Faucet Replacement for 2007 Trailmanor 3124 KS

The original kitchen faucet was made by UPC (China). The faucet nut failed (see arrow) because a.) it was made out of very cheap pot-metal, and b.) may have been exposed to freezing conditions sometime in the past (we are the third owners). Finding replacement parts for this faucet is very problematic, so we decided to use this opportunity to replace the faucet with a Delta, to ensure good quality and ease of obtaining repair parts in the future.

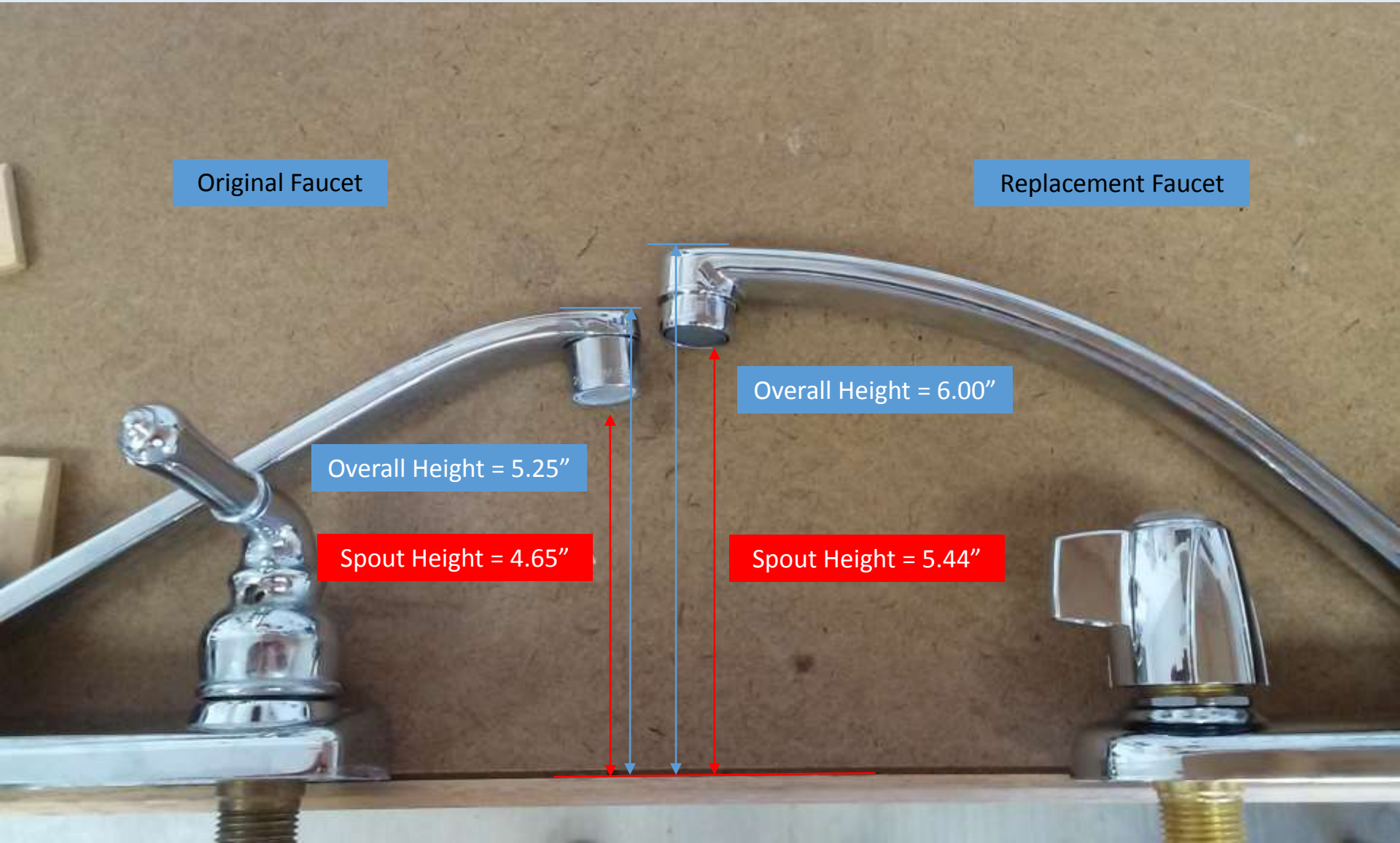
On some models of Trailmanor (those that do not have the water heater and the fresh water tank under the kitchen sink) it may be possible to remove the faucet without removing the water heater. There is limited, but possible access to remove the water line from the cold water side of the faucet, but there is no access at all to the hot water side, due to the very tight clearance between the top of the water heater and the bottom of the sink. It would also be impossible to check the supply line fittings for seepage (leaks) with the water heater in the way. I've done a separate tutorial on removing and replacing the water heater.

Note: Wayne ("thewayneo") devised an access solution, shown at thread http://www.trailmanorowners.com/forum/showthread.php?t=14560&highlight=faucet. I did not choose to go that route, but offer it here for consideration.

Once you have removed the water heater, removing the faucet is a straightforward and fast job. You can access the screw-on supply line fittings and the faucet hold-down nuts from outside the trailer. After installing the new faucet, you should check for leaks before re-installing the water heater! In order to pressurize the water system, you will need to build a water heater bypass line. This can be easily made from two “sharkbite” press-on ½” male fittings, and a short piece of ½” PEX line. Make the bypass length the same length measured between the water heater cold and hot water fittings, approximately 8” from center to center.

Here is the bypass installed into the existing water heater fittings.

It is very important that you select a replacement with a “low arc” faucet. Study the dimensions carefully before you begin installation. Faucet manufacturers list “spout height” in their specifications, but this is not the overall height of the faucet. I could not find a quality (non-RV) faucet with an over all height of less than 6”. This required me to do some careful measuring (next slide) to ensure that the faucet would not be so high that it made contact with the ceiling when the TM was closed.



Here is a picture of the new faucet with the trailer closed up. The approximate clearance between the top of the faucet is 7/8th's of an inch when in the position shown, and 3/8th's of an inch if the faucet is swung over closest to the trailer wall. The shower curtain rail does not interfere with the faucet in any position. I do believe, however that you could have problems with a faucet arc any higher than the model that I used.

Once you have installed the faucet, check the grommets in the water supply lines to ensure they are positioned in the fittings correctly, and then connect them. Hand tighten only. Pay attention to where the sprayer supply line is routed underneath the sink, so that it will come out and retract without interference. Connect city water to the trailer and pressurize the system. Do not use a pressure reducer. You want the maximum water pressure so you can check the fittings for leaks. Open both faucets to maximum and check for leaks. Use the sprayer and check for leaks. If you're going to find a leak, you want to do it before you re-install the water heater!

Once you are satisfied that you have no leaks, shut of the water supply to the trailer, and relieve pressure to the system by opening the drain valve in front of the driver's side tire on the outside of the trailer, and both faucet valves. Then remove the water heater bypass line, and reinstall the water heater (see the separate tutorial). Finally, pat yourself on the back. You've got a new kitchen faucet that not only looks nice, but also allows you to buy repair parts in the future.