

Boiling water taps– your complete 2023 guide

Fad or useful function – should a boiling water tap be on your wish list, and what’s the best solution for your kitchen and budget?

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Abode Profile 3 Part Mixer Tap in Chrome with HotKey safety release

If you have picked up a home improvement magazine in the last few years or have friends and family that have recently replaced their kitchen, it’s likely that you have seen or heard about the latest kitchen tool – the boiling water tap. So are they just another kitchen fad/gadget that will pass or are they worth considering for your kitchen? Here’s the low-down on features, safety, cost and how to make the right decision for your kitchen sink.

Boiling-water taps provide instant hot water without the need to use a kettle or boil a pan on the hob. When they first started coming to market they were a separate tap, but more recently they have become integrated into the main tap and referred to as 3in1, 4in1 or even 5in1 depending on the number of separate streams of water the tap can deliver.

Conventional Abode tap with near matching Quooker tap behind installed in 2010 by Redwood Kitchens.



Why consider a boiling water tap?

So you get that they deliver boiling water instantly, but the question remains - why not just have a nice kettle on the worktop like you always have had? The answer basically boils down to three words - Efficiency, Safety and Filtered.

Efficiency because you are only using the water and energy you need – no wasted water going down the drain or reboiling the kettle because you went off to do a another job while waiting for it to boil in the first place. Efficiency of your time – the job you want to complete is done without waiting so freeing you up to move on to the next.

Safety - the tap is fixed over the sink. It can't be knocked over, be put down awkwardly, be boiled empty, have the lid left off or have its cable pulled by a child. Older people benefit as they can maintain a level of independence while not having the strength to lift and pour a full kettle.

Safe to use - All of the taps have some form of push and twist safety function on the boiling side of the tap to release the flow of steaming water and the tap spout has some form of protection so it doesn't get too hot. Abode takes this further with a magnetic key that activates the boiling function but can be put out of children's reach.

Filtered. All the boiling water taps Redwood supply come complete with a water filter so you get great tasting drinks without the scale and scum that normally builds up in a kettle.

How to select the right boiling tap for you

Here at Redwood we have been supplying and installing boiling water taps for over ten years. Of course cost is an important factor, but here are some more:

- What you want it for?
- How hot?
- Shape & Colour
- Which specifications are the important ones?
- Required consumables
- Installation

What it's for & how hot do I need?

Hot drinks, Cooking, Washing-up and Cleaning are the main uses of a boiling water tap. The

Optimum Drinking Temperatures		
Drink	Optimum Temperature (Degrees)	Brew Time
Japanese Green Tea	80 degrees	0.5-2.5 minutes
Oolong Tea	85-93 degrees	5-7 minutes
First Flush Darjeeling Tea	80-93 degrees	3-5 minutes
Black Tea	88-98 degrees	3-4 minutes
Pu-erh Tea	96 degrees	2-4 minutes
Herbal Tea	98 degrees	2-3 minutes
Brewing Coffee	90-96 degrees	4 minutes
Instant Coffee	80-85 degrees	N.A.

cheaper taps are 'steaming hot taps' because they store water at a maximum of 98 degrees, and by the time it dispenses it's up to 4 degrees cooler which makes them perfect for making a cup of tea as this table from the Abode website shows.

Quooker and some others store the water at over the boiling point so it boils as it leaves the tap making it more suitable for cooking and cleaning duties.

The Quooker website details uses such as cleaning chopping boards and baby bottles to showing recipes that include poaching a perfect salmon and blanching asparagus.

Price & Brand

As the boiling water tap market has matured over the last few years most manufacturers now have a boiling tap in their range. Redwood primarily deal with Abode, Franke, InSinkErator and Quooker as they are well established tap manufacturers with a range of features, colours, styles and pricing for most types of kitchen user. They also have service capabilities to support the tap for a lifetime of use which is important as the tap is one of the most frequently used appliances in the kitchen. Steaming tap pricing that includes fitting by our Redwood Refresh team start from just £699.

Colour & Shape

As the InSinkErator picture below shows, there are 3 main styles of tap - J, U and L, although there are others to suit specific design aesthetics. Likewise, the picture right, from Abode shows the common colours available - chrome, brushed steel, copper and black, but this line-up they also add graphite to complement some of their composite granite sinks.



InSinkErator tap styles



Abode tap colours

Which specifications are the important ones?

Ok, don't glaze over at this point, it's quite straight forward. All the taps have a boiler unit in the cabinet below the sink which contains the stored boiling water and a heater. 2 Litres is the starting point with 3-5 Litres being common across most taps. This will suit the majority of households, although Quooker taps have the option of a larger tank that holds 7 litres for semi-professional use.

The next detail is how powerful is the heater – how quickly will the unit get back to boiling when it's been emptied into a pan of pasta? Our best value tap has a 750 Watt heater - perfect for a couple making drinks and a bit of cooking -whereas most of the others have heaters that are two or three times more powerful which combined with a larger tank makes them more suited to more frequent use in busier households and cooking.

What's next most important is up to you. Some of the taps can also deliver filtered drinking water (4in1) which will save you carrying bottled water from the supermarket and help tick your 'reduce plastic' ambition and a few can also supply sparkling filtered water as well (5in1) with the addition of a CO₂ cylinder. InSinkErator also have an optional chiller unit if you like fridge cold filtered water and Quooker has Combi tank solution which will blend cold and boiling water for instant hot water if you

don't want to wait for hot water to come through your pipework or you only have a cold supply to the sink.

Most of the rest of the features you will quickly forget till you either hear a gentle beeping from the boiler unit or a calendar reminder (your organised, right 😊) at about every 6 months to change the filter so the water stays clear and fresh tasting. The filter change process is pretty straight forward to do yourself or the Redwood Refresh team can take care of this for you.

Product Overview

There are a multitude of instant hot water taps available, but here at Redwood we primarily deal with Abode, Franke, InSinkErator and Quooker because they have both a proven product range and capabilities to support the tap for a lifetime of use.

This list includes 2 taps from each of our suppliers – their best value 3in1 tap and in our opinion their best overall tap for a reasonably busy family kitchen. In each case we show the pricing for the chrome tap edition.

Abode - Prothia Slimline 3in1, from £829 inc. Redwood Refresh fitting or Propure Slimline 4in1, from £1099 inc. Redwood Refresh fitting.

With a choice of 5 on trend tap colours including black, brass and copper, J or U shape spout (shown) this is a great steaming hot tap that delivers 98 degree water from its ProBoil 2.1 litre stainless steel tank. It features a fast 1.5kW heater and a handy filter indicator with reminder alarm. The Propure version also streams filtered cold water. Both come with a 5 year tap warranty and 2 years on the boiler. Replacement filters are £45 from Abode website. Perfect for families of 4.



Abode - Profile or Project 4in1 tap and tank, from £1299 inc. Redwood Refresh fitting.

If you like the way a regular tap works with hot on the left and cold lever on the right, this is the tap for you. For filtered water it's as simple as rotating the cold lever backwards. 98 degree water is activated by holding Abode's HotKey against the tap which makes this unit particularly safe for households with young children or vulnerable members. The tank is also a large 4 litres with a powerful 2.15kW heater, has auto and timed eco saving modes plus intelligence to alert when it needs to be descaled. Replacement filters are £99 from Abode. With a 5 year tap warranty and 2 years on the boiler this unit is perfect for all families, particularly larger ones.



Franke - Minerva Original 3in1, from £1249 inc. Redwood Refresh fitting.

With a dispensing temperature of 100 degrees, Franke claims drinks will taste better than their cooler rivals. The other benefit is that the boiler unit is slim enough to sit behind the plinth so freeing up cabinet space. The tank holds 5 litres of water and has a 1.5kW heater which will satisfy the needs of any size household. Like all Franke products, the quality of the tap, easy change filter assembly and the way it connects together is of a high standard, so the only detail to be aware of is that it won't work with low pressure water systems – it needs a minimum of 1.5bar, preferably 2bar pressure for optimum performance. Filters are £40 every 6 months and it has a 2 year warranty.



Franke – Omni 4in1, from £1599 inc. Redwood Refresh fitting.

Omni is Franke's main offering of true boiling water tap – it comes in 14 variations including 6 colours, U & J spout options and a 'classic' edition with white tap leavers to suit more traditional kitchen schemes. The 4.2 litre boiler with 1.5kW heater unit will comfortably perform in any size household. Featuring a solid stainless steel tap and easy change filter assembly it's easy to see why it comes standard with a 3 year warranty. Like the Minerva the only detail to be aware of is that it won't work with low pressure water systems - for optimum performance it needs 3bar pressure. Filters are £40 every 6 months direct from Franke.



InSinkErator - Lecce 3in1, from £699 inc. Redwood Refresh fitting.

Small and perfectly formed, this unit is perfect for smaller households making a quick cup of tea or light cooking duties. It's available in both U and J shape taps in chrome, has a 2.5 Litre tank with a 750 Watt heating element that delivers steaming hot water at up to 98degrees. It has a 2 year warranty on the tap and 1 year on the under counter boiler. Official replacement filters are from about £50 for 2 from the ISE website.



InSinkErator - 4in1, from £1249 inc. Redwood Refresh fitting.

Filtered cold water is just a touch away with this tap or via its spring loaded lever 98deg steaming hot water. It's available in L, J and U shape taps and Chrome, Bushed Steel and Velvet Black (shown) colours. It has a 2.5 Litre stainless steel tank with a 1300 Watt heating element and a 5 year warranty on the tap and 2 year on the under counter digital boiler. Good for a family of 4.



Quooker - Flex or Fusion 3in1, from £1275 inc. Redwood Refresh fitting or Flex or Fusion+Filter 4in1, from £1570 inc. Redwood Refresh fitting or Flex or Fusion+CUBE 5in1, from £2399 inc. Redwood Refresh fitting.

Quooker is the tap that can do it all. Quooker's founder, Dutch physicist Henri Peteri, invented and patented a boiling water tap back in the 1970's, and since the early 1990's Quooker has manufactured boiling taps from its base in the Netherlands.

The super insulated tank holds 3 litres of water under pressure at 110 degrees. As the water is called for it passes through a built in filter so as the water comes out of the tap it is pure and boiling. Quooker say that the system is so efficient it costs just 3p a day on standby. The Flex tap (shown) is a standard J style spout with a flexible pull out hose making it very easy to rinse and clean at any point in the sink. The Fusion is available with a J or U shaped spout.



With the addition of an optional filter the tap becomes a 4in1 tap that can dispense filtered cold water or if a Quooker CUBE unit added to the system it becomes the ultimate 5in1 tap delivering hot, cold, boiling, chilled filtered and sparkling water. A set of 4 CO₂ cylinders for the CUBE that create perfect carbonated water cost £70 which includes free delivery plus collection and recycling of the empty cylinders. The water filter which helps protect the system in hard water areas lasts 12 months and is £50 to replace. For houses with low pressure hot water there is a £300 Quooker Combi tank upgrade which supplies



instant hot as well as boiling water. Warranty on all items is 2 years.

Installation

Ok, this is the technical bit. To save reading this section just call the Redwood team and we will take care of getting the job done for you. If you want to know what it is we do to make sure have a trouble free installation, read on...

Water pressure - the type of heating system your house has will affect the types of taps and showers you can have installed. If you have a 'hot water tank' in an 'airing cupboard' it probably means you have a low pressure system and so the useable pressure rating (measured in bar) of the tap becomes important. Look for a tap which will work with a low pressure - 0.2 - 0.5 bar is typical in this scenario. The lower the water pressure to the tap, the poorer the water flow performance will be through taps with a higher minimum bar requirement.

If you have a combi-boiler or 'mega-flow pressurised' style heating system water pressure will not need to be a consideration.

Electrical - All boiling water taps need a 13A socket in or near the sink cabinet. How close and the required work to make the electrical supply suitable for the boiler unit will affect the installation price.

Space - The boiler unit will take up some space in the sink cabinet - typically a large shoe box space, and for the boiling water from the tap to be near instant, the pipework to the tap is short. Positioning the boiler unit and water filter unit usually requires a bit of engineering for it all to work together, be neat and leave some space for cleaning product and the like.

Water - Depending on how old your property is and how long ago any plumbing work was carried out, getting the hot and cold water supplies to the tap isolated so that the work can be carried out can be challenging. The incoming water mains stop-cock and other valves in the property can be stiff, frozen in position, not accessible or fully close off. It's for these reasons that Redwood carry out a pre-installation check so that the correct amount of time can be allocated to completing the job and smoothly resolving any of these issues along the way.

About Redwood Kitchens & Refresh

Refresh is the kitchen upgrade and repair service from Redwood Kitchens.



Quooker Pro3 tank with InSinkErator waste disposal unit installed by Redwood Kitchens

Redwood Kitchens based in Wokingham, Berkshire, design, supply and install great looking 'whole room' kitchen replacements. This means we have the complete skill set you need to replace faulty and worn out integrated appliances such as dishwashers, ovens, fridge/freezers, hobs and extractors. We love upgrading taps to filtered water taps to save the effort of lugging bottled water home from the store and reducing the environmental impact of plastic bottles. Boiling water taps also save energy compared to your kettle and always have instant steaming water available – perfect for a great cuppa tea.

Note: Pricing correct as of May 2023 and includes VAT at the current rate. All installations require a survey and pricing will vary based on the time and materials required to complete the installation.



Quooker Flex Chrome – The illuminated ring turns blue when delivering sparkling water and red for boiling.