

7.0 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE



7.1 PLASTERBOARD REPAIRS

Plasterboard repairs are necessary for a number of reasons. Cracks in plasterboard or sheet joints are generally the result of movement of a building. A common example of this is where joints are made at the high stress points above and/or below the corners of windows and doors. If you notice these cracks forming, it is suggested you leave these for approximately 1 year before repairing. This allows the building to settle and should reduce the likelihood of problems recurring, but is no guarantee the same problems will not occur.

We also include some useful pointers when repairing dings and holes in GIB® plasterboard. In addition we cover the mounting of fixtures to GIB® plasterboard when fixing into a stud with screws or nails is not possible.

Note: These instructions are NOT suitable when conducting repairs to fire rated walls or ceilings. Similarly, mounting fixtures in GIB® fire rated walls **MUST BE AVOIDED** as this will affect the performance of the fire rated system (see GIB® Fire Rated Systems literature).

Tools

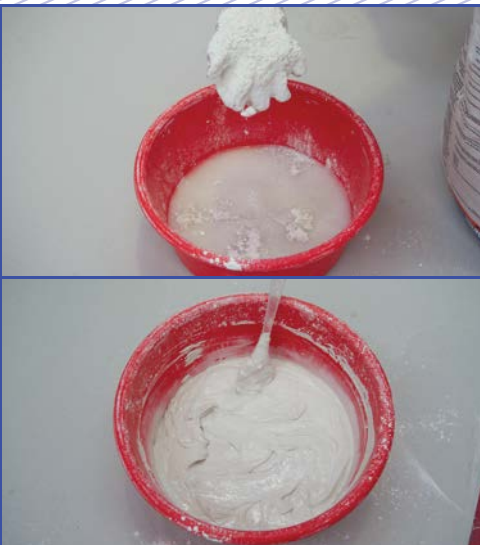
Some, or all, of the following tools will be required depending on the actual work being carried out.

- Rubber spatula (or similar) for mixing plaster
- Plastic Bowl
- 150mm Broad-knife
- Sanding Block
- Sharp Craft Knife
- 280mm Trowel

All tools should be clean and free of any old and set plaster. Stainless steel tools are recommended as these are less likely to corrode.

Tip: A light spray with lubricant and a wipe with a cloth or paper towel will also help keep metal tools in the best condition.

Remember that as these tools, e.g. broad-knives, are being used to create a smooth finish, any kinks or scratches in the edge of the tool will cause rough areas in the plaster. Do not use broad-knives for scraping, opening paint cans, etc.



Repairing Dings, Cracks and Scratches

The following procedure should be used for repairing dings, cracks and scratches less than 2mm deep.

- Sand the area around the repair to ensure the best adhesion between the compound and the painted surface
- Using a broad-knife apply GIB RediFilla® to the damaged area
- Leave the compound to dry (at least 24 hours for areas up to 1mm thick and 48 hours for thicker areas)
- Using 220 grit sandpaper (or finer), sand the area in one direction (not in a circular motion)
- Decorate as required





Repairing Minor Holes

Occasionally a plasterboard patch will be required to repair a damaged wall.

- GIB RediFilla® is a pre-mixed, air drying compound that can be used to repair dings, marks, dents, and blemished surfaces on plasterboard and other surfaces
- It's an easy-sand product to which paint adheres, so can be used as a total repair system for minor repairs
- GIB RediFilla® is available in handy 2 litre pails

Minor holes or construction of small joints for one-off hole repairs

- GIB TradeFilla® is a setting compound. When mixed with water, it has a 10 minute working life
- It changes viscosity during its working life, enabling differing surfaces to be filled by the same product (e.g. repairing a grazed or rough surface when thin, and filling holes as it thickens up)
- When dry, GIB TradeFilla® is a sandable product to which quality paints adhere
- It can be used for the entire repair process, or for the first two coats (in conjunction with GIB® air drying compound as the top coat)
- GIB TradeFilla® is available in a 5kg bag

Larger or multiple repairs

GIB Tradeset® 20 is a setting compound that sets hard in approximately 10–30 minutes when mixed with water.

- Complete drying may take a further 24 hours depending on how thick the compound is applied
- GIB Tradeset® 20 is available in 5kg and 20kg bags
- Tip: As a guide when mixing powder compounds, sprinkle in just enough powder until the water no longer soaks through. If water soaks through, sprinkle in a little more powder
- Tip: It is preferable to mix the compound too thick than too thin. It is easier to add water than to add powder
- Leave the mixture to soak for approximately 30 seconds
- Mix using a rubber spatula or similar for approximately 90 seconds until the mixture is smooth and lump free.

Drying Time

Joint compound must be allowed to dry before it is painted.

Approximate drying times for air drying compounds is a minimum of 24 hours between coats (and longer if the conditions are cold and/or damp). See p. 84.

Water, air and mix temperatures should be kept above 10°C. If temperatures are low, place a fan heater in the room and leave on a moderate setting (no more than 20°C) for a couple of hours. Complete the job, then leave the fan heater going for 24 hours, with the door open to allow exchange of air into the room. This will ensure the taping coat dries out in a reasonable time.

Buy only as much product as is necessary to complete the work you will be doing.

Clean Up

Leave any spilt material to harden before scraping up and disposing of to landfill. A little warm water on a cloth is normally sufficient to remove any residue.

Repairing Small To Medium Holes (up to 150mm in diameter)

Winstone Wallboards recommends the use of GIB Tradeset® 20 or GIB TradeFilla® for base coats and GIB Plus 4® or GIB RediFilla® for the finishing coats.

1. A GIB® plasterboard patch will be required for holes up to 150mm in diameter
2. Cut away the damaged area to a neat rectangular hole
3. Sand the area around the repair to ensure the best adhesion between the compound and the painted surface
4. Cut a piece of GIB® plasterboard that is approximately 20mm longer than the hole, but small enough to fit through the hole
5. Place a 60mm flat head nail through the centre of the piece of GIB® plasterboard and coat the ends with compound
6. Insert the patch into the hole and pull toward the front using the nail
7. Once hard (approximately 1 hour) gently push the nail back through the patch
8. Cut a piece of GIB® plasterboard to loosely fit the hole
9. Use compound to fix the patch in place
10. Apply compound over the joints
11. Immediately place a length of paper jointing tape over the four edges into the compound, using the broad-knife to remove any air bubbles under the tape
12. Once the first coat is hard, apply a second coat of compound over the joint areas, feathering the edges, so that it is approximately 250mm wide
13. Leave the compound to dry for at least 24 hours
14. Scrape away any rough edges using a broad-knife
15. Apply a thin finishing coat over the patched area
16. Leave to dry and sand smooth
17. Decorate the area as required

Note: These instructions are NOT suitable when conducting repairs to fire-rated walls. Similarly mounting fixtures in fire-rated walls **MUST BE AVOIDED** as this will affect the performance of the fire rated system.



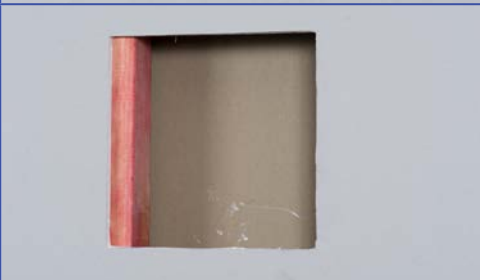
Repairing Large Holes (over 150mm in diameter)

For larger holes it becomes necessary to cut away the damaged area back to one or two studs and use a GIB® plasterboard patch.

- Cut away the damaged area to either one or both studs surrounding the damage to form a rectangular hole
- Sand the area around the repair to ensure the best adhesion between the compound and painted surface
- Cut a length of GIB® plasterboard that is 100mm wide and 100mm longer than the height of the hole.
- Tip: If you have cut away to both studs this will not be required. Fixing to both studs is the easier method of repair, but is not always possible
- Using GIB Tradeset® 20 or GIB TradeFilla®, fix the plasterboard to the side of the hole which is not over the stud
- Cut a new piece of GIB® plasterboard to fit the hole and fix this to the stud(s) and/or plasterboard back-block
- Apply a coat of GIB Tradeset® 20 or GIB TradeFilla® over the four joints using a broad knife
- Immediately place a length of paper jointing tape into the compound, using the broad knife to remove any air bubbles under the tape

Tip: If any blisters appear in the tape this is usually an indicator that insufficient compound is present behind the tape. Lift the area of tape away using the corner of the broad-knife, apply a small amount of compound and press the tape back into the compound once more.

- Once the first coat is hard apply a second coat of GIB Tradeset® 20 or GIB TradeFilla® over the joint areas, feathering the edges, so that it is approximately 250mm wide
- Leave the compound to dry for at least 24 hours
- Scrape away any rough edges using a broad knife
- Apply a thin coat of GIB RediFilla®, or any other GIB® air drying compound, over the patched area
- Leave to dry and sand smooth
- Decorate the area as required



7.2 MOUNTING FIXTURES TO GIB® PLASTERBOARD

The first option for attaching fixtures to plasterboard walls is to try and locate any framing behind the fixture. If it is not possible to make use of the framing to attach the fixture, there is a wide range of proprietary fastenings for attaching fixtures of varying weights.

Strictly follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding weight limits.

Tools

Some, or all, of the following tools will be required depending on the actual work being carried out.

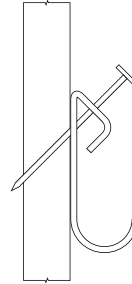
- Drill and bits
- Screw Driver

Systems

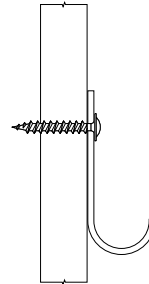
- Some options are shown in the diagrams on the right hand side of this page
- These can be used in GIB® plasterboard walls that are NOT fire-rated
- They are suitable for fixing lightweight items such as pictures, coat hooks and fire extinguishers (up to 20kg), etc. in situations where fixing into the stud with nails or screws are not possible.
- These systems are NOT suitable for heavy items such as shelving, cupboards or vanity units which require additional framing for support
- The fixing method depends on the thickness of the GIB® plasterboard and the distance that the fixture hangs out from the wall

The following guidelines are indicative only. If in any doubt, consult the fixing manufacturer or distributor. The capacities shown are given for 10mm GIB® Standard plasterboard.

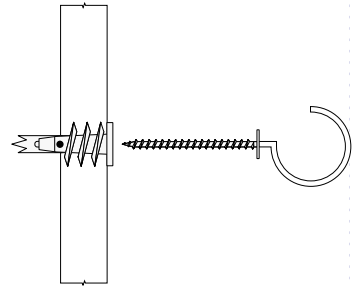
Allowable Fixture Weight 3kg



Allowable Fixture Weight 6–8kg



Allowable Fixture Weight 8kg



Allowable Fixture Weight 15–20kg

