

Kitchen Faucet: Fix Slow Flow

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If the water coming out of your kitchen faucet has been reduced to an annoying trickle, don't fret. There may be no need to throw out the faucet or the "wand", or call in a plumber. Usually all it needs is a good cleaning. Here's how I did it with my Moen faucet.

The following figure shows a snippet of Moen's blowup diagram for my faucet. I've circled the wand which is attached to a pull-out hose.

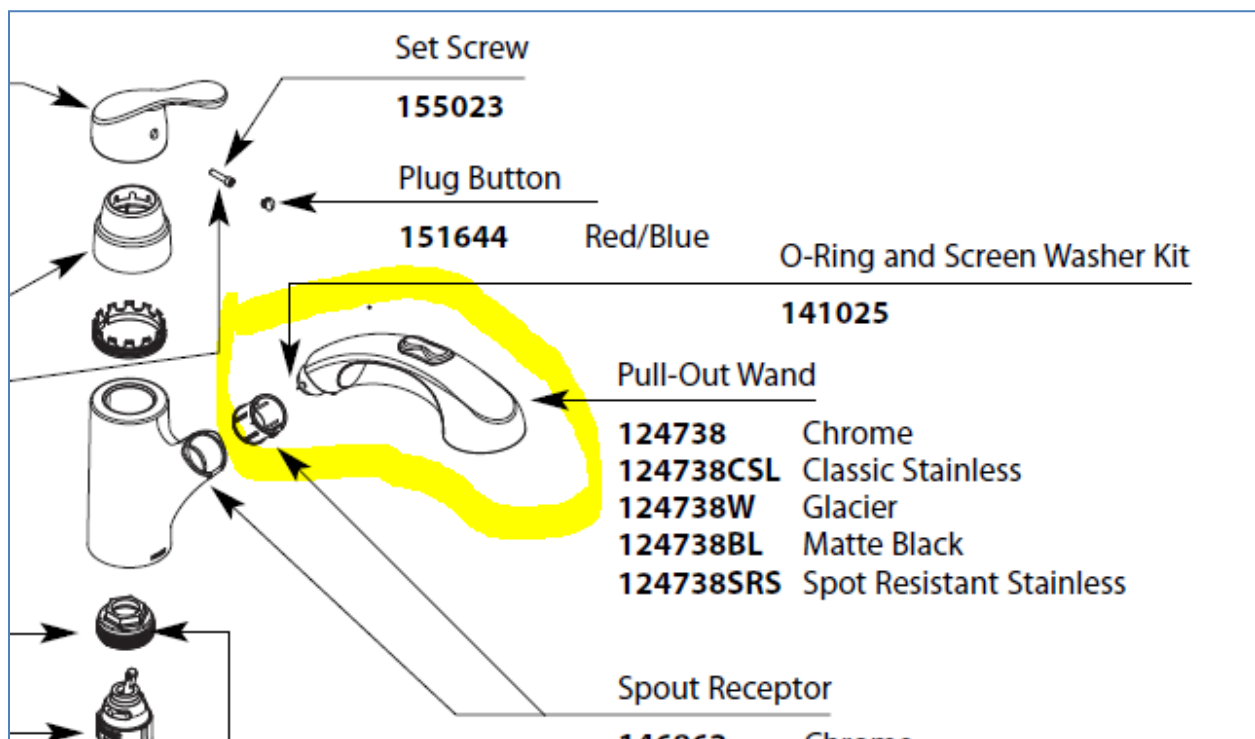


Figure 1. Moen Kitchen Faucet (Courtesy of Moen)

Check the Water Pressure to the Wand

First, verify that the flow to the wand is good:

1. With the water off, pull out the wand and unscrew it from the hose.
2. Turn the water on and check the flow from the hose. If it's good, then the wand is probably loaded with sediment and other deposits. If the flow is poor, then you need to consider replacing the valve – this is not discussed in this article.

To proceed with cleaning the wand, you will need to clean:

- the screen at the hose end of the wand, and then
- the head of the wand

Clean the Hose End of the Wand

1. Look at the hose end of the wand.
2. Remove the O-washer, and pull out the little round filter basket.
3. Use a pointed object to scrape out the sediment and other mung from both sides of the basket.

Clean the Head of the Wand

The following figure illustrates what I ended up doing and some of the tools I used.



1. Remove the rubber button on the wand that you press to switch between flow and spray.
2. Remove the toggle under the rubber button – on mine, it simply popped off.
3. Find the screw nearby the toggle that holds the wand body together.
4. Unscrew the screw, and disconnect the back of the wand. This will allow the head of the wand to separate from the wand body.
5. Unscrew the head of the wand. This is where you will find the majority of the crud blocking the water flow.
6. Pop out the O-ring and the round filter from the center of the head.
7. Scrub and wipe clean the in-inside and outside of the head. Using some vinegar helps.
8. Reassemble the filter and O-ring back into the head, and screw the head back on the body.

9. Reassemble the body, reattach the toggle, and screw in the screw holding the body together.
10. Reassemble the hose-end filter and O-ring.
11. Reattach the wand to the hose.
12. Turn on the water and check the flow and spray. It should be significantly improved.

ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE: 30 minutes.