



Under-mounted sink bowls – by Carron



Ceramic sink with rear shelf which can be punched for mixer tap by Villeroy & Boch



L-shaped solid surface sink unit for a corner situation – by Carron



'Waterstation' with revolving top built into a corner or free-standing by B&L Rieber



Sit-on SS sink unit – by Carron

Different types of kitchen sink

Sink taps and mixers

Brassware for sinks has developed into an art form of its own, very often with price tags to match. It is not unusual for the mixer to cost considerably more than the sink.

Historically, the kitchen sink had two high-necked *pillar taps*, from which the *mixer valve* or *combination tap* was developed, usually in the form of a *bridge mixer* with pillar taps mounted on adjustable unions so as to fit variable centre line dimensions of pre-drilled tap holes.

Eventually two tap holes were standardised at 180 mm centres so the more elegant *deck mixer* appeared.

All these patterns are still available which is useful for replacing existing fittings.

From this 'two tap-hole' situation came the *monobloc* mixer with a single body, a single spout and two tap handles on either side.

About the same time, *ceramic disc* operation was developed which has several advantages over the traditional *screw-down* (or *compression*) handles as they have the benefit of a quick quarter-turn for full flow, need no washer replacement and have a long working life.

Then the monobloc ceramic disc *single lever mixer* emerged which is the most efficient type as it requires only one hand to operate and it saves water as a single quick downward action is all that is needed to shut off the water supply.

Mixers with cross top or round handles have screw-down operation while mixers with ceramic discs have various forms of lever handles.