

How to Repair a Textured Wall or Ceiling

Written Instructions

By See Jane Drill, Copyright 2014

Time needed to complete project: Varies due to factors such as size of job and the drying time of the joint compound you are using

Materials Cost: Nominal

Notes: These instructions and the corresponding video describe the general process of making a repair in a textured wall or ceiling, as well as how repair 3 different types of texture: Spanish (also called Skip Trowel), Swirl and Slap Brush.

Tools and Materials Needed

Materials

- All-purpose joint compound or a dry mix, or both
- Piece of drywall that is bigger than the hole you will be repairing, and is the same thickness as the drywall to be repaired
- Container of warm water

Tools

- Pencil
- Paintbrush
- Tape Measure
- Utility Knife (make sure the blade is very sharp)
- Plastering tools of varying sizes, such as a taping knife and/or a margin trowel
- Keyhole saw or utility knife
- Stiff bristle brush (if you are repairing a swirl texture)
- Rubber gloves (if you are repairing a slap brush texture)
- Hot Dog Roller (small narrow paint roller, if you are repairing a slap brush texture)

Step-by-Step Instructions for Making the Repair

1. Brush warm water around the hole to be repaired. Make sure to spread out about 3 inches beyond the hole. Let it set for about 5 minutes, and then brush some more warm water over the area.
2. After the texture has softened a bit, knock down the texture with your taping knife until it is nice and smooth. Be sure to take out all the ridges.
3. Prepare your piece of drywall by making what is called a “California Patch.” (to learn how to do this, refer to the See Jane Drill video “How to Repair Large Holes in Drywall”).
4. Fold back the paper lip of the patch, and place the patch over the hole in the drywall.
5. Trace around the patch with your pencil to create a template to cut the hole in the drywall into a square.
6. Using either a keyhole saw or a utility knife, cut out the drywall around the perimeter, where you have drawn the square.
7. Clean up the jagged pieces of drywall by pushing them into the hole.
8. Dry-fit your patch to be sure that it fits, before applying the joint compound.
9. Apply the joint compound to the wall. Put a little bit around the edge and into the cavity. Then put a nice heavy coat on the wall around the hole.
10. Insert your patch, and lay down the edges of the patch with your tool so that they are nice and flat.
11. Allow the first coat to dry, and then apply more joint compound, focused more on the center of the patch.
12. Lay down the edges as flat as you possibly can.
13. Once the joint compound has dried, follow the instructions for your particular type of texture below.

Repairing a Spanish or Skip Trowel Texture

14. Although a Spanish texture is usually applied by a trowel, a regular trowel is too big to repair a patch, so, you can use a margin trowel or a similarly sized tool.
15. Put a small amount of joint compound on your trowel.
16. Holding the trowel so that it is flat against the wall, begin covering your patch, all the way to the edge of the repaired area.
17. You may also want to go beyond the patch area just a bit, so that it blends better with the surrounding wall.

Repairing a Swirl Texture

18. For this texture, you need to be sure that your patched area is nice and smooth.

19. Scrape down any ridges with your taping knife.
20. Brush on a little bit of water around the edges of the repaired area and slightly beyond it.
21. Brush on your texture (which is regular joint compound with just a little bit of water mixed in to make it creamier). Go just a little bit beyond the edges of the repaired area.
22. For this repair, you will need to put in the design with a stiff bristled brush. Choose a brush that is about the same width as the width of the swirls in the existing texture.
23. Starting in the upper right corner, blend in the texture by moving your brush from right to left in a “fan” motion, going from the dry area into the wet area. Continue on into the pattern, again moving from dry to wet. When you get to the other side of the area to be repaired, you will need to change direction, again going from dry to wet, but this time from left to right in a fan pattern. To pick up the rest of the pattern from the bottom, follow the ridges of the pattern, going again from dry to wet. Make sure for this last section that you remove as much joint compound from your brush as you can before you begin making your swirl.

Repairing a Slap Brush Texture

24. For this texture, you don't need a smooth patch, as the texture itself is very rough.
25. You will want to roll the texture on with a “hot dog” roller, which is basically a small, narrow paint roller. Roll it on nice and thick. You will need to apply 2 or 3 coats.
26. Don a rubber glove, and create the texture by “slapping” your hand against the joint compound. For the first round, you can use a flatter hand. For the second and final time, lift your fingers so that you are creating the texture with just your palm.

And that is all it takes to repair a textured wall or ceiling, so that no one would ever know it was damaged. You can do this!

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