Note to the Counselor

Nothing encourages pride in one’s surroundings more than being able to improve them through one’s own initiative and resources.

That is why the Home Repairs merit badge can be so important to the development of a young person. Once Scouts learn basic home repair skills and apply them to their own environment, they will have a lifetime resource: the ability to learn new skills.

Home repair, however, can be intimidating at first, especially if the Scout lacks a role model for such activities. If possible, provide one-on-one or group activities that will get the Scout off to a good start.

Encourage each Scout to acquire a good set of basic tools, and help Scouts learn to keep their tools in one place and in good repair. That way, they will “be prepared” to handle repairs as needed.

There is no time limit for completing the requirements. Major tasks, such as waterproofing a basement, may be completed in tandem with another Scout working on the requirement, and/or with the assistance of an adult. The majority of the work, however, should be performed by the Scouts earning the badge.

This book provides a good overview of home-repair projects, but it is by no means a complete reference. For some requirements, space does not permit going into construction details or listing all possible repair variations. Therefore, any new construction or installation or completion of a similar project (for example, any toilet repair or adjustment) qualifies as achieving the requirement so long as the Scout understands and demonstrates the basic concepts involved.
Requirements

1. Do the following:
   a. Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards you may encounter while working on home repairs and what you should do to anticipate, mitigate and prevent, and respond to these hazards. Describe the appropriate safety gear and clothing that should be used when working on home repairs.
   b. Discuss general precautions related to home repairs. Name at least 10 safe practices that every home repairer should exercise.

2. Under the supervision of your merit badge counselor, do FOUR of the following:
   a. Maintain or recondition a yard tool and show that you know how to clean up and properly store this equipment.
   b. Weather-strip a window or door.
   c. Caulk cracks or joints open to the weather.
   d. Waterproof a basement.
   e. Repair a break in a concrete or asphalt surface.
   f. Repair the screen in a window or door.
   g. Replace a pane of glass.
   h. Solder a broken wire or metal object.

3. Under the supervision of your merit badge counselor, do THREE of the following:
   a. Install or build equipment for storing tools.
   b. Build a workbench.

Either a parent or the merit badge counselor may supervise the Scout's work on any Home Repairs requirements.
c. Repair a piece of furniture.
d. Paint or varnish a piece of furniture, a door, or trim on a house.
e. Repair a sagging door or gate.
f. Repair a loose step or railing.
g. Repair a fence.

4. Under the supervision of your merit badge counselor, do TWO of the following:
   a. Locate a main electrical switch box and know how to replace a fuse or reset a circuit breaker.
   b. Replace an electrical cord or repair a plug or lamp socket.
   c. Install a single-pole light switch.
   d. Replace an electrical wall outlet.

5. Under the supervision of your merit badge counselor, do TWO of the following:
   a. Clear a clogged drain or trap.
   b. Repair a leaky water faucet.
   c. Repair a flush toilet.
   d. Repair a leaky hose or connector.
   e. Clean or replace a sprinkler head.

6. Under the supervision of your merit badge counselor, do THREE of the following:
   a. Paint a wall or ceiling.
   b. Repair or replace damaged tile, linoleum, or vinyl flooring.
   c. Install drapery or curtain rods and then hang drapes or curtains.
   d. Replace window blind cords.
   e. Repair or replace a window sash cord.
   f. Reinforce a picture frame.
   g. Mend an object made of china, glass, or pottery.
Scouting Literature

*Electricity, Electronics, Fire Safety, Painting, Plumbing, Welding, and Woodwork* merit badge pamphlets

With your parent’s permission, visit the Boy Scouts of America’s official retail website, www.scoutshop.org, for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

Books


———. *Fix, Repair & Replace: Upgrade Your Home Like a Pro.* Reader’s Digest, 2011.


**Organizations and Websites**

**Ask the Builder**
Website: http://www.askthebuilder.com

**Creative Homeowner**
One International Blvd., Suite 400
Mahwah, NJ 07495
Toll-free telephone: 800-631-7795
Website: http://www.creativehomeowner.com

**Environmental Protection Agency**
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Telephone: 202-272-0167
Websites: http://www.epa.gov/iedweb00/asbestos.html
http://www2.epa.gov/lead

**Family Handyman**
2915 Commers Drive, No. 700
Eagan, MN 55121
Toll-free telephone: 800-374-3515
Website: http://www.familyhandyman.com

**This Old House Online**
135 W. 50th St., 10th Floor
New York, NY 10020
Telephone: 212-522-9465
Website: http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/

**Toiletology 101**
Website: http://www.toiletology.com

**Underwriters Laboratories Inc.**
333 Pfingsten Road
Northbrook, IL 60062-2096
Telephone: 847-272-8800
Website: http://www.ul.com