

## How to patch a hole in a drywall

If you can stick your finger in the hole it's big enough to require a patch. If it is smaller, then you can just apply spackle or putty instead of a patch. If the hole is bigger than any patch you can purchase, it is a more extensive project. See *Patching Large Holes*.

### Tip:

Place newspaper under the area you're patching and tape in place to catch dropped spackle, sanding dust, primer or paint that may happen during this project.

### Shopping List:

- Small container of spackle
- 2" flexible putty knife that will fit in small spackle container
- Flexible putty knife or joint knife larger than your hole (If hole is 1" use a 2" putty knife; for 2" hole use a 4" putty; for 3" or bigger get a 6" joint knife or taping knife.)
- 120 grit sandpaper
- Self-adhesive repair patch that will allow you to have at least 1" overlap on each side of the hole.
- Small container of primer
- Paint that matches your wall
- Paint brush or mini roller and tray

*\*Hyde Tools offers many of these items. You can buy online at [www.hydestore.com](http://www.hydestore.com) or at many retailers in your area. [Find a retailer.](#)*

1. Use sand paper to clear the hole of any loose drywall so the patch has a good surface to stick to.
2. Stick the self-adhesive patch to the hole, smoothing it down with your hand or the putty knife.
3. Put some spackle on the putty knife and place it in the center of the patch. Work the spackle out over the entire patch. You should spread the spackle out at least 2" past the edge of the patch.
4. Remove as much of the spackle as you can without exposing the patch underneath. This will cut down on the sanding later.
5. Let the spackle dry for a couple of hours (if you use pink-tinted spackle it will be white when dry).
6. Smooth the dry spackle with sandpaper.
7. If you look down the wall and see a hump then you need to apply another coat of spackle and spread it out farther on the wall. Or you can sand off more spackle, as long as you do not expose the patch underneath.
8. Let this spackle dry overnight.
9. Apply a primer coat of paint. This will ensure you do not have a dull spot on the wall that stands out from the rest of the surface.
10. Paint to match the wall color.