

Drywall Glossary



JOINT COMPOUND

"Mud" is the shorthand name for drywall taping compound or joint compound. It's a gypsum-based paste used to finish drywall joints and corners in new drywall installations and for general repairs such as repairing cracks and holes in existing drywall and plaster surfaces. All are easy to sand with sandpaper or a wet sponge.

YACHAD ALWAYS RECOMMENDS WET-SANDING, FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR VOLUNTEERS AND HOMEOWNERS.

Note: Avoid 'spackle' or other patching compounds. They are meant for very small holes, are difficult to apply, and are often hard to sand.

- [All-Purpose](#) -- Pre-mixed 4.5 gallon and 3.5-quart size: Good general taping and topping performance. It is recommended for laminating and repairing cracks in interior plaster.
- [Lightweight](#) -- Pre-mixed 4.5 gallon and 3.5-quart size: 25% lighter than All-Purpose. Should have less shrinkage when drying and better adhesion.
- [Dust Control](#) -- Pre-mixed 3.5 gallon and 3.5-quart size: Formulated to reduce airborne dust during sanding.
- [Easy-Sand Joint Compound](#) -- Powder --18-pound bags: A bagged gypsum powder with a drying additive. Sold in 5, 20, 45, and 90-minute dry times. Water needs to be added to make a paste. Allows for one-day patching of multiple coats. Make a clean, fresh mix for each use, since the drying additive will accelerate dry time if added to a previous mix.

JOINT TAPE

Joint tape is used to repair seams and cracks. There are several choices.

- [Paper Joint Tape](#) -- A 2" wide tape meant to be embedded in joint compound. Cheap for production work but takes some skill to use. Tends to bubble or blister if not applied correctly.
- [Mesh Joint Tape](#) -- A self-adhesive tape that creates a stronger bond than paper tape. Two-inch rolls are common but can be purchased in wider rolls. More expensive than paper tape.

OTHER TOOLS

Taping Knife

- The [6" drywall taping knife](#) is the workhorse tool for drywall work. Look for a flexible blade, not a stiff, rigid blade.
- The [10", 12", or 14" taping knife](#) will give you a wide finish and a beautiful beveled edge. Again, the knife should have some flexibility. Even wider blades are also available.

[Drywall Saw](#) -- a roughly serrated blade to easily cut a hole in drywall.

[Utility Razor Knife](#) -- a sturdy blade to score drywall paper to give a clean cut.

[Mud Pan](#) -- a 12" rectangular pan to hold the joint compound while working. A regional variation, not commonly used in this area, is a tool called a "Hawk." It's a metal plate with a handle on the bottom used for holding plaster or joint compound during work.

[Drywall Sanding Sponge](#) -- Used for wet-sanding. This sponge usually has an abrasive side and a smooth side. Meant to be rinsed and reused. It can smooth a patch even before it's fully dry.

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