

## How To Repair Dry Wall Cracks

We've heard dry-wall finishers and plasterers do a lot of praising and cursing over the relatively new appearance of perforated paper tape. They love it because it makes wall finishing easier than it ever was; they hate it because it takes less time, and wall finishers usually get paid by the hour.

For the amateur, it is nothing less than a miracle. With just a little care, virtually anyone can do a smooth and professional job on a wall.

### Utensils

Ladder  
2" 1/2 or 3" inch spackle knife, slanted blade  
Hammer  
12" inch smooth trowel  
Scissors

### Ingredients

Taping compound, ready mixed  
Perforated paper tape

### Approximate Time: Depends On Level Of Professionalism

1. Scratch away all loose plaster with spackle knife (Fig. 42A).
2. Hammer in any popping nails.
3. Scrape away or bang away plaster lumps with putty knife and hammer.
4. Lay a mound of taping compound on trowel with putty knife.
5. Spread compound into crack and onto 2" inch adjacent area (Fig. 42B).
6. Cut tape to fit and place over crack (Figs. 42C and 42D). It should adhere to surface.
7. Holding one end of tape in place, run trowel over length of taping, forcing out excess compound from beneath and at the same time covering the outer surface of the tape with compound (Fig. 42C).
8. Now run trowel over tape with a steady, even swipe.

9. If heads of nails are showing, cover with compound and smooth out.

10. For smooth job, allow compound to dry, and reapply compound (Fig. 42D). For truly professional results, run the compound a third time, and let dry.

11. Scrape putty knife and trowel against one another to remove built-up compound. Wash in warm water to clean.

12. Cover compound can securely.

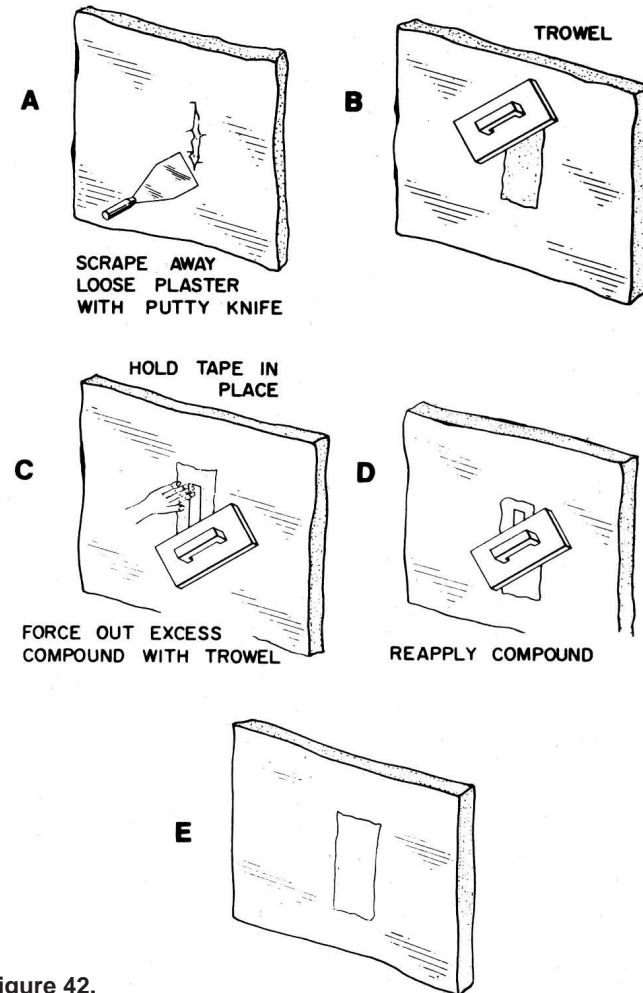


Figure 42.  
How To Fix A Dry Wall Crack