



"Building Your Home Improvement Skills"

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"FINALLY fixing that hole" Patching & Repairing Drywall

How many times do you walk by that hole in the wall and think to yourself. "I have GOT to get that fixed!" Or maybe it's "I wonder if he is EVER going to fix that hole?" Perhaps it's time to just learn how to do it yourself. Your first reaction may be, but what if I make it worse? Look at it this way... You already have a hole in the wall, how much worse can you really make it? Isn't it worth at least giving it a try?

I can't promise that you will be ready to "hire out" your newly acquired skills, but with a little patience, and the proper tools and materials, I promise you that you CAN fix that hole and it ISN'T as hard as you think it might be.

First, it may help to know what your walls are made of, and what's behind them. Most homes today, especially those built after World War II, have interior walls that are made of drywall (AKA wallboard, gypsum board or sheetrock). These panels are made of compressed gypsum plaster sandwiched between construction paper. It is surprisingly strong and easy to install. Some other virtues of drywall: it's fire resistant, and can be textured and/or painted to compliment the style of any home.

What's behind your walls? In most areas there isn't much but insulation. In other areas there may be some electrical wiring or some plumbing, but it isn't likely that either of those things will prevent you from fixing the hole with relative ease.

You don't need fancy tools or materials simply some joint compound (AKA "mud") a utility knife, a putty knife and/or spreader, a scrap piece of drywall, drywall tape or a drywall "patch". All these items are readily available at your local hardware, or building supply, store.

If the hole is in an area that is out of the way and unlikely to be used to hang pictures, shelves or other heavy items it is best to use a drywall "patch". There are many different types, but I recommend the type that is made of a thin metal mesh, with a fabric mesh backing, and a light adhesive. These patches are simple to use and almost undetectable after installation.

If you prefer a more robust solution, it is best to use an actual piece of drywall to patch your hole. This method requires that you actually make the hole a shape that is easy to replace such as a square or a rectangle. Next, cut the same shape from your scrap piece of drywall. You will use this "patch", along with drywall tape and joint compound, to patch your hole.

If you are interested in getting some hands-on practice, patching and repairing holes in drywall, consider taking our class **"FINALLY Fixing that Hole" (Drywall Repair)** at **Workshop for Women**. You can see our current schedule and class offerings at www.workshopforwomen.com

Student Testimonials

"This is the best class I've ever taken!" - Judy (Denver, CO)

"The class was wonderful. It was very empowering to do things myself. I now have the confidence to fix any size hole in my walls at home." - Laura (Centennial, CO)

"I feel confident now about tackling these jobs at home myself." - Pam (Parker, CO)