

Simple Home Maintenance

Small Lubrication Jobs

Avoid excesses in oil or lubrication. Select the oil for your particular purpose. Sometimes the wrong oil will aggravate the problem rather than helping. There are lubricating oils and penetrating oils. Use the penetrating oil to remove rust or to aid in loosening a screw or moveable part.

Sliding doors. Use a drop of oil on bearings to maintain easy operation. A thin film of petroleum jelly on the metal track will help. Lubrication will not help if the door is warped or if the track and doors are out of line, or the rollers are worn. The track may need to be cleaned of dirt or debris before lubricating.

Squeaky hinges. Put a drop of penetrating oil at the top of the hinge; move the hinge back and forth. Another method is to puff powdered graphite into the hinge. If the hinge pin can be removed, rub a little oil on the inside of the hinge, wipe off excess, and puff on powdered graphite.

Noisy friction catches. Use stick lubricant on the catch at points of contact. If near heat (as oven doors), use soft lead pencil at the meeting (contact) points. Use powdered graphite on spring hinges.

Locks that are hard to turn. Puff powdered graphite into the lock and around the latch. Do not use oil on the lock since dust will adhere and a lock is difficult to clean. Powdered graphite will prevent a lock from freezing in cold weather.

Appliances. Most household equipment comes with instructions about lubricating; check instructions before oiling equipment. Overoiling may be as harmful as failure to oil. Be sure to follow manufacturer's recommendations, especially with regard to the kind of oil to use on motors.

Small Repair Jobs

Hinged doors that stick. If the door binds only on the hinge side, either the weather stripping or loose hinges are involved. Straighten bent weather stripping with small nose pliers; renail if loose. Loose hinges can be tightened. If the screws are worn, use the next size larger and ½-inch longer screws. Or, plug the old screw hole by glueing in a hardwood dowel. Drill new holes.

The door frame may be out of alignment because some frames are installed only with small nails and move slightly each time the door is opened or closed. First check the frame on the hinge side with a carpenter's level to align the front and side to a vertical position. Fasten it securely enough to maintain this alignment. Next, check the corners with a carpenter's square. Make certain that the door frame will fit the door before fastening it permanently into position. A prybar and several wooden wedges make the job of alignment and holding the correct position easier until final fastening. Secure the realigned door frame to the house with long screws, using a countersink to place the screw heads below the surface of the wood. Fill with putty or wood filler, sand and refinish. (Some door frames cannot be satisfactorily realigned until both interior and exterior mouldings are removed.)

If realignment is not the problem, sand the sticking spot and coat the wood with a sealer, varnish, or enamel.

Windows (double-hung) that stick. Excess paint may need to be removed with a scraper or sandpaper. Swelling may be due to moisture, in which case the window should be refitted by a carpenter. The most simple cause may be a need for lubrication, so rub paraffin or soap on the side grooves where the window slides.

Drawers that stick. If a drawer will not come open all the way, put in a light bulb (in a wire cage) to dry out the wood.

Check the runners and sides of the drawer for shiny places that result from the friction. If not visible, put a piece of carbon paper on the drawer slides and run the drawer over it. Sandpaper or plane down the problem area marked by the carbon paper. Lubricate the bottom runners and sides of drawer with paraffin, candle, paste wax, or a cake of soap.

Drawer guides cannot function correctly unless the furniture is level. Use wood or cardboard to build up the low spot. Loose drawer joints may need to be reglued or secured with small finish nails. Small metal corner plates add strength. If the drawer does not go all the way in, thumbtacks may be used on tracks to lift the drawer. If the bottom of the drawer has slipped from the groove, replace and tack to hold.

Squeaky floors. If repair from the underneath side is possible, and the squeak is due to a gap between a joist and the subfloor, wedge in a wood shingle. In other places, a wood screw can be inserted upward to bind the subfloor to the finish floor, but be sure the screw does not come through the floor surface above.

Repair from the top side can be accomplished by driving two finishing nails at different angles through the flooring and subfloor to the joist. A helix nail (which cannot work loose) can be driven down through wall-to-wall carpet. Either kind of nail, when used on a finished wood floor or a smooth surface floor covering, must be driven below the surface with a nail set. Then the small hole must be filled to match the floor color.



OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE

How to Fasten Anything to Any Kind of Wall

Plaster, sheetrock, plywood walls. Heavy objects need sturdy hangers and support. The best support is the upright stud spaced every 16 inches behind the wall surface. Studs can be located by tapping and listening, or by using a magnetic device that locates the nails in the studs. For very heavy objects, put a screw through into the stud. If a nail is used, drive in at an angle or use with a metal picture hook for more support.

When a stud is not in the right place, use a molly bolt. Purchase a size that fits the wall thickness and also the weight to be supported. Check size of drill bit needed to drill a hole for the anchor (casing). When this is driven into the wall, it cannot be removed after the bolt has been turned to draw up the anchoring device (see drawing). The bolt, however, can be screwed in and out of the casing to secure mirror brackets, hooks, drapery rods, or whatever needs to be put on the wall.

Light objects can be hung on a nail or needle driven into the wall at an angle. Put masking tape on the wall first; remove after nail is driven in. To remove a nail from the wall, use pliers rather than a claw hammer so wall is not damaged.

Double-face adhesive vinyl tape and foam pieces are available for picture hanging. Gummed cloth hangers can be moistened and stuck to walls that are not too rough or too smooth (wax prevents adherence). To remove gummed cloth hangers without marring the wall, soak well with water first. Do not trust gummed hangers to hold up valuable or breakable objects.

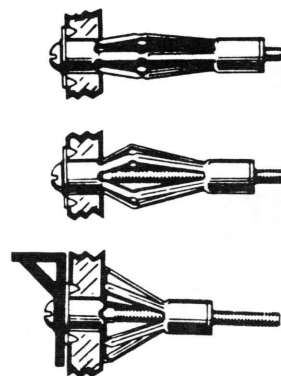
Hollow core doors. Many doors in newer homes consist of a solid wood frame around the outer edges and a center with a cardboard honeycomb. A thin layer of plywood is applied over this. To hang a mirror bracket or hook on a door of this type, either use the solid wood edges or install a strip of wood across the door from edge to edge. Lightweight objects may be hung by installing a small molly bolt through the thin covering of the door.

Tile, brick and masonry walls, fireplaces. Heavy objects can be hung on toggle bolts when a hollow space behind the wall is available. Purchase the correct length of toggle bolt and be sure the right size drill is available.

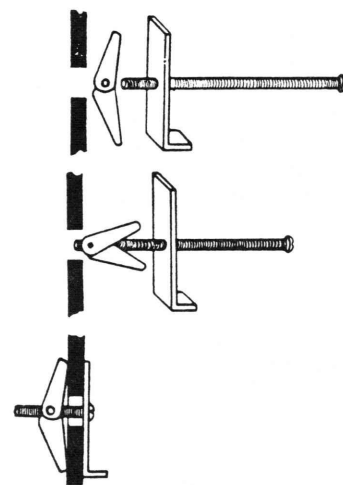
Concrete blocks have hollow sections which can be utilized. Drill a hole the prescribed size all the way through to the space behind. Tap in the toggle bolt (after inserting the hanging device and attaching the "wings"). When the bolt is tightened up, the wings provide support behind the wall. If the bolt is ever removed, the wings drop down behind the wall and have to be replaced.

WARNING: Do not put a swag lamp bolt into a ceiling that is wired for heating unless this is done when house is built.

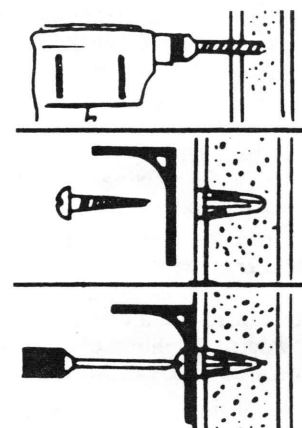
Plaster and lead screw anchors are available to fasten screws into brick, masonry, and tile. A hole must be drilled that is large enough to insert the anchor. When the screw is inserted, the plastic or lead expands and the screw is held securely. If the wall is not too thick, drill the hole all the way through so the anchor will expand behind the wall.



Molly bolt



Toggle bolt



Screw anchor

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