

Anti-Contamination Sink Spigot Handle, Version 1.0

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My goal is to get you thinking about this problem and a solution that works for you. Plumbing is so non-standard that I'm sure you do not own the same style of spigot as I have.

If you had your hands in a mud puddle, would you scrub them up with soap and water and then rise in that same mud puddle?

I sure hope you answered “no”.



Now, if you thought you had the novel coronavirus on your hands, would you turn on the spigot, soap up, scrub for 20 seconds, and then rinse off? I bet you would. But then what? How do you turn the water off?

By touching the possibly contaminated spigot, you might be re-infecting yourself.

We can't all have the elbow actuated spigots seen on MASH. Not to worry, we hopefully have a lathe and a spare PVC coupler.

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After unscrewing the top of one spigot, I could see that there was a bore with an internal thread.

I chucked up a ½ inch PVC coupler that was a slip fit on one side and threaded on the other. By taking very light cuts, I was able to reduce the PVC so it was a close fit to that bore. The one heavy cut I made sent the coupler across the room.



Using my lathe for alignment, I held the coupler in my 3 jaw chuck while the spigot fit over my tailstock's drill chuck. It was then easy to hand turn the 3 jaw chuck while holding onto the spigot. As the spigot's internal threads cut into the plastic, I fed the tailstock in to maintain alignment.

For this style of spigot, there is very little friction so the coupler is secure enough.



With the plastic coupler disinfected, it is ready for service.

I turn on the water with my contaminated hand by turning the original spigot. After washing my hands, I turn the water off by twisting the coupler. This has the side benefit of further tightening the coupler into the spigot.

And when the risk of catching the virus has passed, it will be easy to unscrew the coupler and screw back on the original cover disk.

Now comes the really tough part: convincing my wife that this is not hideous.

I welcome your comments and questions.

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