



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION

Making Simple Repairs: Repairing Drawers¹

Mary N. Harrison²

Problem

- Drawers stick.
- Drawers come apart.
- Handles or knobs are loose or broken.

Supplies Needed:

- Screwdriver
- Sandpaper
- Candle wax or paraffin

How To Fix

Handles and knobs

- Tighten handles or knobs with a screwdriver from the inside of the drawer.
- You can buy knobs, or use small spools to replace lost knobs.

Sticking drawers

1. Remove the drawer. Look for shiny places on top or bottom edges or on the sides.

2. Sand down these shiny areas. Try the drawer to see if it moves more easily. Repeat sanding if it still sticks.

3. Rub the drawer and the frame, where they touch, with candle wax, paraffin, or soap. This makes drawers glide easier. This is important if drawers are usually filled with heavy items.

4. If glides are badly worn, the drawer may not close all the way. If the drawer needs to be lifted, remove it and insert two or three large smooth-head thumbtacks along the front of each glide.

5. Do drawers stick only in damp weather? When weather is dry, and drawers are not sticking, coat the unfinished wood with a penetrating sealer or wax.

6. If drawers are made of pressed wood they will absorb moisture easily. Paint the entire drawer with polyurethane lacquer (brushing lacquer). The lacquer will seal the drawer and help it to last longer.

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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.