

Deacon Ridge Shower Valve Replacement

Given that our condos are 20+ years old and that nothing lasts forever, the shower valve cartridge assembly in the bathrooms will leak or become hard to operate. The information that follows covers how to replace the shower valve assembly(s).

These steps are being provided as a guide to keeping your Condo leak-free.

Neither the Deacon Ridge HOA nor RPM are responsible for damaged caused by you because of failing to read and or follow these instructions before starting.

If you are not comfortable making this repair, consult a professional plumber.

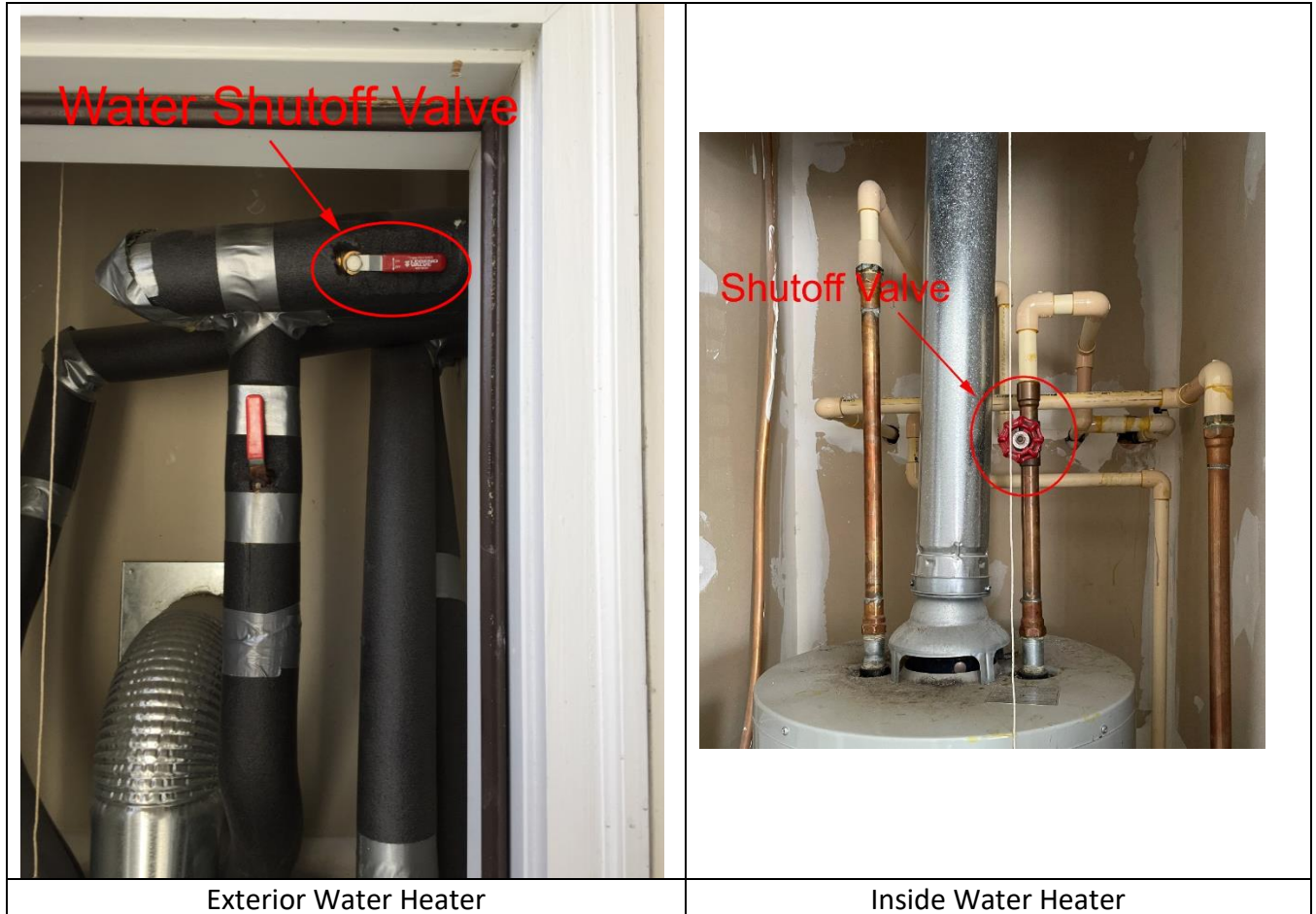
WARNING – TURN OFF THE WATER TO YOUR CONDO BEFORE YOU START!!!!

Failure to not turn off the water will cause your bathroom to flood, and if you are on the 2nd or third floor, your neighbor's units also.

Turning off the Water

The water shutoff valve is located in one of two places:

- If your condo has a balcony/patio, it is located in the water heater closet on your balcony/patio.
- If your condo does not have a balcony/patio, the shutoff valve is located inside the condo in the closet containing the hot water heater.



The shutoff valve is located above the hot water heater as shown above.

For Exterior Water Heaters: To shut off the water, rotate the red handle 90° so that it is horizontal. (The red handle will have arrows indicating the open and closed positions.)

For Interior Water Heaters: Rotate the red handle on the valve clockwise (to the right) until it stops.

After the water is off, it is advisable to open the kitchen faucet, the bathroom basin faucet and the shower faucet to allow water to drain.

Removing the Handle and Cover Plate

The shower valve is shown below. If you look closely you will see "Price Pfister" on the center cap.



The center cap can be removed with a finger nail. Under this cap is a Phillips head screw which must be removed in order to take off the shower handle.

Faceplate and Collar

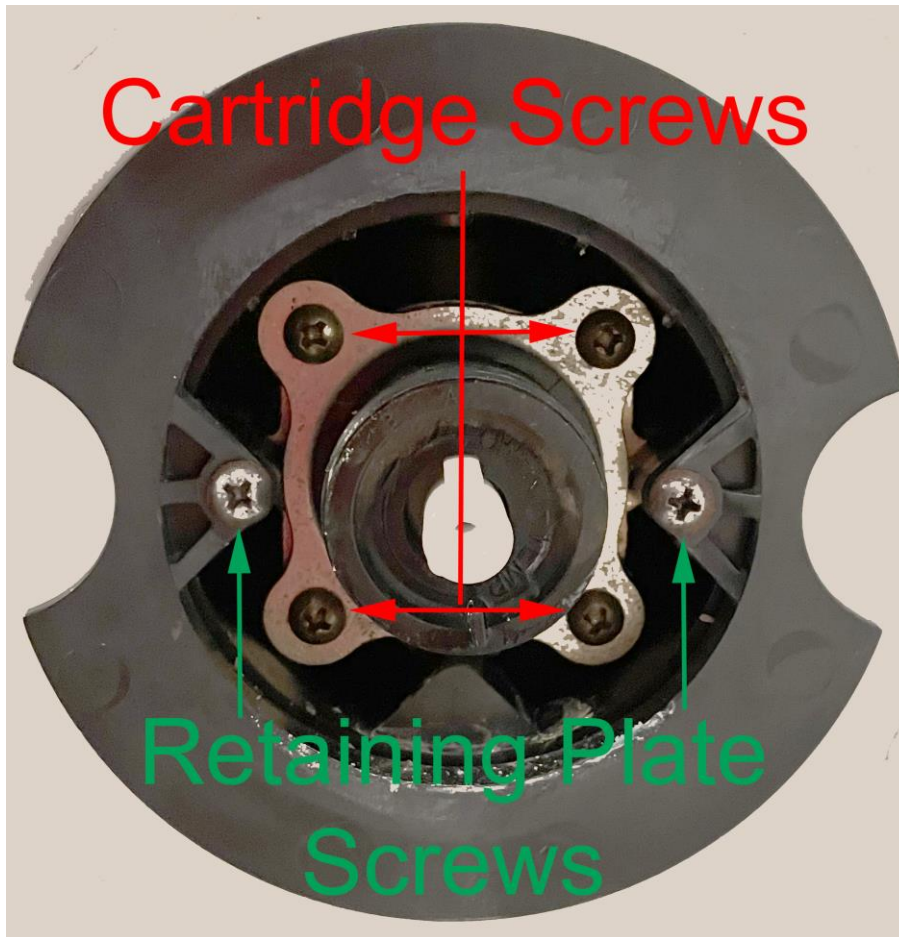


Once the handle is removed you will see the valve cartridge, a threaded collar and the faceplate. Remember the orientation of the center post – the protrusion will be pointing **UP!**

The threaded collar must be removed first by turning it counterclockwise. It may be stuck, but **DO NOT** use pliers or wrenches to turn it. **(If you use wrenches, etc., you run the risk of deforming the collar and you will then be stuck with a plumber's bill!)** If you use an old pair of rubber kitchen gloves the rubber will provide sufficient friction to loosen the collar.

Once the collar is off, the faceplate should come off easily. If someone has used plumber's putty or caulk to hold it in place you can carefully use a knife blade along the edge to loosen it.

Valve Assembly Removal



Once the faceplate has been removed, you will see the valve cartridge and a retaining plate. The valve cartridge has four Phillips head screws holding it in place. The retaining plate has 2 Phillips head screws holding the mounting plate in place. **DO NOT remove the two screws holding the retaining plate as there is another ring assembly behind it that the valve sits in. If that second part falls into the wall, you are sunk! You will either need to call a plumber or cut a hole in the drywall behind the bathroom to retrieve the ring assembly.**

Before removing the screws, place a rag or paper towels under the valve to catch any water in the valve parts. Once the four corner screws are removed the valve cartridge will easily pull out of the valve housing along with the metal retaining plate in front of it. But you are not finished.

There is another part to the cartridge assembly behind the first unit! You can use your fingers (or needle-nosed pliers) to pull it out. This second part has two O-rings in the back of it. Check to make sure that **BOTH** O-rings are out. If one or both are still in the valve housing, use your finger to loosen and remove them.

Make sure that you notice the orientation of the two O-ring seals when you remove this second part.



The correct orientation is shown in the right picture above.

There are two different Price Pfister valves that look identical on the outward end.



These are the parts that come out of the shower and are the ones you need to do an exact replacement of the valve. Note that if the cartridge has been replaced previously, it may have the one-piece cartridge (see below).

Two-Piece Cartridge

The parts to do an exact replacement of a two-piece cartridge are:

Pfister Valve Assembly – part number 971-250 (the front part); Cost = \$15 and change

Pfister Pressure Balancing Cartridge - part number S74-291; Cost = \$33 and change

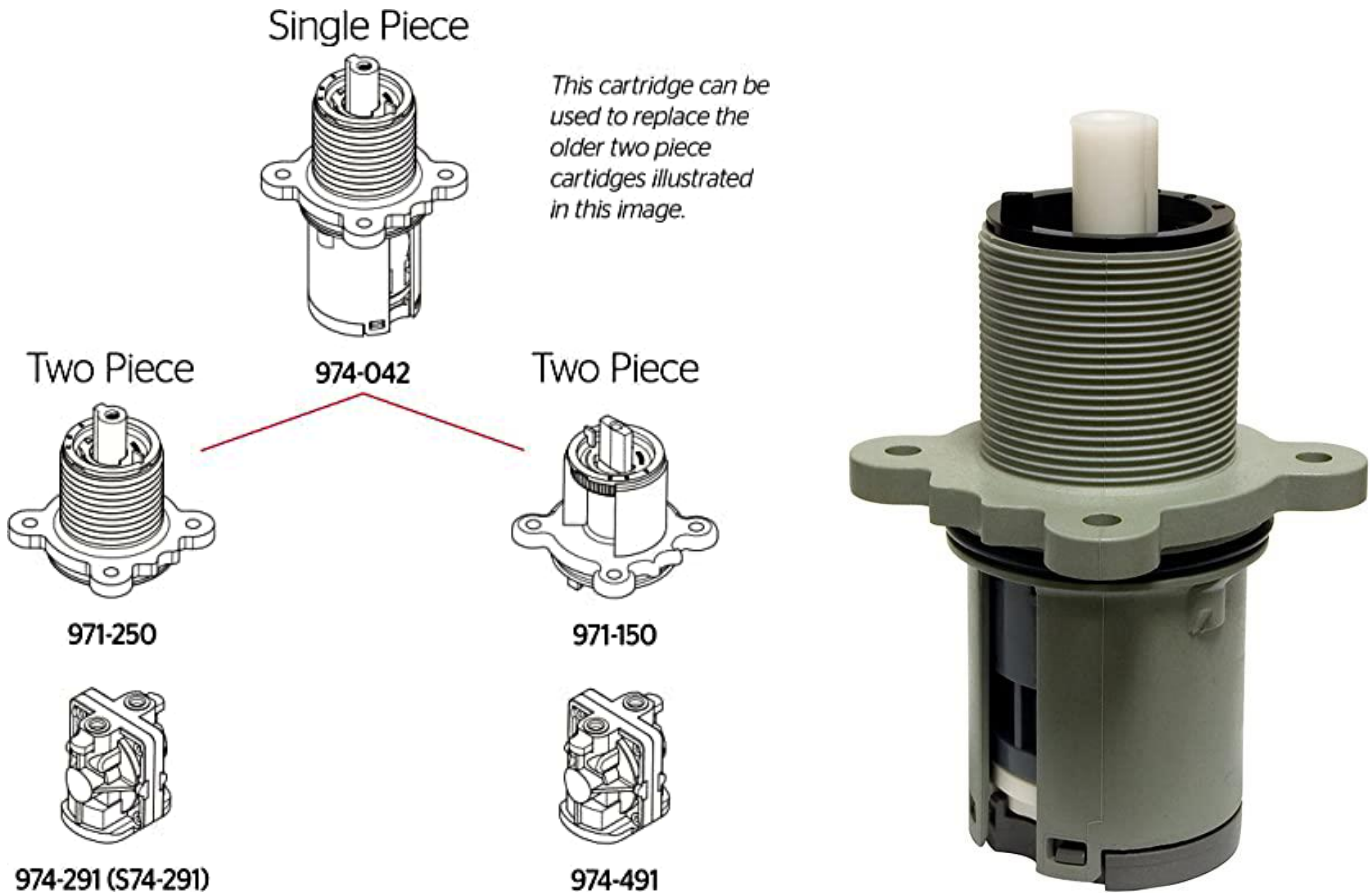


Both of these parts are available at
Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery
7905 North Point Blvd, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

The counter sales entrance is on Linn Station Road – right across the street from the North Point Grill.

One-Piece Cartridge

According to Amazon.com, the page for Pfister part number 974-042 has the illustration on the left:



The illustration infers that the parts listed (on the left of the illustration) above can be replaced with Pfister Part #974-042 shown on the right.

This part is available at Ferguson's for \$22 and change. It is also available at Home Depot (\$33.97) and Lowes (\$34.98).

When in doubt, the two-part system works like a charm.

Reassembly

Once you have the correct parts:

1. Insert the Pressure Balancing Cartridge with the O-rings oriented properly and then the Valve Stem Assembly so that the protrusion is pointed in the correct direction.
2. Or, insert the one-piece cartridge so that the O-rings are oriented properly and the protrusion is pointed in the correct direction.
3. Insert the metal retaining plate and secure the 4 Phillips head screws.

At this point you can turn on the water and check for leaks. Place the handle on the valve stem and open gently to make sure that there is no water coming from the two new components.

If there is no sign of a leak:

4. Replace the faceplate and the collar
5. Replace the screw holding the handle on and the center cap.

If there is leakage from the new cartridge, shut off the water and make sure that the unit is fully inserted and that the mounting screws are tight. Then turn the water back on and recheck for leaks.

Once there is no leakage you should be set for another 20 years – hopefully.