



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION

## Making Simple Repairs: Building Your Toolbox<sup>1</sup>

---

Mary N. Harrison<sup>2</sup>

Every home needs some basic tools for use in simple maintenance.

- Keep all of your tools in your toolbox. That way you can always find your tools when you need them. A simple metal box is fine.
- Always put your tools back in the box after using them.

### Important Tools To Have

- A medium weight (12-13 ounces) claw hammer.
- Two screwdrivers. There are two types of screwdrivers. Buy one of each type.
  - A straight blade (flat head).
  - A Phillips head. (X-head)

The screwdrivers must fit into the head of the screw, so they come in several sizes.

It is easier to put a screw into wood if you make a hole first. Pound a nail a little way into the wood. Remove the nail and put the screw in the hole made by the nail.

- A pair of slip-joint pliers. They can be used for many jobs around the house. Use pliers to hold a nut while you turn a bolt with a screwdriver.
- Pliers can be used to bend or remove a nail or brad. A claw hammer can also be used to pull nails. Pliers can be used to cut wire or straighten a bent nail and to tighten or loosen a bolt.
- An adjustable wrench. This tool can be adjusted to several sizes. It can be used to loosen or tighten nuts.
- A small can of penetrating oil. The oil can be used to lubricate nuts, bolts and for many other purposes.
- A package of mix sized nails and a package of mixed size screws.
- A box of mixed-size wood screws, metal screws,

---

1. This document is FCS5234-01, one of a series of the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences, University of Florida. Publication: May 2002. Revised: December 2005. Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

2. Mary N. Harrison, professor, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

- A package of mixed-size nuts and bolts.
- A box of mixed-size nails.

## Picture Hanging

Pounding a nail into a wall to hang a picture or mirror can damage the wall. An inexpensive picture hanging kit makes it easy to hang a picture without damage to the wall. It will also hold your picture more securely. There are two kinds of picture hangers.

- One kind of picture/mirror hanger has a metal hanger and uses a small nail to hold the hanger in place. This type will support the most weight.
- The other type of picture/mirror hanger uses a sturdy fabric tab that is glued to the wall. A hanger is at the bottom of the fabric tab.

Generally, pictures are hung at eye level.