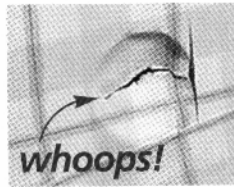


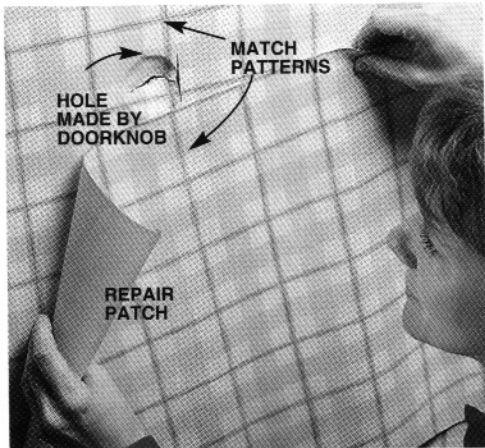
Fixing Damaged Walls

No one pulls off a move without banging into a few walls along the way. Before you paint or wallpaper, fix the holes so your walls look like new.

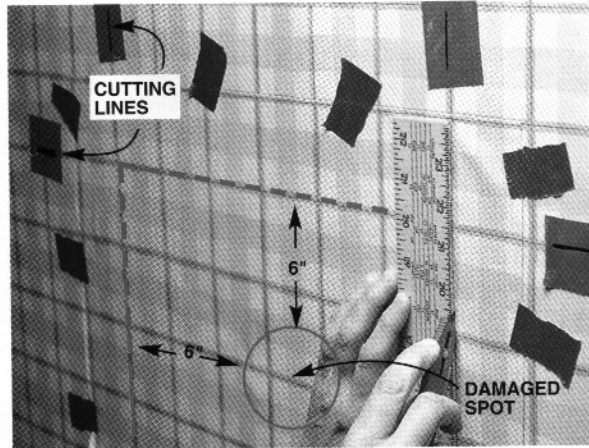


Dings and Dents

Who knows how it got there, but now you have a baseball-size crater in a wallpapered wall. Here's what to do (providing you can locate some leftover wallpaper):



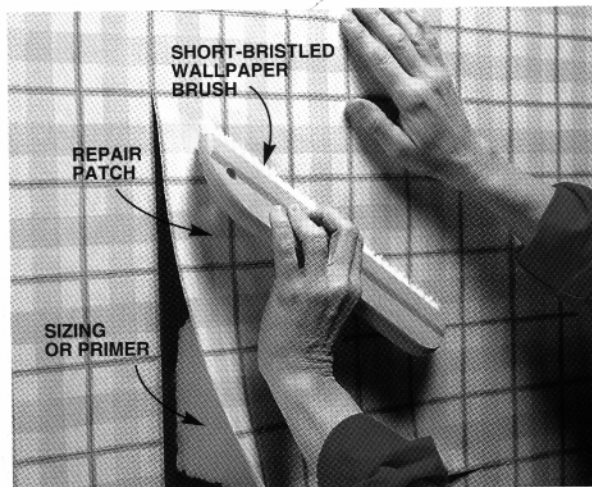
1 Cut an oversized piece of leftover paper and position it so it extends at least 6 in. in all directions beyond the damaged area. Carefully match the pattern.



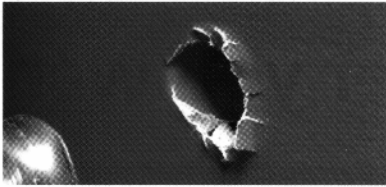
2 Cut an oversized patch. Tape the patch (blue tape) over the wallpaper so the patterns match. Mark pieces of tape (red tape) to establish the horizontal and vertical cutting lines. Lay a straightedge between these lines and use a utility knife with a new blade to cut through the two layers of wallpaper. Peel or scrape off the old (damaged) wallpaper.



3 Repair the wall. Apply a metal screen patch (about \$4 at a home center) over the hole. Apply two thin coats of drywall joint compound (also about \$4 at home centers), feathering and sanding after each coat.

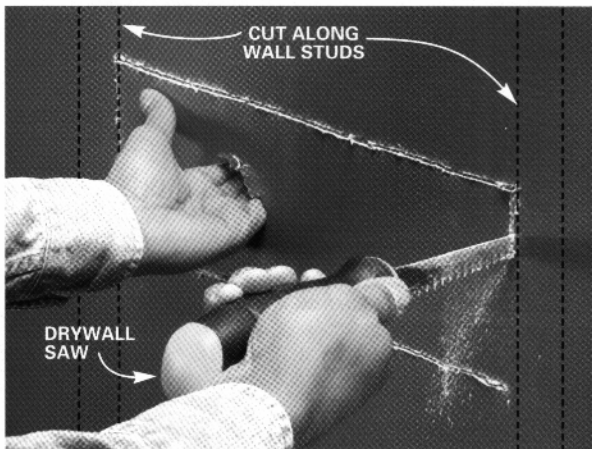


4 Install the patch. Brush on sizing or primer. Wet the patch if it's prepasted wallpaper, or apply paste. Match the pattern carefully. Smooth out air bubbles with a short-bristled wallpaper brush using long pulling strokes. Work the brush from the middle to the sides. Use a dampened sponge to remove glue residue and finger prints.

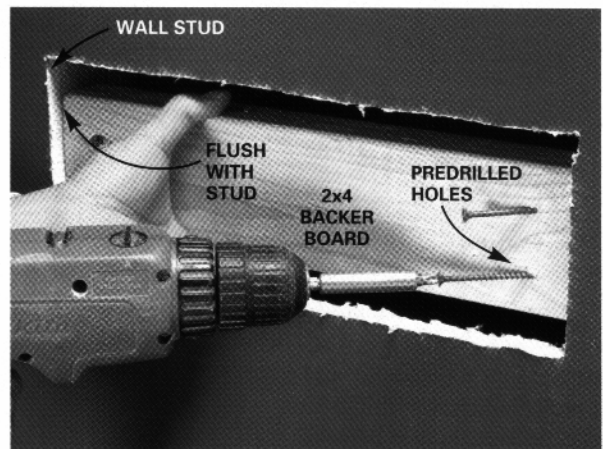


Full-Fledged Holes

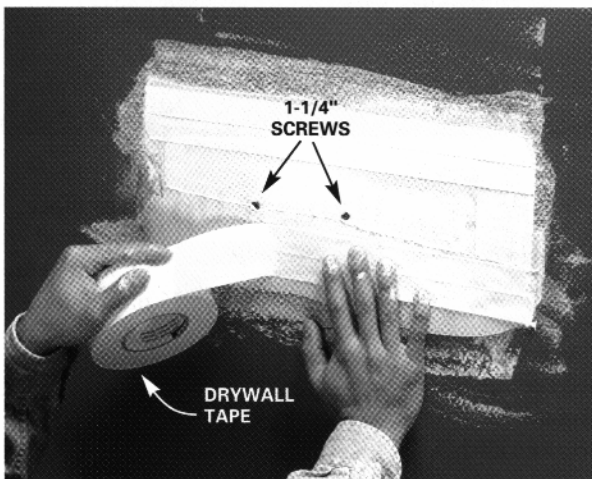
If the corner of some precious possession punched all the way through one of your walls, don't panic. The repair is a bit more complicated, but it's totally doable. Here's how to perform the fix and prevent anything from going all the way through again:



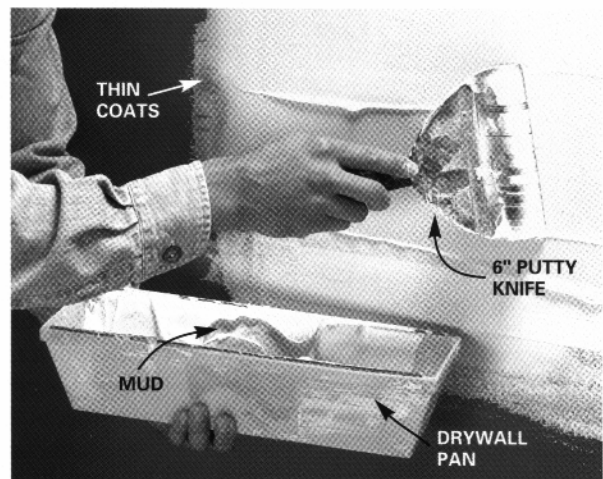
1 Reach through the hole, enlarging it if necessary, and carefully feel for wires, pipes and other obstructions. Cut out a 5- or 6-in.-wide rectangle between the wall studs to remove the damaged section, making sure you get all of the hole.



2 Cut a 2x4 to fit between the studs and act as a "backer board." Hold the 2x4 flush to the front edge of the stud, and predrill 1/8-in. holes through the 2x4 and the stud. Anchor the 2x4 with 2-1/2-in. screws. Cut a piece of 1/2-in. drywall to use as a patch. Anchor it to the 2x4 with 1-1/4-in. screws.



3 Fill the voids between the wall and patch with drywall mud and let it dry. Apply a thin coat of drywall mud over the seams and press in the tape. Drag a 6-in. putty knife along the tape to squeeze out the excess mud, apply another thin coat over the tape and allow it to dry.



4 Feather the patch into the wall with thin coats of drywall mud. Use a 6-in. or larger putty knife to apply the mud, let it dry and scrape down any ridges with the putty knife before recoating. Sand the patch smooth and paint.

