

# Minor wall repairs are a simple job

By Doris A. Black

There comes a time for nearly every home owner that a wall is in need of repair. It may be time to paint or maybe an accident from moving furniture left a hole in your wall.

Over the years, most homes acquire a wall crack or two with normal settling. These minor imperfections can be a real annoyance. Fixing holes in plaster or drywall is an easy project you can do yourself. Follow these simple steps to improve the appearance of your home.



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## Repairing a plaster wall

Materials and tools needed: powdered plaster patch material, a putty knife and an empty spray bottle

1. Remove all loose or damaged plaster. This can usually be done with your fingers or a screwdriver. Brush off any particles or dust with a dry paintbrush.

2. Using the spray bottle, wet the area completely. This will prevent the dry surface around the edges of the area from absorbing the moisture from the plaster compound.

3. Follow the manufacturer's directions for mixing the plaster compound. Make just enough for the first application. Be sure to mix the product well, so the adhesive will bond with the existing plaster.

4. Using a putty knife, apply a smooth layer of the plaster compound not more than 1/4" thick. Scratch a crosshatch pattern into the wet plaster with the edge of the putty knife to help the second layer form a tight bond. Allow the first layer to completely dry before adding another one. This will prevent cracking and crumbling.

5. Mix another batch of plaster compound and apply a second layer. Continue adding layers until the crack is filled and even with the wall surface. On the final layer, spread the compound so that it overlaps and blends into the existing wall plaster.

6. When the plaster is completely dry, sand it lightly to

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