



# Home Repairs

Scouts BSA · Trades

Name

Started

Completed

Home Repairs is about learning practical skills to fix and maintain things around the house. You'll work on everything from painting to simple plumbing, always with safety first. These skills will save you money and help your family for years.

## Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off ([scouting.org/merit-badges/home-repairs/](https://scouting.org/merit-badges/home-repairs/)). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

### 1 Safety

**Tips for this section:** Learn how to use tools safely, wear eye protection, and list the safe practices you'll follow on every job.

**Example for this section:** Before any job, run through a quick checklist: safety glasses on, power or water off if needed, the right tool for the job, an adult nearby, and a first-aid kit handy for cuts and pinched fingers.

- ☐ **1a** Explain to your counselor the hazards you're most likely to face doing home repairs and how to anticipate, reduce, prevent, and respond to them. Describe the right safety gear and clothing for the work

- ☐ **1b** Discuss general home repair precautions and name at least 10 safe practices every home repairer should follow

## 2 Outdoor and exterior repairs: Choose 3 of 6

**Tips for this section:** Look around the outside of your home with a parent for jobs like caulking cracks, weatherstripping a drafty door, or fixing a torn screen. Use ladders only with an adult.

**Example for this section:** Exterior jobs could be re-caulking around a window, replacing a cracked weatherstrip on a door, patching a crack in the driveway, or fixing a torn window screen.

- ☐ **2a** Recondition or maintain a yard tool, and show you know how to clean it and store it properly

- ☐ **2b** Weatherstrip a door or window

- ☐ **2c** Caulk joints or cracks that are exposed to the weather

- ☐ **2d** Fix a break in an asphalt or concrete surface

- ☐ **2e** Fix or replace a door or window screen

- ☐ **2f** Replace a glass pane

### 3 Furniture, woodwork, and storage: Choose 3 of 7

**Tips for this section:** Tighten a wobbly chair, build a rack for your tools, or fix a sagging gate.

**Example for this section:** For furniture and woodwork, glue and clamp a loose chair rung, build a pegboard rack for garage tools, or refinish a scratched tabletop with varnish.

- ☐ **3a** Build or install something for storing tools

- ☐ **3b** Build a workbench

- ☐ **3c** Fix a piece of furniture

- ☐ **3d** Paint or varnish a door, house trim, or a piece of furniture

- ☐ **3e** Fix a gate or door that sags

- ☐ **3f** Fix a loose railing or step

- ☐ **3g** Fix a fence

**4 Electrical repairs: Choose 2 of 4**

**Tips for this section:** Always turn off power at the breaker first, and work with an experienced adult on anything electrical.

**Example for this section:** With an experienced adult and the breaker off, replace a worn lamp cord or plug, or replace a worn-out light switch. Always confirm the power is off with a tester first.

- ☐ **4a** Find the main electrical panel or switch box, and know how to reset a tripped circuit breaker or replace a blown fuse

- ☐ **4b** Replace an electrical cord, or fix a plug or lamp socket

- ☐ **4c** Install a single-pole light switch

- ☐ **4d** Replace an electrical outlet in a wall

- ☐ **5** Under supervision, find the main water supply shutoff (including any well pump) and know how to turn it off. Then do 2 of 5a–5e (choose 2 of 5 below)

**Tip:** Find the main water shutoff with a parent so you know it in an emergency. Then try fixing a leaky faucet or clearing a drain.

**Example:** Shut off the main water with a parent, then try two repairs, like replacing the washer or cartridge in a leaky faucet and clearing a slow bathroom drain with a plunger or drain snake.

- ☐ **5a** Clear a clogged trap or drain

- ☐ **5b** Fix a faucet that leaks

- ☐ **5c** Fix a flush toilet

- ☐ **5d** Fix a leaking hose or hose connector

- ☐ **5e** Clean or replace a sprinkler head

## 6 Indoor repairs and decorating: Choose 3 of 8

**Tips for this section:** Patch a small hole in drywall or paint a room with a family member. Prep work makes the final job look great.

**Example for this section:** Patch a nail hole or small dent in drywall: fill it with spackle, let it dry, sand it smooth, and touch up the paint. Then paint a closet or bathroom wall, taping edges and covering the floor first.

- ☐ **6a** Paint a ceiling or wall

- ☐ **6b** Fix or replace damaged vinyl, linoleum, or tile flooring

- ☐ **6c** Put up curtain or drapery rods, then hang the curtains or drapes

- ☐ **6d** Patch a hole in drywall

- ☐ **6e** Use anchors to hang a picture, plant hanger, or other item your parent or guardian approves on drywall

- ☐ **6f** Strengthen a picture frame

- ☐ **6g** Mend something made of glass, china, or pottery

- ☐ **6h** Fix a drawer slide, or fix or replace cabinet pulls

## 7 Careers and hobbies: Choose 1 of 2

**Tips for this section:** Talk with a contractor, plumber, or electrician about their trade, or volunteer with a home repair group.

- ☐ **7a** Explore careers related to home repair. Research one, including the training and education needed, costs, job outlook, pay, duties, and advancement (with permission, by internet or library search, an interview, or a workplace visit). Discuss your findings with your counselor and why the career might interest you

- ☐ **7b** Explore how home repair skills could lead to a hobby or healthy lifestyle. Research the training, costs, and groups that support it, and discuss with your counselor the short- and long-term goals you might set