

How to Repair a Screen

Learn how to fix a torn window screen or damaged screen door. See how to replace the screen to repair a large tear. Plus, learn a simple way to repair a small hole

1. REMOVE THE SCREEN

- If you have a larger tear, you'll need to re-screen the entire frame. To remove the screen, use a screwdriver to get underneath the screen spline and pull it from the channel inside the frame. The old spline may be re-usable, but many times it becomes brittle and needs to be replaced. Bring the old spline with to the hardware store so you can find the correct size.

2. FIT THE SCREEN

- Roll out the screen. Allow it to overhang the frame and then use a sharp utility knife to cut it so that the roll doesn't get in your way as you're installing the spline.

3. INSTALL THE SPLINE

- A spline tool will help install the spline into the channel of the frame. Start at one end and push the spline in with your fingers. Use the spline tool to slowly roll across the channel, pulling the spline and screen as you go. If you create any ripples in the screen, just pull out the spline and start over. You can keep the spline together in one piece and round the corner because most of the frames have a channel that continues. Do this nice and easy, not too tight or you may bend the frame.

4. TRIM EXCESS

- Run a sharp utility knife along the outside of the spline and trim away the excess screen. Take your time and be careful not to cut the brand new screen.

5. REPAIRING SMALL HOLES

- With a small hole Self-adhesive screen patch kits work great. There are two different types of screens available: aluminum and fiberglass, so get the kit that matches your screen. Place the patch over the hole, smooth it out with your hand so it adheres – and you're done.

For more helpful tips and advice, visit your neighborhood Ace and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Pinterest and Google+.

NOTE: Always follow manufacturer's recommended safety precautions and instructions for the products you use.