

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
MERIT BADGE SERIES

HOME REPAIRS



"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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.

Home Repairs Resources

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

Editors of Better Homes and Gardens. *Big Book of Home How-To*. Better Homes and Gardens, 2006.

Cassell, Julian, Peter Parham, and Theresa Coleman. *Do It Yourself Home Improvement: Step-by-Step Guide to Home Improvement*. DK Adult, 2006.

Editors of Creative Homeowner. *Ultimate Guide: Home Repair & Improvement*, 3rd ed. Creative Homeowner, 2011.

Editors of Creative Publishing. *Black & Decker: The Complete Photo Guide to Home Repair*. Creative Publishing International, 2008.

Editors of Family Handyman. *Family Handyman Home Improvement 2013*. Family Handyman, 2013.

———. *Reader's Digest Complete Do-It-Yourself Manual*, revised ed. Reader's Digest, 2005.

Editors of Reader's Digest. *Family Handyman Trade Secrets: Fix Your Home Like a Pro!* Reader's Digest, 2012.

———. *Family Handyman Whole House Repair Guide: Over 300 Step-by-Step Repairs!* Reader's Digest, 2013.

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

———. *New Fix-It-Yourself Manual*. Reader's Digest, 2009.

———. *1001 Do-It-Yourself Hints and Tips: Tricks, Shortcuts, How-Tos, and Other Great Ideas for Inside, Outside, and All Around Your House*. Reader's Digest, 2008.

———. *Reader's Digest Complete Do-It-Yourself Manual*, revised ed. Reader's Digest, 2005.

Flexner, Bob. *Wood Finishing 101: The Step-by-Step Guide*. Popular Woodworking Books, 2011.

The Home Depot. *Home Improvement 1-2-3*, 3rd ed. The Home Depot, 2008.

Jackson, Albert, and David Day. *Popular Mechanics Complete Home How-To*. Hearst, 2009.

Kidd, James. *Popular Mechanics 75 Tools Every Man Needs: And How to Use Them Like a Pro*. Hearst, 2011.

Manfredini, Lou. *Lou Manfredini's House Smarts*. Ballantine Books, 2004.

Nagyszalanczy, Sandor. *The Homeowner's Ultimate Tool Guide*. Taunton Press, 2003.

Petersen, C.J. *Popular Mechanics When Duct Tape Just Isn't Enough: Quick Fixes for Everyday Disasters*. Hearst, 2013.

Ramsey, Dan. *The Home Owner's Manual: Operating Instructions, Troubleshooting Tips, and Advice on System Maintenance*. Quirk Books, 2006.

Wing, Charlie. *How Your House Works: A Visual Guide to Understanding and Maintaining Your Home, Updated and Expanded*, 2nd ed. RSMears, 2012.

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>

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>