public toilets, however, many companies now sell stylish versions for homes.

Hands free taps which can be operated by foot, knee or electronically are suitable for a variety of applications. These taps can be fitted to existing basin and kitchen sink facilities.

Taps that can be operated by knees, shoulders or elbows have a lever that is located near the spout. There are also taps that have floor mounted levers for foot actuation.

Electronic taps available come in a range of different forms and can be either power or battery operated.

Sensor taps are operated by a high frequency infrared beam that turns on the tap when an object is passed under the spout and off when the object is removed.

An alternative sensor based system sees a sensor mounted on the wall adjacent to the fixture which is activated when passing a hand or object in front of the sensor.

Tap Location

When selecting your taps carefully consider the main use of the taps and any advantages and disadvantages of the mounting location.

Basin and Sink

A traditional location at the back of the basin or sink can cause some problems for people who have reaching difficulties.

Instead consider installing your taps directly into the bench top located to the side of the fixture to allow for easy reach and operation.

Shower

Taps in the shower should be located between 900-1100mm above the floor level where they do not obstruct the shower or any grab rails.

Ideally taps should be located away from the flow of the water on the side that is closest to the opening of the shower.

This allows the water to be turned on and the temperature adjusted without the need to reach through the water stream.

Bath

Bath taps should be located where they can be easily reached from both inside and outside the bath.

Considerations when selecting taps

- How the tap will be used and any special uses that require more room or a different configuration.
- Where the tap will be located.
- Is there a requirement to connect to existing plumbing? Does this affect tap selection?
- The finish of the taps
- Durability of the fitting
- Ease of use and operation
- Aesthetics
- Mounting requirements
- Water flow
- Water efficiency
- Cost

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