

# PROFESSIONAL DRYWALL REPAIR GUIDE

## How to Patch a Small Hole

(anything smaller than a nickel)

### Items Needed:

Damp rag, carpenter's knife, spackle or joint compound, putty knife and sandpaper

- 1 Clean the hole by removing any loose drywall debris.
- 2 Use a carpenter's knife to put a beveled edge around the circumference of the hole.
- 3 Use a damp rag to wipe off any dust.
- 4 Use a putty knife to fill the hole with spackle or joint compound, and then smear the filler to make it flush with the wall.
- 5 Allow the filler to air-dry.
- 6 Lightly sand the area with sandpaper and apply a second coat. Sand once dry.
- 7 Prime and paint over the filled hole.

## How to Patch a Medium Hole

(anything smaller than six inches)

### Items Needed:

Sandpaper, damp rag, drywall patch, putty knife and joint compound

- 1 Sand and clean the area around the hole where the patch will contact the wall.
- 2 Apply the adhesive side of the patch to the wall.
- 3 Cover the patch with a joint compound.
  - Use a crisscross pattern with your putty knife to apply the compound.
  - Apply enough compound to cover the patch and have enough to feather.
  - Once dry, lightly sand and apply another coat.
- 4 Sand the dry second coat with sandpaper.
  - Feather the edges to blend the repair into the wall.
- 5 Prime and paint.

*For a professional look follow steps under Large hole.*

## How to Patch a Large Hole

(anything larger than six inches)

### Items Needed:

New drywall, drywall saw, pencil, furring strips, drywall screws, joint tape, joint compound and sandpaper

- 1 Cut out a square piece of new drywall that's slightly larger than the hole.
- 2 Put this piece on top of the area that needs to be patched, and trace around it with a pencil.
- 3 Use a drywall saw to cut out the damaged drywall along your trace lines.
- 4 Place the furring strips through the hole. Pull them tight against the backside of the drywall and anchor them from the front with drywall screws.
  - Make sure the screws firmly anchor the furring strips to the back of the drywall. The screw heads should be flush or slightly dimpled.
- 5 Set the new drywall patch in place, and secure it to the furring strips with drywall screws.
- 6 Hold everything together by bedding in drywall tape with joint compound along the edges.
- 7 Cover everything with drywall joint compound.
- 8 Lightly sand once dry and apply a second coat.
- 9 Sand the second coat once it dries.
- 10 Prime and paint.

### Tips:

- Apply a third layer of joint compound for a smoother look after the second layer has been sanded.
- For patches, spread the joint compound over an area much wider than the patch so you have material to feather.
- Wear a dust mask while sanding joint compound, or have someone capture dust with a vacuum.
- If you're repairing textured drywall, use a can of wall texture spray before you paint.
- In a pinch, use a heavy-duty paint stirring stick in place of a furring strip.
- Never skip the priming step – joint compound cannot be painted on top of. Some spackles may have primer already in them. These are best for small holes only.

Need some help? Mr. Handyman's drywall repair professionals can patch the holes in your wall or replace entire sheets of drywall if needed. The results are seamless and beautiful. Drywall repair, drywall hanging and drywall finishing – we do it all! Contact your local Mr. Handyman to discuss your project today.



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