

Q I'm having trouble making a smooth drywall patch in a corner. What am I doing wrong?

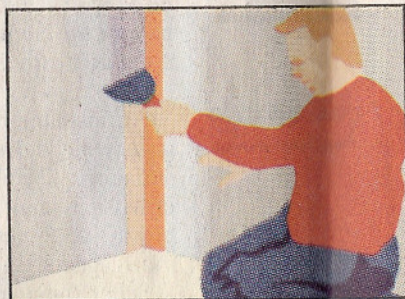
STEP ONE

Apply a thin layer of drywall compound to both sides of the corner. Fold paper drywall tape at the crease, and press it into compound. Scrape away excess.



STEP TWO

After the bedded tape dries thoroughly, apply a finish coat of compound to ONE side of the tape with a flexible 6-inch-wide knife.



STEP THREE

After that first surface dries, apply compound to the second side. You can work all the way into the corner without marring the first side.



STEP FOUR

Repeat if needed; make sure tape is covered completely. After both sides dry completely, sand with a drywall screen on a sanding pad.



TONY LONE FIGHT - ILLUSTRATIONS SPECIAL TO THE OBSERVER

TIP NEWS2USE: Don't try to skip steps by applying compound on top of the tape before that first bedding coat of compound dries. The paper tape will likely bubble.

Home Editor Allen Norwood can answer your home improvement questions. Contact him: anorwood@charlotteobserver.com or (704) 358-5237.