

Making Simple Repairs: Building Your Toolbox¹

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Every home needs some basic tools for use in simple maintenance.

- Keep all of your tools in your toolbox. That way you can always find your tools when you need them. A simple metal box is fine.
- Always put your tools back in the box after using them.

Important Tools To Have

- A medium weight (12-13 ounces) claw hammer.
- Two screwdrivers. There are two types of screwdrivers. Buy one of each type.
 - A straight blade (flat head).
 - A Phillips head. (X-head)

The screwdrivers must fit into the head of the screw, so they come in several sizes.

It is easier to put a screw into wood if you make a hole first. Pound a nail a little way into the wood. Remove the nail and put the screw in the hole made by the nail.

- A pair of slip-joint pliers. They can be used for many jobs around the house. Use pliers to hold a nut while you turn a bolt with a screwdriver.
- Pliers can be used to bend or remove a nail or brad. A claw hammer can also be used to pull nails. Pliers can be used to cut wire or straighten a bent nail and to tighten or loosen a bolt.
- An adjustable wrench. This tool can be adjusted to several sizes. It can be used to loosen or tighten nuts.
- A small can of penetrating oil. The oil can be used to lubricate nuts, bolts and for many other purposes.
- A package of mix sized nails and a package of mixed size screws.
- A box of mixed-size wood screws, metal screws,

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- A package of mixed-size nuts and bolts.
- A box of mixed-size nails.

Picture Hanging

Pounding a nail into a wall to hang a picture or mirror can damage the wall. An inexpensive picture hanging kit makes it easy to hang a picture without damage to the wall. It will also hold your picture more securely. There are two kinds of picture hangers.

- One kind of picture/mirror hanger has a metal hanger and uses a small nail to hold the hanger in place. This type will support the most weight.
- The other type of picture/mirror hanger uses a sturdy fabric tab that is glued to the wall. A hanger is at the bottom of the fabric tab.

Generally, pictures are hung at eye level.