

Wall Repair Large and Small

Level of Difficulty - 2

The key to getting your wall repair to disappear is patience. Don't rush this job, do it well and nobody will ever be able to tell that you had a problem, however big or small.

Instructions for small wall repairs, using spackle

(dents, scratches and dimples)

1. Run your hands over the damage. If there is any area that is raised above the wall surface, sand it so that you can no longer feel it.
2. Using a putty knife, apply spackle to the wall damage. Force the spackle into the hole, then with the straight edge of the putty knife, scrape off any excess spackle. Make sure that the spackle is confined to the hole and does not leave a raised area on your wall. (*Illustrations A & B*)
3. Let it dry. Follow package directions and don't rush the drying process.
4. Sand the patch and re-apply to smooth any small voids or cracks. Again, scrape off the excess.
5. Sand lightly, then use a damp cloth to remove any dust.
6. Prime and paint.



Illustration A



Illustration B

Instructions for large wall repairs, using joint compound

(for this example, we're repairing a hole made with a doorknob)

1. If you have a hole saw, you can cut a round patch for your wall. Sand the edges of the hole so that nothing is raised above the level of the wall surface and skip ahead to step 3. (*Illustration C*)
2. If you cannot easily cut a round patch, square the hole in the wall with a utility knife or small hand saw. (*Illustration D*)
3. Cut or find a piece of plywood or hard wood that is narrow enough to fit through the hole, but long enough to attach, behind the width of the hole. You can screw a long sheet rock screw into the piece of wood to give yourself a handle to hold it in place. (*Illustration E*)
4. For a quick hold, using a drill with a driver tip, install sheetrock screws around the edge of your hole that attach to the wood strip inside the wall. Tighten firmly, just sinking the sheetrock screws into the sheetrock. (*Illustration F*)



Illustration C



Illustration D

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5. If you can find a scrap piece of sheetrock, cut it to roughly the size and shape of the hole you are filling. This will have to be undersized slightly. Attach this piece of sheetrock to the wood strip with sheetrock screws. Tighten them so they sink under the surface of your patch. If you can't find sheetrock, use something like plywood, masonite, even cardboard stacked up. Just make sure it is thinner than the sheetrock.
6. Inspect your patch. Everything should be at, or under the surface of your wall. Anything that stands above the wall surface will show through your paint.
7. Take a small putty knife and apply joint compound to the edges of your patch, forcing it into the voids. (*Illustration G*)
8. Using a putty knife that is preferably larger than your patch, apply joint compound to the whole patch, wiping away any excess with the edge of the knife. (*Illustration H*)
9. Let it dry, then sand and reapply joint compound to fill any cracks or shrunken areas. Repeat a third time as necessary.
10. Finally, lightly sand your patch. Use your hands to feel for rough or raised areas and sand them down. When you can't see or feel any flaws, you are ready to clean the surface of dust, then prime and paint.



Illustration E



Illustration F

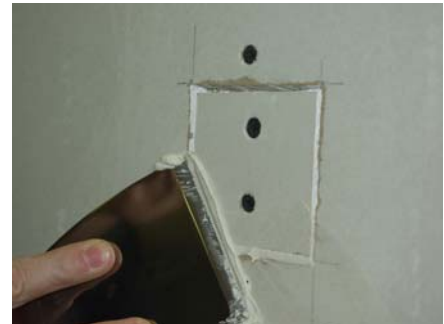


Illustration G



Illustration H