

# Installing a Pedestal Sink

## Introduction

Pedestal sinks have remained popular as a more formal and stylish alternative to countertop sinks. Despite their popularity, however, it can be difficult to choose the correct type of sink and install it properly.

Pedestal sinks are typically made of either enameled cast iron or vitreous china. Cast iron sinks tend to be very expensive but are also very durable, while the vitreous china sinks tend to vary in price and quality. Pedestal sinks also come with three different hole configurations that correspond to the particular faucet that you have, or are planning to install. Be sure that you choose a matching sink and faucet configuration.

Please consult our tutorials on faucet basics and replacing a bathroom faucet once you are ready to install your faucet with your new sink!

## SHOPPING LIST

### Materials List

Pedestal sink & base  
Matching faucet  
Pop-up drain assembly  
Pipe joint compound  
Teflon tape  
Plumber's putty  
Silicon and/or adhesive caulk  
2x4 might be needed for blocking  
Lag bolts or anchors

### Tools List (click item to shop)

**Tongue & groove pliers**  
**Basin wrench**  
**Screwdriver**  
**Adjustable wrench**  
**Socket set**  
**Hammer**  
**Electric drill with masonry bit**  
**Putty knife**  
**Pipe wrench**  
**Reciprocating saw**  
**Caulking gun**

### Skill Level & Time To Complete

- Beginner - 3 to 5 hours
- Intermediate - 3 to 4 hours
- Advanced - 2 to 3 hours

### Cautions

Make sure to wear safety glasses when working under the sink as bits of rust and metal can fall into your eyes as you are working.

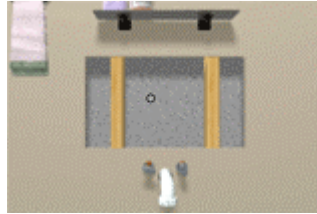
### Helpful Tips

Be prepared to replace the shutoff valves as they can break easily. Also, new flexible supply tubes are much easier to manipulate.

Know where the main water shut off is just in case.

Have a small pail ready to catch leaks.

1. In order to secure the pedestal sink to the wall behind it there must be something substantial to bolt into. Tiles set on a mortar base will typically be substantial enough provided that you use heavy-duty wall anchors. If there is only plaster or drywall behind the sink then you must install blocking under the wall surface to support the sink. To do this, remove the plaster or drywall behind the sink, nail or screw in blocking so that the sink can be properly hung, and repair the hole with water resistant drywall.



2. Freely set the basin and pedestal in position and prop up the basin with 2x4s so that it is steady. Make sure the sink is level both front to back and left to right. Mark the location for the mounting holes on the wall for both the basin and pedestal.



3. Drill holes corresponding to your marks and the type of fasteners you plan to use.



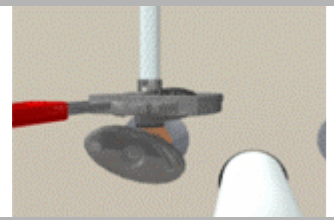
4. Install the faucet and drain assembly on the basin. Attach the water supply lines to the faucet.



5. Put the basin and pedestal back in position but only bolt the basin in place. Be careful not to over tighten the bolts and crack the sink. Next with the basin supported by some 2x4s slip the pedestal out from under the basin.



6. Complete the installation of the drain and water supply lines and test for leaks. If you have a leak, use some Teflon tape and resecure the fittings.



7. Move the pedestal back into its final position and bolt it to the floor. If the pedestal is not designed for floor bolts, then apply adhesive caulk to the bottom and top of the pedestal before putting it in position.



8. Caulk the joint between the sink and the wall. Smooth and blend the bead by moistening your finger and running it over the bead.



Enjoy the beauty of your new sink!