


# the Paint **Contractor**

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**ALSO INSIDE: Cleaners, Spackling & Putty**

# Spackling Q&A

Tips on Spackling, courtesy of Danielle Martin of Muralo, the makers of Spackle® brand spackling compound. (Spackle is a registered trademark of Muralo.)



## *What's the difference between spackling products?*

- Spackling paste is for small cracks, scratches, and minor dents.

Great for nail and screw holes. Minor scratches up to approximately 1/4" deep.

- Lightweight spackling paste is for deep cracks and holes 1/4" to 3/4".

- Patching Plaster (powder) is recommended for cracks and holes deeper than approximately 3/4". Patching plaster expands as it set. It does not shrink in large holes.

- Professional spackling is for small cracks, scratches and minor dents. It is extremely easy to sand.

## *How much should I apply to do the job right?*

It is better to apply less spackling paste than more, as it is easier to add a second layer after it dries than to sand off too much. Thin coats dry faster than thick coats. The wider the putty knife the smoother the patch, and the less sanding required. Sand the surface of the area before patching. Bumps in the surface will cause you to apply excess spackling paste, which means more sanding afterwards.

## *Paste, compound, cement... how do I know what to use when?*

- Spackling paste is white, hard and smooth, to match wall primer finish.

- Joint cement is gray, soft and porous to match wall board paper. If the patch matches the surface it will be invisible when painted. If the patch does not match the surface, it will show through the paint.

- Exterior spackling should be used on surfaces that experience expansion and contraction. An example would be wood exposed to seasonal temperature changes.

- Caulk is the correct product for

use between two different surfaces. Caulk is the correct product to use on shifting structural cracks that continue to appear when patched. An example is a crack above a door that is continually slammed closed.

## *Oops, wrong stuff. Now what?*

If you use the wrong product, dig or chisel it out and replace with the correct product.

## *How long will my spackling last on the shelf?*

Spackling paste is a low-cost material that is packaged in low-cost containers.

We recommend replacing any material older than 10 to 12 months. Fresh material is easier to apply. Buy only enough material that you require for each job.

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