

By Scott Pocius

Many of us have experienced problems with our outside faucets. The trade pros call these things “frost free anti-siphon sill cocks”. They are designed to meet the current plumbing codes that help to ensure we are provided with a safe and sanitary water source. No matter what you call them or why we need them, when they don’t work they can be a real pain.

The two most common problems are a leak that comes from under the plastic cap or the handle and a faucet that does not provide any water even when the faucet is turned on.

For the leak problem follow “**Figures A-1 & A-2**”.

For the no water problem follow “**Figures B-1 thru B-4**”.



Figure A-1: Using a flat bladed screw driver pry against the metal ring formed on the faucet body and push the plastic dust cover cap upward. This will expose the anti-siphon valve.

Figure A-2: Use a Q-tip to clean the anti-siphon valve. You may find a piece of dirt or a spider's nest in the center hole of the anti-siphon valve. Now turn the faucet on to check for leaks. When the obstruction is cleared and the leak stops replace the plastic cap. A small drip each time the faucet is turned on or off is normal.



Figure B-1: With the faucet turned on, lightly tap the sides of the faucet body with a soft face hammer. If the water does not flow, turn off the faucet and turn it on again, then tap some more. If you have tried this procedure several times and the water still does not flow then go to “**Figure B-2**”.



Figure B-2: Turn the water off inside the house at the main shut-off. Then remove the screw that retains the faucet handle and pull the handle off.

Figure B-3: Remove the plastic nut from the faucet body. (This nut has left hand threads so you will have to turn it clock-wise to remove it.)



Figure B-4: Replace the handle temporarily. Now turn the handle as if you are turning the water on. Keep turning the handle until the whole valve stem can be pulled out of the faucet body. Go back inside the house, turn on the main water shut off

for about 10 seconds; this will purge away any debris inside the faucet. Then reassemble the faucet. This should normally allow the faucet to work all season long with out trouble.