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Delta shower cartridge identification chart

When your shower faucet is leaking or broken and you need to repair it, you should know the type of valve used for the repair to be a success. This will depend on the manufacturer and the valve's purpose. Luckily for you, this guide makes identifying shower valves very easy. Check behind the shower handle at the center of the trim plate to find the manufacturer symbol or brand name. "K" is for Kohler, "M" for Moen while Price Pfister, Delta and American Standard have their full names on the faucet. You can also use the cartridge length to find the brand name. There's a difference between a shower valve and shower faucet. The shower valve is the hidden part of the shower control while the shower faucet (trim kit) is the outside part with the handle. However, the design of a shower handle/faucet often denotes the design of the shower valve. Also, shower valves are different from shutoff valves which are the valves controlling water in the whole bathroom. Some shower panels have their own shower valves. To better answer this question, we need to look at the various aspects of shower valves and how to know yours as follows: Check behind the shower handle at the center of the trim plate for the manufacturer's symbol or brand name. You will see one of the following: K: the manufacturer is Kohler, M: the manufacturer is Moen, American Standard, Price Pfister, or Delta; these brands print their entire names on the faucet. This information is vital in repairing or replacing the shower valve since some have specific measurements which may not fit into the others. Simply put, you identify the shower faucet brand by looking at the writings on the shower faucet. Take a look at the shower faucet and count the number of handles it has. If it has: No handle: It's a panel shower faucet and will have buttons for controlling the water flow. 1 handle: It's a single-handle faucet with the handle controlling the water flow and temperature. 2 handles: It's a double-handle faucet where each handle controls the hot or cold water flow. 3 handles: It's a three-handle faucet with the two handles for controlling the hot and cold water respectively and with the third handle working as a diverter between the bathtub and showerhead. Of the four types of faucets, the single-handle shower faucet is the most common and easiest to use. Shower dials like these ones are easier to identify since you don't need any tools. Check above the faucet for the connection between the showerhead pipe and the rest of the plumbing. You will notice one of the following: Handset/handheld showerhead: This is when a hose runs from the showerhead to the shower pipe behind the faucet handle. Fixed/mounted showerhead: This is when the showerhead is directly mounted to the shower pipe from the wall. Handheld showerheads offer flexibility when in use while fixed ones may or may not be turned around through different angles. Turn on the showerhead then go through the different shower settings while taking note of the behavior of the water. If there's one constant flow, the showerhead is a normal one. If water bursts from the showerhead in a series of bursts, the showerhead is a massaging or pulsating one. With the aspects above, you have a wholesome picture of the type of shower knobs and shower valve you have in your shower. You can then get a replacement from the manufacturer with the right specifications. Using the design of the shower faucet to establish the type of shower valve you have isn't always accurate. You need to remove the shower faucet to access the shower valve inside it. The following are the shower valve types with pictures: Shower mixing valves are one of the old shower valve types and are meant to mix water from the hot and cold taps before delivering it to the showerhead. Shower mixer valves are often found in old buildings and won't regulate a sudden change in water pressure. This might scald you if, for example, the water pressure for cold water drops when someone turns on water in a nearby tap or flushes the toilet. You can avoid this by keeping the hot water thermostat to a maximum of 120°F (48.9°C). Thermostatic shower valves control the temperature and pressure of the water coming out of the showerhead. A thermostatic valve has a thermosensitive element which adjusts the flow of both hot and cold water in response to temperature changes. You preset the water temperature then the valve maintains it that way no matter the changes in the incoming hot and cold water. You can also set the volume of water from each water source (hot and cold) after which the valve does the rest. The thermostatic shower valve is one of the most expensive shower valves given its features. Transfer valves regulate water flow to multiple outlets such as bathtub spouts, handheld showerheads and others at the same time. With transfer valves, you can use more than one outlet at the same time such as both fixed and handheld showerheads or showerheads with a tap. Pressure balancing valves automatically balance the water pressure from the hot and cold pipes to within 2-3°F of the set temperature. Also called shower pressure valves, anti-scald valves or mechanical valves, pressure balancing valves are the most common and effective shower valves. Pressure balancing valves work through a series of diaphragms or pistons which move to balance the pressure of the water from the hot and cold water sources. They usually have a single knob which changes the water temperature when turned to the left or the right. Shower diverter valves divert water from a bathtub faucet to the showerhead thus allowing for the installation of a shower and bathtub in the same location. The main types of shower diverters are as follows: Tee diverter: Uses a pull arm whereby the water runs in the tap and, once a favorable temperature has been attained, the arm is pulled to block the faucet or tap thereby directing the water to the shower. Two-valve diverter: Uses a rotating control for the hot and cold water with a second control for diverting water between the tub and shower. Three-valve diverter: Uses three knobs, two for the cold and hot water, and third one for diverting water between the tub and shower. Knowing your shower valve type helps in easy repair and replacement. To access a shower valve, you need to remove the shower faucet handle as follows: Locate the mains shutoff valve then turn off the water before starting work on the shower valve. Use a screwdriver set (or Allen wrenches) to remove the handle. For single-lever handles, locate the set-screw in the handle then use an Allen wrench to undo it. For crystal handles, pop off the plastic cover with a flat-head screwdriver then unscrew the handle with a screwdriver. For faucets with two handles, remove the cover with a screwdriver then use the screwdriver to undo the bolt in the middle of the handle. When the screw has been removed, pull the shower faucet arm off the wall to expose the shower valve. You can then use the guide above to determine the type of shower valve you have. One other way to identify the type of shower valve you have is to find the brand of the cartridge in your shower as shown in the steps below using a cartridge identification chart: Remove the cartridge as shown in this Moen cartridge replacement procedure below. The same guide applies to the removal of the Delta Type P shower valve and many others. Measure the length of the cartridge from the base to the tip (seat to splines) using a ruler or caliper. Find the length tier of the cartridge (from 1-12). Find the broach pattern with the broach chart (page B-5). Find the length tier of the stem (on the side of each page). Find the matching broach pattern on the sides of the cartridge photos. Find the part numbers matching with your cartridge measurements. Once you identify the part numbers, you will know the manufacturer of the cartridge. Given that cartridges work with specific valves, the manufacturer of the cartridge is the same manufacturer of the shower valve. Shower valves are not universal and you cannot mix manufacturers when it comes to trim and rough-in valves. Besides that, one manufacturer will have different valve sizes and types which may also not be universal and interchangeable with each other. Luckily, shower sets are always sold as a complete set. How to Identify My Shower Faucet Cartridge Some like it hot, some like it cold. But if you prefer your showers a blend of hot and cold water, you'll absolutely need a shower faucet cartridge. A shower faucet cartridge is an essential part of your faucet because it controls the mix of hot and cold water coming out. Having a working shower faucet cartridge means you can avoid showering in scalding or icy water, and you can adjust the temperature to suit your preferences. Of course, a new shower faucet comes with a working cartridge, but after a while, you'll have to change it. The key to replacing a cartridge is to buy the right model, so shower cartridge identification is a vital step in the process. What Is a Cartridge Faucet? Everybody knows that the purpose of bathroom faucets is to turn the water on in the shower or sink. Although you'll find many variations on a theme out there, there are only a few basic shower valve cartridge types. The original style was called a compression faucet and had two handles: One for hot water and one for cold. Each faucet has a valve regulating water flow and an onboard washer to create a pressure seal. The washers are eliminated in cartridge faucets, also called "washerless faucets." Instead, this system uses a faucet stem cartridge to regulate water flow. Some cartridge faucets have one handle, used to regular both volume (up and down) and temperature (side to side). Others have two handles and look like compression faucets. The cartridge faucet was billed as an improvement over the original, old-style faucets. Finding a Brand or Identification Number Most people know the brand of car they drive and whether their computer is made by Dell or Apple, but few can tell you off the top of their heads the brand of their shower faucet. It's critical to figure out the brand when you need to replace a cartridge because every brand now makes its own unique replacement parts. You can't use one company's parts for another brand's products. A stamped brand is a sure-fire shower valve cartridge identifier. The major faucet brands include Delta, Price Pfister, Danco, Kohler, American Standard and Peerless. If your faucet is one of the big brands, it may well be stamped with a mark identifying it. Easiest of all is when it says the brand name right on the faucet face. But you should also look at the bottom of the faucet, on the handles or on the round plate behind the handles. If you find a brand name, go to the manufacturer's website and call the contact number for assistance. Faucet Cartridge Identification and Removal If you see no brand name anywhere, you'll need to remove the shower cartridge. Before you take it out, remember to turn off water to the shower. If you don't know how to shut off the water valves to the shower, just close the water valve to your entire house. This is often located behind the hot water heater, but you can also use a curb key and shut it down in front of the house. To take the shower cartridge out, loosen the screws – often located on the side of the handle – with an Allen wrench. If you can't find any visible screws, remove the handle cover to find them. Once the screw is loosened up, remove the handle. It will be held in by either a bonnet cap or a cartridge clip. If it is the former, just turn it left to remove it. Cartridge clips must be pried off. Keep removing any other pieces holding the cartridge until you can slide it out. At this point, your best bet is to carry the cartridge to the hardware store to get help with shower cartridge identification. Plumbing shops and home improvement centers usually have books that the clerks use to identify faucets. And many employees will have a working knowledge of brands. Why should there be a need to identify a Delta shower faucet? Isn't the Delta name branded on all the faucets, be it old or new models? The importance of knowing how to identify a Delta shower faucet comes when you have to replace part of your faucet. You see, Delta shower faucets come in different models and each of those are distinct from each other through their features. So the unit you may have is an anti-scald system or a special handle. Knowing exactly what model you have with you helps you when it comes to replacing parts because you are equipped with what to look for. Shower Faucet Identification Identify the main features of the faucet. This refers particularly to the handle shape, size and style of the unit. These are important features to note as Delta designs each model differently. In terms of handles, Delta has lever handles, single-round handles and double-handle shower faucets. Identifying the type of finish helps as well which can either be chrome or brushed metal. The material the handle is made of matters to and can either be clear plastic or metal. Remove the handle. Using an Allen wrench, remove the handle by unscrewing the set screw which can be located on the side of the handle or underneath a cap that is on top of the faucet handle. Gently pull off the faucet then look under to see the cartridge. Check whether there is a scald guard (this looks like a dial-shaped part that has a notched knob) or not. Match the specific unit you have online. This step involves you browsing through Delta's site to find the exact unit that you have. Once you hit Delta's home page, click on the Bath link. A menu will appear listing all the bath products the company has. Select Bath Tub and Shower Faucets. This takes you to another page where you are going to select features in order to get a matching product. You are going to make selections for finish, type/characteristic, parts/components, smart features, price, decorating style and collection. You can also choose to include only new products or include discontinued products (these choices are available as checkboxes). Of course, not all of these will apply to you and you should only tick boxes where applicable. For instance, you may not really know the price of your shower faucet (particularly if you purchased it years ago; this option is here for people who maybe want to buy a new shower faucet). You may not also know which collection your faucet belonged to but bonus points if you can recall. After you've made all of your selections, click on View Matching Products. Bring The Faucet To a Store. When you aren't too sure about the steps you've previously taken or just want to be accurate, you can go to a plumbing supply store or a hardware store to have a clerk help you out with identifying your Delta shower faucet. Knowing what kind of Delta shower faucet you have is important when replacing a part. But if you're completely stumped with identifying exactly what model you have, you can always take it to a plumbing supply store or hardware shop and ask for assistance.

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