



Taps and Water Temperature Regulation

Many people have difficulty with grasp, hand function or sensation which affects daily living activities. This publication gives information about taps, tap turners, and equipment that helps to regulate water temperature.



Local call 1300 885 886 | info@ilct.com.au | www.ilct.com.au

Launceston, Hobart, Ulverstone

Tap Turners

Tap turners are useful for turning taps on and off. They operate like a lever and need less hand strength. Each tap turner is designed to fit a specific type of tap head, although some may fit a range of different taps. Use caution when turning off the tap as it may affect the washer. If you turn off the tap too tightly.



Things to consider:

- Your hand strength and the type of tap handle or grip that suits you.
- Your ability to sense and react quickly when water temperature is too hot, to prevent burns.
- Who else will be using the taps – other members of the household, children, visitors?
- In rental properties, ask your landlord before making changes to taps or plumbing.

Lever Taps

Consider replacing your existing taps. Lever taps can make it easier to turn taps on and off. Some levers are very long and can be operated by your elbow. Others are shorter and are operated by using the hand. Some lever tap products can be fitted to an existing tap spindle.



Mixer Taps

Mixer taps usually feature a single lever outlet that blends hot and cold water. The lever can be rotated to control the water temperature and raised to increase water flow.



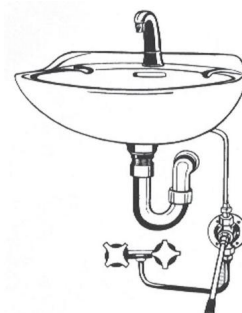
Time flow taps

Time flow taps provide a timed flow, and automatically shut off after a preset time. This also saves on water usage. The flow of water is activated by moving the lever or pressing the button with the hand (usually the thumb) or with the wrist or forearm.



Knee/Foot operation of taps

Special lever or pedal tapware can allow a tap to be turned on with the knee or the foot. Water flow can be activated either for a preset period (e.g. 15 seconds) or only while the lever/pedal is depressed by the foot or knee. A single tap is used, with mixed, preset temperature water.



Automatic / sensor taps

Sensor taps are hands-free. An infrared sensor is activated by movement in front of the sensor. The water flow stops when movement ceases, when a second movement occurs near the sensor, or alternatively, after a preset period. The sensor can be located on the basin or in the wall. Electronic touch pads can activate water flow for a preset period of time.



Alternative washers

Alternative washers can make it easier to turn your taps on and off. A hydroseal is a tap valve which fits most taps, converting them from a washer system to a dripless light action system. This means you can more easily control the water flow and turn the tap on full with just a three quarter turn. A hydroseal can be used with hot or cold water, and low or high, water pressure.



Alternative tap spindles

Replacing regular tap spindles with ceramic spindles can often make them easier to operate. They are also known as $\frac{1}{4}$ turn, $\frac{1}{2}$ turn and $\frac{3}{4}$ turn spindles.

You will need to talk to your local plumbing store about which ceramic spindle will suit your pipework and taps and the probable cost of purchase and installation.



Water temperature regulation

There are devices that can regulate the temperature of the water or stop the water flow if it gets too hot. These are called thermostatic mixer valves and anti-scald devices and are designed to control the maximum temperature of water. These devices can therefore be useful to help reduce your risk of getting burnt by hot water. Some devices mix cold water with hot water as it leaves the hot water cylinder. This means that all household hot water is reduced to a safer temperature level.

Other devices are mounted so that they control the water temperature only for specific outlets, e.g. in the shower, bathroom, kitchen or laundry. Anti-scald devices can also be fitted to the hot water supply pipework. These devices reduce the water flow if a rise in temperature is detected. These devices can reduce your risk of being scalded by hot water and are recommended if you have poor sensation, slow movements, or slow reaction times.

Thermostatic mixers

Thermostatic mixing valves can be mounted at different locations, e.g.

1. Hot water cylinder: As the water comes out of the hot water cylinder, the temperature is regulated. This means that all hot water from this cylinder is regulated.
2. Bathroom area(s): This means that the kitchen and laundry can still have hot water of a higher temperature.
3. For the shower only.

Tempering valve: a mixing valve that is temperature-actuated is used to modify a hot water supply with cold water to provide hot water at a lower temperature at one or more outlets.

Thermostatic mixing valve: where temperature of the water from the mixed water outlet is automatically controlled by a thermostatic element/sensor to a preselected temperature that is suitable for direct contact with the skin. Source: AS / NZS 3500.0, 2003: *Plumbing and drainage – Glossary of terms*



Tempering valve



Thermostatic mixing valve

Things to consider

- Thermostatic mixing valves are suitable for use with mains pressure water systems only.
- Does the regulated water temperature need to apply to the whole house, or only some areas?
- A plumber needs to install these devices.
- Some gas hot water systems can be preset to a certain temperature.

More Information

For advice about taps and water temperature regulation or other assistive technology, please contact ILCT or your local plumbing store.

- o **Ring 1300 885 886 to speak to a health professional.**
- o **Visit our website www.ilct.com.au or email ilc@ilct.com.au.**
- o **Make an appointment to visit one of the displays centers: Launceston, Hobart, or Ulverstone.**
- o **ILCT visits communities around Tasmania. Contact us to find out when we will be in your area.**

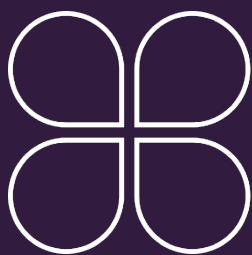
ILCT is a not for profit organisation and does not sell equipment.

Disclaimer

Independent Living Centre Tasmania (ILCT) does not design or make products. ILCT cannot guarantee that all information given is correct. Prices shown are a rough guide. Some products may incur GST. Check with suppliers for up-to-date prices. The display of products at an ILCT centre, or details given in print, is only for your information. It is not a recommendation. You should always get professional advice when choosing products. The person choosing the product is responsible for their choice. ILCT takes no responsibility for people choosing equipment or services which will cause (or be alleged to have caused) loss or injury. You must follow the manufacturer's or service provider's instructions when using equipment or service

© April 2021. (Please print the most up to date publication at www.ilct.com.au)

Supported by the Crown through the Department of Health and Human Services and the Australian Government Department of Health. Although funding for this service has been provided by the Australian Government, the material contained herein does not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Australian Government.



Independent Living Centre Tasmania

275 Wellington Street,
South Launceston,
Tasmania 7249

337 Argyle Street,
North Hobart,
Tasmania 7000

Cradle Coast Health Centre,
11 Alexander Road,
Ulverstone, Tasmania 7315

Contact us:
P 1300 885 886
E info@ilct.com.au
W ilct.com.au