



Basic Repairs & Maintenance

Plumbing Basics

Leaky Faucet	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Turn off water supply. 2. Disassemble faucet. 3. Replace worn-out parts (O-rings, washers). 4. Reassemble and test.
Clogged Drain	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use plunger to dislodge blockage. 2. Try drain snake if plunger fails. 3. As a last resort, use chemical drain cleaner (follow instructions carefully).
Running Toilet	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check flapper valve; replace if necessary. 2. Adjust float level. 3. Examine fill valve; clean or replace if needed.
Frozen Pipes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply heat slowly with a hair dryer, heat lamp, or space heater. 2. Never use open flame. 3. After thawing, check for leaks.
Tip	Regularly check plumbing fixtures for leaks and address them promptly to prevent water damage.
Tools	Plunger, drain snake, adjustable wrench, plumber's tape

Electrical Repairs

Replacing a Light Switch	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Turn off the circuit breaker. 2. Remove the old switch. 3. Connect wires to the new switch (matching colors). 4. Secure the switch and cover plate.
Replacing a Light Fixture	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Turn off the circuit breaker. 2. Disconnect the old fixture. 3. Connect wires to the new fixture (matching colors). 4. Mount the new fixture securely.
Troubleshooting Outlets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check for tripped circuit breaker. 2. Test outlet with a voltage tester. 3. If no power, check wiring connections.
Replacing a Fuse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Turn off the power. 2. Remove the old fuse. 3. Install new fuse of the same amperage. 4. Turn the power on.
Safety Note	Always turn off power at the circuit breaker before working on electrical components.
Tools	Screwdrivers (flathead and Phillips), wire strippers, voltage tester

Basic Carpentry

Repairing Drywall	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean damaged area. 2. Apply joint compound in thin layers. 3. Sand smooth when dry. 4. Prime and paint.
Hanging Pictures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use a stud finder to locate wall studs for heavier items. 2. Use appropriate hooks or anchors for the weight of the picture. 3. Use a level to hang straight.
Fixing Squeaky Floors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Locate the source of the squeak. 2. Drive screws through the flooring into the joist below. 3. Use shims to stabilize loose boards.
Replacing Baseboard	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove the old baseboard. 2. Measure and cut the new baseboard. 3. Attach with finishing nails.
Tools	Hammer, nails, screws, saw, stud finder, level
Tip	Always measure twice and cut once to avoid mistakes.

Painting and Decorating

Surface Preparation

Cleaning Walls	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Remove dust and cobwebs with a brush or vacuum.2. Wash walls with mild detergent and water.3. Rinse and let dry completely.
Sanding	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use sandpaper to smooth rough surfaces.2. Remove glossy finishes for better paint adhesion.3. Clean sanding dust before priming.
Priming	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Apply primer to new or repaired surfaces.2. Use stain-blocking primer for water stains or knots.3. Let primer dry completely before painting.
Taping	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use painter's tape to protect trim, windows, and other surfaces.2. Press tape firmly for a clean paint line.3. Remove tape immediately after painting.
Filler	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use filler to fill the holes, dents or cracks2. Sand smooth when dry.3. Prime and paint.
Tip	Proper surface preparation is crucial for a professional-looking paint job.

Painting Techniques

Cutting In	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use a brush to paint edges and corners.2. Apply paint in a smooth, even line.3. Avoid drips and overlaps.
Rolling	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use a roller to apply paint to large surfaces.2. Overlap each stroke slightly for even coverage.3. Avoid applying too much pressure.
Brush Strokes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use long, even strokes for a smooth finish.2. Avoid excessive brushing, which can create brush marks.
Paint Coats	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Apply two coats of paint for best coverage.2. Let each coat dry completely before applying the next.
Tip	Use high-quality brushes and rollers for a better finish and easier application.
Paint Type	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use proper type of paint2. Interior, Exterior, Ceiling, etc.

Wallpapering

Preparing Walls	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure walls are smooth, clean, and primed.2. Remove any old wallpaper or adhesive.
Cutting Wallpaper	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Measure the wall height and add extra for trimming.2. Cut wallpaper to the correct length, matching patterns if necessary.
Applying Adhesive	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Apply wallpaper adhesive evenly to the back of the wallpaper.2. Fold the wallpaper to allow adhesive to soak in.
Hanging Wallpaper	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Align the wallpaper with the ceiling line.2. Smooth out bubbles and wrinkles with a smoothing tool.3. Trim excess wallpaper with a utility knife.
Seams	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure seams are tight and aligned.2. Use a seam roller to press seams flat.
Tip	Work in a well-lit area and take your time to ensure accurate placement and alignment.

Advanced DIY Projects

Tiling

Preparing Surface	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure the surface is clean, level, and dry.2. Apply backer board if necessary.
Laying out Tiles	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Plan the layout to avoid small cuts at edges.2. Use spacers for even grout lines.
Applying Mortar	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use a notched trowel to apply mortar evenly.2. Press tiles firmly into the mortar.
Cutting Tiles	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use a tile cutter or wet saw for precise cuts.2. Smooth edges with a rubbing stone.
Grouting	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Apply grout evenly, filling all grout lines.2. Wipe away excess grout with a sponge.
Sealing	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Apply sealant to grout lines to protect against moisture.2. Allow to dry completely.

Deck Building

Planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Obtain necessary permits.2. Design the deck layout and dimensions.
Foundation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dig and pour concrete footings.2. Install posts and beams.
Framing	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Build the deck frame with joists and ledger board.2. Ensure proper spacing and support.
Decking	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Install deck boards, leaving small gaps for expansion.2. Secure with screws or hidden fasteners.
Railings	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Install railings and balusters for safety.2. Ensure they meet local building codes.
Finishing	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Apply stain or sealant to protect the wood.2. Allow to dry completely.

Installing Flooring

Subfloor Preparation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure the subfloor is clean, level, and dry.2. Repair any damage.
Underlayment	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Install underlayment for cushioning and sound insulation.2. Overlap seams and tape.
Layout	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Plan the layout to avoid small cuts at edges.2. Leave expansion gaps along walls.
Installation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Install flooring according to manufacturer's instructions.2. Use tapping block and pull bar for tight fit.
Trimming	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Install baseboards and trim to cover expansion gaps.2. Miter corners for a professional look.
Tip	Take your time and follow instructions carefully for best results.

Safety and Tools

General Safety Tips

- **Wear safety glasses:** Protect your eyes from debris and chemicals.
- **Use gloves:** Protect your hands from sharp objects and chemicals.
- **Wear a mask:** Avoid inhaling dust, fumes, and vapors.
- **Use hearing protection:** Protect your ears from loud noises.
- **Keep work area clean and organized:** Prevent accidents and ensure efficient workflow.
- **Never work when tired or distracted:** Focus on the task at hand.
- **Always unplug electrical tools before changing bits or making adjustments.**

Tool Safety

Power Drills	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use the correct drill bit for the material.2. Secure the workpiece with clamps.3. Avoid forcing the drill; let the bit do the work.
Circular Saws	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Wear safety glasses and hearing protection.2. Use the correct blade for the material.3. Keep hands away from the blade.
Sanders	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Wear a mask to avoid inhaling dust.2. Use the correct grit sandpaper.3. Keep the sander moving to avoid damaging the surface.
Ladders	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use a ladder on a stable surface.2. Ensure the ladder is in good condition.3. Maintain three points of contact at all times.
Table Saw	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use safety glasses and hearing protection2. Use the correct blade for the material3. Never remove the blade guard
Miter Saw	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use safety glasses2. Keep hands clear of the blade3. Secure the material.

Essential Tools

- **Hammer:** For driving nails and general carpentry.
- **Screwdrivers:** Phillips and flathead for various screws.
- **Adjustable Wrench:** For tightening and loosening nuts and bolts.
- **Pliers:** For gripping, cutting, and bending wires.
- **Tape Measure:** For accurate measurements.
- **Level:** For ensuring surfaces are level and plumb.
- **Stud Finder:** For locating wall studs.
- **Utility Knife:** For cutting various materials.
- **Safety Glasses:** Always wear safety glasses.
- **Gloves:** Always wear gloves.