



LEARN HOW

WHETHER INSTALLING OR REPLACING, DRYWALL GIVES ROOMS A FINISHED LOOK

PROJECT KNOW-HOW

Initially, hanging drywall seems simple enough: just put it up and drive screws through it. However, as is often the case, you have to choose whether you want to work longer or work smarter. Smart: buying sheets the same length as the wall. Smarter: taking advantage of the selection of drywall tools and supplies at The Home Depot.

SKILL SCALE

Medium

TIME REQUIRED

All variable

TOOLS

Sawhorses, drywall T square, tape measure, utility knife, drywall saw, coarse rasp, screw gun, drywall router

MATERIALS

Drywall, drywall screws, joint compound, drywall tape

INSTALLING DRYWALL

STEP 1



MEASURE THE WALL and cut the sheet so it's about 1/4 inch shorter than the opening. Have someone assist you in placing the sheet tight against the ceiling, and begin driving 1 1/4-inch screws in the middle of the panel.

STEP 2

ONCE THE FIRST SCREWS ARE IN PLACE, put in the rest, working your way from the center of the panel toward the outside. Drive the screws 16 inches apart into all of the studs.



STEP 3

THERE SHOULD BE A SLIGHT GAP BETWEEN THE FLOOR AND THE DRYWALL SO THAT THE DRYWALL WON'T JAM AGAINST BUMPS IN THE FLOOR. BASEBOARD WILL COVER IT LATER. IF NECESSARY, trim the sheet to leave about a 1/2-inch gap. Position the lower sheet of drywall by slipping a panel lifter under the bottom edge and stepping on the lifter, then screw the panel in place.



STEP 4

A LONGER WALL MAY NEED MORE THAN ONE SHEET OF DRYWALL.

Start by hanging a full sheet as before. Tack it in place, and then drive screws every 16 inches into the studs.



IF THE SHEET COVERS A WINDOW THAT HAS YET TO BE INSTALLED, cover the window with drywall. Later, rout out the drywall and add drywall screws around the opening as necessary.



STEP 5

IF THE WINDOW IS ALREADY IN PLACE, TAKE OFF THE WINDOW TRIM AND CUT THE DRYWALL BEFORE YOU HANG IT. Lay out the cut by positioning the sheet along the floor and marking where it meets the edge of the windows. Measure from the ceiling to the window top to lay out the top of the cut.



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STEP 6

LAY OUT A DOOR CUT THE SAME WAY AS A WINDOW.

Remove the trim, lean the piece against the opening, mark the location of the studs, and draw a line for the top of the door opening. Make cuts for both doors and windows with a drywall saw, then screw the panels in place.

BUYER'S GUIDE & TIPS

DIFFERENT TYPES OF DRYWALL

Standard drywall panels come in 4'x8' sheets (longer and wider panels are also available) and range in thickness from 1/4 to 5/8 of an inch.

DRYWALL is the standard wall covering panel, made of gypsum sandwiched between paper. Screw the panels to the wall. Fill the cracks between them with paper drywall tape, followed by joint compound.

GREENBOARD is the water-resistant form of drywall and it installs the same way. Do not put it on ceilings, however; it is too heavy.

BACKERBOARD is a smaller panel, with a concrete core and fiberglass facing. It's used as a base underneath ceramic tile. Screw it to the wall with special backerboard screws.



A DRYWALL ROUTER IS THE HIGH-TECH WAY TO CUT OUT SPACE FOR AN OUTLET.

If using a router, first note the height of the box, and draw marks on the floor to show where it is. Remove the wires, and then screw the drywall in place, covering the box and driving the screws just enough to keep the drywall in place. Find the inside edge of the box by plunging the router into the box and moving sideways. Guide the router counterclockwise to make the cutout. The low tech solution is to use lipstick: rub the edges of the outlet box with lipstick, and then put the panel in place. Remove it, and cut along the lipstick marks on the back of the panel with a drywall saw.



INSTALLING DRYWALL

STEP 7

CUT A PIECE OF DRYWALL TO FIT BETWEEN THE CORNER AND THE PIECE YOU JUST HUNG. Cut it

slightly undersized, leaving a 1/4-inch gap in the corner. Screw the drywall in place. Where the panels meet, cut a V-groove with your utility knife

(see inset); this will make hiding the joint easier when you're taping.



STEP 8

BEGIN THE BOTTOM ROW WITH A SHORTER PIECE SO THAT THE SEAM IN THE TOP ROW WILL NOT BE DIRECTLY ABOVE THE SEAM IN THE BOTTOM ROW.

Position the piece, lift it with a panel lift, and screw it in place. When the small piece is in place, install the longer piece.



STEP 9

WHEN FRAMING OUTSIDE CORNERS, CUT THE PIECE LONG SO THAT IT HANGS OVER THE CORNER.

Then trim it with a drywall router or saw after it's in place. Hang the abutting panel, leaving it long too, and trim it to create a tight, well-fitted corner.



STEP 10

PROTECT THE CORNERS WITH METAL CORNER BEAD. A bead that is a bit long will kink when you fasten it. To

prevent this, cut the bead with tin snips, leaving it about 1/2 inch short. Hold the bead tight against the ceiling. Screws will distort the bead, so nail it in place, spacing the nails every 9 inches.



1-2-3 YOUR STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE



For other projects like this, please refer to **Home Improvement 1-2-3** available at your local The Home Depot store.

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