



## Tips for Matching Drywall Texture

Matching existing drywall texture can be extremely difficult to do when patching drywall. There are several different variables involved that contribute to whether or not you can see the delineation between a new drywall patch and the existing surrounding drywall texture. Below are five tips to keep in mind when patching textured drywall that will help ensure a seamless drywall patch.

**Use the same thickness of drywall as the existing layer:** In order to ensure that the final levels of both the new drywall and the existing drywall are the same, measure the thickness of the existing drywall and use the same size drywall for your patch. If the existing wall was hung with ½ inch drywall, you should use ½ inch drywall for the patch. This is simple enough when working with drywall hung directly to studs, however if you are patching plaster walls, it is not as straight forward. Plaster might not be exactly half inch or five eighths in thickness. It might be necessary to use shimming to raise the final level of the drywall patch to be equal to the surrounding plaster walls.

**Coat the least amount necessary of the existing texture:** After installing the drywall to the patch, you will need to tape and coat the drywall patch so that it blends into the level of the surrounding surface. It is necessary to apply mud to the original texture immediately surrounding the patch so that the patch and surrounding surface are flat. Make sure and coat as little of the existing texture as possible. However this does not mean to sacrifice a flat transition for the sake of keeping your coating as little as possible. It could be necessary to coat a wide area in order to blend the two levels as flat as possible. Keep in mind that the less you will need to retexture the easier it will be to control your new texture and the better chance of making the two textures match.

**Remove the lines between the patch and surrounding drywall texture:** When coating the drywall patch there is usually a line that shows up on the edge of the patch in the existing texture. When coating a smooth surface, the line can typically be feathered out so that the new coating disappears seamlessly into the smooth surrounding. If the surface has a texture, it is not possible to feather this out completely because drywall mud gets trapped in the crevices of the texture. Before texturing, make sure and scrape off any excess mud trapped within the existing texture on the edge where final coat meets the existing texture. Some tradesmen do this with a drywall knife by meticulously removing drywall mud in strategic areas so that the seam between old and new is a random as possible.

**Use the same methods and tools to texture the drywall patch as the original texture:** This sounds obvious, but it depends on being able to determine the methods and tools originally used. If matching a stomp knockdown texture, this is fairly easy as the types of stomp brushes used are limited and easy to identify. If matching a texture applied by hand, determining the tools and methods can be quite difficult. Methods of applying hand texture vary greatly on the region and the individual tradesman's style. For sprayed texture, it may be easy to identify that the original texture was applied with a hopper or spray rig, but it can be extremely difficult to determine the exact air pressure or how much force pumping the mud through the hose was originally used and even more difficult to determine what size of spray nozzle was used.

**Use the exact consistency of drywall mud as the original texture:** The consistency of mud used is extremely important to the final texture pattern that it can make or break the project when trying to match an existing drywall texture. It is difficult to match the exact consistency of the existing drywall texture, because it basically comes down to an educated guess. The only way to get good at matching mud consistency is through experience. Only after mixing many different types of texture mud and applying different texture styles is a tradesman able to gain this experience. Remember that tradesmen typically mix drywall mud very thin, so the existing texture that is trying to be matched was probably applied with very thin drywall mud.

Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe.

**Reference: Drywall 101 and RIA**

**Restoration Term of the month:** **Texture** – the profile, hand and other characteristics of a surface or material other than its color; a coating or treatment which imparts a raised or irregular profile to an otherwise smooth surface; the act of applying such a coating or treatment.

# March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 ACA Luncheon SAMA Lunch	6	7
8	9	10 CAI Luncheon	11 AAFAME Luncheon	12 IREM Luncheon	13	14
15	16	17	18 SABOMA Luncheon IIASA Luncheon	19 Austin BOMA CAMO Meeting	20	21
22	23	24	25 SAABE Luncheon	26 IWSA Luncheon SACA Spring Seminar	27	28
29	30	31				

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## Events

- March 5: ACA Luncheon
- March 5: SAMA Luncheon
- March 10: CAI Luncheon
- March 11: AAFAME Luncheon
- March 12: IREM Luncheon
- March 18: SABOMA Luncheon
- March 18: IIASA Luncheon
- March 19: Austin BOMA Luncheon
- March 19: CAMO Meeting
- March 25: SAABE Luncheon
- March 26: IWSA Luncheon
- March 26: SACA Spring Seminar

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