

achieve a smooth surface and prepare it for painting.

Patching a crack in drywall

Materials and tools needed: lightweight drywall compound, a putty knife and a screwdriver

1. As with repairing plaster, it is important to remove all damaged materials. This can be done by slicing through the crack with a screwdriver and brushing off the bits of drywall and dust with a dry paintbrush.

2. Apply a layer of drywall compound to the crack with your fingers, applying pressure as needed to fill tiny holes. Smooth the surface area with a putty knife, feathering the edges onto the existing drywall for an even finish. Depending upon the severity of the crack, you may have to apply several layers of compound to fill it.

3. When finished, lightly sand the surface and then prime and paint it.

Patching a hole in drywall

Materials and tools needed: self-adhesive drywall tape and drywall joint compound, a T-square or ruler, a utility knife or drywall saw, a putty knife and drywall screws

1. Since a hole in drywall is typically deeper than a crack, the process of repairing it is a little more complicated. First, draw a square area around the hole with a T-square or ruler. This will be the area you will replace with new drywall. Cut out the area with a drywall saw or utility knife. Make sure you remove enough of the old drywall to expose the studs at either end.

2. Measure the hole and cut out a new piece of drywall that fits those dimensions. Fit the piece into place and attach it to the studs with 1-1/4-inch drywall screws in each corner. Leave as much space as possible between the edges of the patching drywall and the screws to avoid crumbling or cracks.

3. Apply self-adhesive drywall tape across the edges of the patch, overlapping the existing drywall. Apply thin layers of drywall joint compound over the entire patch surface, smoothing each with a putty knife. To achieve the best results, allow each layer to dry thoroughly before applying another one.

4. On the last layer, add just a bit of water to the compound to make it slightly thinner and easier to spread. Feather the edges to form a smooth bond with the existing drywall. Prime and paint the area. ✂



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