

## Repairing old plaster work

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The most common problem with plaster found by a renovator is the patching and repairing of existing plaster walls and ceilings. There are several different types of lining methods that you may be presented with including the following:

- Laden plaster
- Rendered Brick
- Plasterboard
- Fibrous Plaster

All can be patched and repaired by the DIY handy man using either the BGC Cornice Cement or BGC Multipurpose Joint Compound or a combination of both.

With things like electrical fittings, cornices, architraves, skirting and floor covering it is often not practical or economical to remove and replace old for new, the preferred alternative is to patch.

### Materials required

- BGC Multipurpose Joint Compound
- BGC Cornice Cement
- Roll of paper tape
- 180 grit sandpaper
- Gauge pot (mixing pot)

### Tools required to complete project

- Joint knives (plastic or metal) 100mm and 200mm
- Stanley knife
- Sanding block

### Here's how to do it:

For Cracked Plaster work (laden plaster or rendered brick)

With a sharp tool remove any loose or flaky plaster or paint. Wash area to remove any dust with a damp cloth or sponge.

Pre-fill any gaps wider than 3mm using BGC Cornice Cement.

Apply paper tape over cracks. If tape will not adhere to the surface a fine layer of BGC Multipurpose Joint Compound can be applied first and the tape can be then bedded in. Wipe off any excess compound.

**First Coat:** Apply a thin layer of BGC Multipurpose Joint Compound over the joints using the 100mm Joint Knife, remove any excess and allow 24 hours to dry.

**Second Coat:** Lightly sand first coat and using the 240mm joint knife apply a second coat of BGC Multipurpose Joint Compound to approx 300mm wide, remove any excess and allow 24 hours to dry.

**Final Coat:** Lightly sand second coat and using the 200mm joint knife, skim a thin coat of BGC Multipurpose Joint Compound over the joint to approx 500mm wide, lightly feather the edges with a soft sponge and allow 24 hours to dry.

Using the sandpaper and sanding float, lightly sand the repaired surface being careful to not damage the paper of the plasterboard.

You are now ready to paint, follow paint manufacturers instructions for preparation and application.

# Repairing old plaster work

For Cracked Plaster work (Plasterboard and Fibrous Plaster)

With a sharp tool remove any loose or flaky plaster or paint. Wash area to remove any dust with a damp cloth or sponge.

If plasterboard (or fibrous plaster) is loose re fix back to frame using 30mm plaster nails at 200mm spacings.

Pre-fill any gaps wider than 3mm using BGC Cornice Cement.

Apply paper tape over cracks, if tape will not adhere to the surface a fine layer of BGC Multipurpose Joint Compound can be applied first and the tape can be then bedded in. Wipe off any excess compound.

**First Coat:** Apply a thin layer of BGC Multi Purpose Joint Compound over the joints using the 130mm joint knife, remove any excess and allow 24 hours to dry.

**Second Coat:** Lightly sand first coat and using the 200mm joint knife apply a second coat of BGC Multi Purpose Joint Compound to approx 340mm wide, remove any excess and allow 24 hours to dry.

**Final Coat:** Lightly sand second coat and using the 200mm joint knife, skim a thin coat of BGC Multi Purpose Joint Compound over the joint to approx 500mm wide, lightly feather the edges with a soft sponge and allow 24 hours to dry.

Using the sandpaper and sanding float lightly sand the repaired surface being careful to not damage the paper of the plasterboard.

You are now ready to paint, follow paint manufacturers instructions for preparation and application.

## Dangers and Pitfalls:

- Old larden walls and ceilings can be unstable once you start to remove loose areas. Be prepared for the job to get larger than first expected especially with ceilings. Be cautious and if in doubt seek professional advice from your local BGC Plasterboard Trade Centre.
- Always be careful around old electrical fittings, if there are any loose wires or damaged electrical fittings call an electrician.
- Old plaster work rarely comes up like new so don't set your expectations too high.
- Cover all fittings and carpet to protect from dust and debris, remove where possible.