

# How to Patch a Hole in Drywall

Patching a hole in drywall is something you can do yourself. You just need a little advice and the right tools. And if you do it correctly, you won't see the patch at all.

## Repairing Small Holes

Use spackling for smaller holes the size of a nail or even something as large as a dime. Use a putty knife to apply a thin coat. You can usually sand and paint within 30 minutes.

## Repairing Large Holes

### Choose Patch Product

- *If you're joining two pieces of drywall together or a larger hole, use joint compound.*

### Fit the Patch

Large holes can be repaired with a peel-and-stick metal patch. But the patch has to overlap the hole by at least 2 inches otherwise you won't get a smooth repair. Another alternative is to make a patch out of a scrap of drywall.

- *Use a keyhole drywall saw to cut the drywall around the hole into a clean-edged square.*
- *Use a tape measure to measure the size of the hole. Then cut out a new piece of drywall to fit into the hole.*

### Install the Patch

You can use shims or other scraps of wood to brace the drywall patch to the surrounding wall. But drywall repair clips make it easy.

- *Slide them onto the sides of the opening to help support the new piece of drywall you're going to install.*
- *Install drywall screws about an inch and a half below the opening. The screw will drive into the clip and secure it into the hole.*
- *Install the piece of drywall that you measured to fit into the hole. Because of the clips you may have to fine tune the piece. You can either use a piece of sandpaper, or a file, or rasp to take a little bit off the sides so it fits snugly into the hole.*
- *Install the screws into the clips to hold the new piece of drywall in place.*
- *Use a pair of pliers to break off the clips that you see on the surface.*

### Fill in the Edges

Fiberglass mesh tape is easy to use for a patch because it's self-adhesive.

- *Cut and pieces sized to cover the edges of your patch.*
- *Stick the tape over the seams of your patch, letting the corners overlap a bit.*

### Apply Joint Compound

- *Avoid building up the joint compound too heavily, because then you'll see a big hump along the wall. Instead, apply it in thin, even coats that widen as you apply additional layers.*
- *Allow the joint compound to dry in between coats. Typically overnight.*
- *Once the third coat of joint compound is dry, you can use a sanding sponge in a fine grit to now sand all the ridges off of what you've patched. Once it's all smoothed out, prime it, paint it and you're done.*

**HELPFUL TIPS:**

Humidity and temperature can affect the drying time when you're using spackling and joint compound. So make sure you allow enough time.

For more helpful tips and advice, visit your neighborhood Ace and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Pinterest and Google+.

**NOTE: Always follow manufacturer's recommended safety precautions and instructions for the products you use.**