



Maintaining the Home

Make a Basic Toolkit for Simple Home Repairs

Maintaining the Home:

Make a Basic Toolkit for Simple Home Repairs

You will need basic tools to make simple home repairs. You can buy a complete set of tools in a kit or you can buy tools one at a time, as you need them. You may want to buy new or used tools. You also may be able to borrow or rent the tools you need.

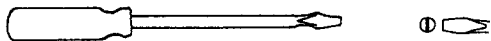
1. Claw hammer

Also called a carpenter's hammer or a nail hammer. Use it to drive and pull nails. A 16-ounce hammer is suggested for normal home repairs.



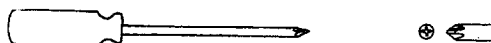
2. Flat-bladed screwdriver

Use it to drive and remove screws with straight slots.



3. Phillips head screwdriver

Use it to drive and remove screws with +-shaped slots.



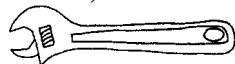
4. Pliers

Use them to grasp and turn objects. Be careful, as plier jaws can damage smooth surfaces. These also can be used for cutting wire.



5. Adjustable wrench

Use it to turn nuts and bolts. Smooth jaws won't damage shiny fittings.



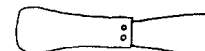
6. Utility knife

Use it to cut plastic, floor tile, cardboard, etc. It has razor-sharp, replaceable blades.



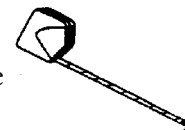
7. Putty knife

Use it to repair holes in walls.



8. Steel tape

Also called retractable tape, push-pull tape or a tape rule. Use it to take measurements up to 12 feet long.



9. Hand drill*

Also called an eggbeater drill. Use it to drill holes less than 1/4 inches in diameter. It works like an eggbeater.

*Electric drills and cordless drills also are available.



10. Toilet plunger

Also called a plumber's friend or suction plunger. Use it to unclog drains or toilet.



By carefully reading instructions and practicing, you can learn to make simple home repairs.

This material was adapted from publications produced by Iowa State University. Iowa Cooperative Extension publications can be found on the Web at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pubs/>

*This resource is one in a series on **Maintaining the Home** which include:*

Interior Maintenance

Preventive Home Maintenance Checkup
Make a Basic Toolkit for Simple Home Repairs
Selection and Use of Home Cleaning Products
Discovering the Secrets of Successful Storage

Heating

Furnace Care
Fireplace and Chimney Care

Cooling

Evaporative Cooler
Air Conditioner
Ceiling Fans

Plumbing

Fixing Plugged Sink Drains
How to Unclog a Toilet
Repairing Dripping Faucets

Electrical

How to Set or Reset a Circuit Breaker
How to Replace a Fuse

Appliances

How to Buy an Energy Efficient Home Appliance
Choosing a Water Heater

Maintenance:

Dishwasher Care and Dishwasher Cleaning
Dryer Care and Dryer Cleaning
Freezer Care and Freezer Cleaning
Garbage Disposal Care and Cleaning
Range and Oven Care and Range Cleaning
Refrigerator Care and Refrigerator Cleaning
Small Electrical Appliance Care and Cleaning
Washer Care and Cleaning

Flooring

Buying new carpet
Carpet Care and Cleaning
Wood Floors Care and Cleaning
Ceramic Tile Floors Care and Cleaning
Vinyl Floor Coverings Care and Cleaning

Walls

Selecting and Applying Paint
Wallpaper Selection and Cleaning
Repairing Walls

Furniture

Furnishing Your New Home: Color and Design
Selecting Fabric For Home Furnishings

Exterior Maintenance

Home Exterior

Foundations, Basements and Yards
Exterior Walls, Windows, and Doors

Roof

A Guide To Roofs
Roof Maintenance

Landscaping and Lawn Care

Principles of Xeriscape
Watering Your Lawn

Home Safety

Child-Proofing Your Home
Is Your Home Safe From Fire Hazards?
Smoke Alarms Save Lives
Carbon Monoxide Alarms
Are Your Children Safe From Poisons?
Protecting Yourself Against Burglary

Conservation

Weatherize Your Home
Easy Tips to Save Money and the Planet
How to Stop Air Leaks Around Windows
Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling
Indoor Water Conservation Tips
Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

Environment Issues

Green Building
Reduce-Reuse-Recycle: Alternatives for Waste Management
Create a home recycling center
Healthy Indoor Air for New Mexico Homes
Dealing with Mold
Household Hazardous Waste
Hazardous Household Substances: Alternatives That Are Relatively Free of Toxic Effects
Radon

Pest Control

Cockroaches and Their Control
Southwest Insects

Accessible Living

Update your home for a lifetime of living
Vision Loss & Hearing Loss
Hand Dexterity, Strength and Range of Motion
Cognitive Difficulties
Mobility Impairments, Balance and Coordination

Sponsored by New Mexico State University and the City of Las Cruces. Supported by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. New Mexico State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educator. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. © 2005 NMSU Board of Regents. All rights reserved.



Maintaining the Home: Make a Basic Toolkit for Simple Home Repairs
