

Repair and Prep the Walls

Checklist

- Goggles
- Gloves
- Hat
- Old clothes
- Drop cloths
- Fast drying spackling compound
- Nail hammer and nail set
- Drywall screws or nails
- 6" taping knife
- Drywall tape
- Ready-mix or powder joint compound
- Sanding block
- 120-grit sanding paper
- Flat tip screwdriver
- Utility knife
- Acrylic latex caulk
- Caulking gun
- Sponge
- Rags
- Vacuum
- Duster

One: Preparation.

- Determine whether any major drywall or plaster repairs are required.
 - If yes, plan the project to allow the time to make these repairs.
 - Include a day or two for the compound to dry.

Two: Set popped nails.

- Use a hammer and a nail set to fix any popped nails in the drywall.
- Add a second nail or drywall screw about an inch above or below the popped nail to prevent it from pulling out again.

Three: Apply spackling.

- Apply 2-3 coats of compound over these repairs and other dings/small holes.
- Lay it on in one direction with the blade nearly flat.
- Tilt it to a 45-degree angle and draw it across the patch perpendicular to the first pass.
- Smooth the finished patch with a sanding block and fine paper.
- Wipe off sanding dust with a damp sponge before priming.

Four: Scrape loose plaster.

- Remove loose or disintegrating surface plaster with a scraper.
- Apply 2-3 coats of joint compound and primer using the method in Step Three.

Five: Repair plaster cracks.

- Enlarge small cracks with a pointed bottle opener.
- Vacuum to remove any loose material and dust.

- Continue on to the next step

Six: Tape cracks and holes.

- Embed paper tape in the first coat of compound.
- Level and remove all excess compound using a taping knife held at a 45-degree angle.
- Don't squeeze out all of the compound from under the tape.
- Proceed as describe above.

Seven: Remove outlet covers.

- Turn of the power.
- Remove outlet covers.
- Lower or remove ceiling or wall mounted light fixtures.
- Cap exposed wires with wire connectors and electrical tape.
- After unscrewing these items, put the screws back in the holes so you won't lose them.
- Mask any other obstacles you can't easily remove.

Eight: Remove paint flakes.

- Scrape off loose or flaking paint with a putty knife.
- Take off paint buildup; especially on the door and window frames. This will cause them to stick.
- Use sandpaper on the edges to remove a rough edge that would show up under the paint.
- If the paint is really stuck, leave it there.
 - Scraping is just for the areas where you think the old paint will flake off.

Nine: Eliminate stains.

- Stains can bleed through your topcoat of paint.
- Get rid of crayon, ink, and other stains with a spot remover, cleaner, or detergent.
- Apply two coats of fast-drying stain-blocking primer over any remaining stains to make sure it doesn't bleed through.
- Prime patched areas with the same paint.

Ten: Caulk gaps.

- Apply a thin bead of acrylic latex caulk to conceal gaps between the trim and wall or ceiling.
- If you have both small and large gaps, cut a small opening in the tip for the small gaps first.
- Cut off a little more to fill the larger gaps.
- Smooth the bead with a wet finger or icecube.
- Wipe your finger clean after every pass.

Eleven: Dull glossy walls.

- Sand any glossy surfaces to dull them making it so the paint will stick.

Twelve: Clean walls.

- Vacuum the walls and wallboards to get rid off all of the dust.
 - The walls need to be free from dust that could stick to the paint.
- If you're painting the kitchen or bathroom wash the walls with TSP.
 - This will clean off grease and mildew.

Thirteen: Protect floor and furniture.

- Move what you can of furniture out of the room.
- Pile the rest of the furniture in the middle of the room.
 - Leave enough space in-between so you can maneuver a ladder around on the floor.
- Put plastic or canvas drop cloths over the furniture groups and on the floor.