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DIY Repair Mastery — 20-Module Pro Course

The Complete Homeowner's Repair Education Program

Twenty comprehensive repair modules covering every major DIY skill: drywall, tile, paint, caulking, trim carpentry, door and window adjustment, flooring repair, basic plumbing, electrical outlet replacement, deck maintenance, and more.

80+ Page Professional Guide	**$99.99**	Revised & Expanded Edition — 2026

Michael Blucker — Goal Investment, Inc. *| 132 W Woodstock St Unit A, Crystal Lake, IL 60014 | (815) 669-0846*

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ILLINOIS-SPECIFIC NOTE: Illinois statutes referenced in this guide include the Illinois Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (765 ILCS 720), Illinois Property Maintenance Code, and various municipal codes. Laws change — verify current statutes at ilga.gov before relying on any legal reference.

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Over 3 hours of hands-on instruction filmed on real job sites - not a studio

Plumbing basics • Outlet and switch replacement boundaries • Drywall patching •

Caulking • Weatherstripping • Fixture installs • Troubleshooting

Michael - GOAL Investment Inc.

Digital Course Workbook + Printable Step-by-Step Handouts

Skip the confusion, not the safety. This workbook shows homeowners how to prepare, inspect, document, and complete

small repairs cleanly - while knowing exactly when the job belongs to a licensed trade professional.

This course is educational. It is not a substitute for permits, local code, manufacturer instructions, landlord approval, insurance requirements, or

licensed electrical, plumbing, HVAC, roofing, gas, or structural work where required. Always verify legal requirements with your local authority having

How to Use This Course Workbook

This course is designed around 20 real-world repair videos. Each video has a printable handout: tools, safety, step-by-step

workflow, common mistakes, and a field-notes page. The goal is not to turn every homeowner into a contractor. The goal is to

help a property owner understand the repair, prevent damage, communicate clearly, and complete only the jobs that are

within a safe and legal DIY boundary.

The course intentionally separates safe homeowner checks from professional-only work. Gas lines, major electrical

changes, panel work, structural repairs, main sewer issues, roof work in dangerous conditions, and any work requiring a

license or permit should be handled by a qualified professional.

I How to set up a repair safely before touching tools.

I How to document existing conditions before a dispute or damage claim starts.

I How to spot red flags early: heat, smell, moisture, movement, buzzing, rot, mold, gas, sewage, or repeated breaker trips.

I How to avoid the common homeowner mistake of making a small problem worse.

I How to decide between DIY, handyman, and licensed-trade work.

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Course Orientation & Jobsite Mindset

Set up a safe learning space, understand scope, and learn the difference

between a manageable repair and a professional-only problem.

Tool Belt Setup & Material Runs

Build a realistic starter kit and avoid wasting money on tools you do not need

Plumbing Basics: Shutoffs, Supply Lines &

Identify common shutoff points, supply connections, and leak patterns before

Toilet Tune-Up: Fill Valves, Flappers &

Understand the parts inside the tank and the difference between a running

toilet and a floor leak.

Faucet & Fixture Leaks

Recognize faucet drip sources, supply leaks, aerator clogs, and when

replacement beats repair.

Drain Care Without Destroying Pipes

Clear minor clogs without damaging traps, finishes, or old piping.

Drywall Patch: Small Holes to Large Repairs

Patch nail pops, dents, small holes, and larger cutouts with clean finish

Remove failed caulk, prep the joint, and lay a clean bead that actually seals.

Door Tune-Up: Hinges, Strike Plates &

Fix rubbing, loose hinges, latch alignment, and common door annoyances.

Window & Door Weatherstripping

Seal drafts around doors and operable windows while keeping ventilation and

Interior Painting & Touch-Up Prep

Prepare surfaces, repair small defects, and avoid the rushed finish that makes

Fixture Installs: Towel Bars, Shelves &

Anchor light-duty fixtures correctly and avoid torn drywall or crooked installs.

Electrical Safety Orientation

Learn panel labels, breaker behavior, GFCI/AFCI basics, and red flags that

Outlet Replacement: Like-for-Like Only

Understand the safe boundary for replacing a standard receptacle with the

same type where legal and appropriate.

Switch Replacement & Simple Controls

Replace a simple single-pole switch only when wiring is straightforward and

Light Fixture Safety & Replacement

Plan a basic light fixture replacement while respecting box support and wiring

Flooring & Trim Touch-Ups

Handle small trim repairs, transition strips, squeaks, and finish touchups.

Exterior Maintenance: Gutters, Seals & Small

Spot exterior problems before they become water, pest, or structural problems.

Troubleshooting Service Calls Before You

Run safe pre-checks that help you avoid unnecessary service calls and explain

issues clearly when you do call.

Final Capstone: The 30-Day Home Repair

Turn the course into a maintenance plan for your own home or rental property.

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The Three Rules Before Every Repair

1. Stop the damage first

Water off, power off, heat source off, pressure relieved, furniture protected, and

photos taken. The first job is to keep the problem from spreading.

Most wasted trips come from guessing. Match part numbers, measure twice,

verify connections, and photograph existing conditions.

3. Know the stop signs

If you smell gas, see sparks, feel heat at an outlet, discover active sewage, find

structural movement, or cannot identify a wire/pipe/valve, stop and call the right

A good repair starts before the repair. The best contractors do not rush into the work. They protect the area, shut down the

hazard, confirm the scope, and then touch tools.

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Starter Tool Kit and PPE

Recommended Starter Items

Safety glasses, gloves, dust mask/respirator as

appropriate, knee pads, hearing protection

Protects you from dust, splinters, metal fragments,

chemical exposure, and body strain.

Flashlight, phone camera, tape measure, notebook,

outlet tester, non-contact voltage tester

Helps you inspect and document before disassembly.

6-in-1 screwdriver, pliers, adjustable wrench, utility

knife, putty knives, level, hammer

Covers the majority of basic household repairs.

Drop cloth, towels, bucket, painter tape, cardboard,

Prevents a small repair from damaging finished

Caulk, painter tape, screws, anchors, wire labels,

sandpaper, joint compound, cleaning rags

Keeps common repair materials organized and ready.

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Video 1: Course Orientation & Jobsite Mindset

Set up a safe learning space, understand scope, and learn the difference between a manageable repair and a

professional-only problem.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Notebook or phone camera

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Know where shutoffs and breakers are before touching a repair.

[ ] Photograph before, during, and after every job.

[ ] Stop when you discover active leaks, burning smells, gas odor, structural movement, or unknown wiring.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

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Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 1

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Walk the property and list your top five maintenance issues.

Build a small repair kit and label it.

Record your shutoff and panel locations.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

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Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 1

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

Own the first 90 seconds. Most repairs fail because nobody paused long enough to shut off, test, photograph, and think.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

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Field Notes Page - Video 1

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 2: Tool Belt Setup & Material Runs

Build a realistic starter kit and avoid wasting money on tools you do not need yet.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

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Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Keep blades retracted.

[ ] Inspect cords and batteries before use.

[ ] Do not use damaged ladders or unstable platforms.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 2

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Sort tools by plumbing, electrical, finish work, and general repair.

Create a material checklist before driving to the store.

Keep receipts and product labels for future warranty reference.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

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Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 2

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

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Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

Good work is not magic. It is preparation, patience, and knowing when the problem is bigger than the tool in your hand.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

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Field Notes Page - Video 2

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 3: Plumbing Basics: Shutoffs, Supply Lines &

Identify common shutoff points, supply connections, and leak patterns before damage spreads.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

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Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Replacement supply line

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Shut water off before loosening any supply connection.

[ ] Do not overtighten plastic or compression fittings.

[ ] Call a plumber for main shutoff failure, lead pipe, or active sewage.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 3

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Locate every fixture shutoff.

Check under-sink supply lines for corrosion.

Replace questionable flexible supply lines before they burst.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

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Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 3

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

If the repair feels like a fight, stop. A house usually wins when you start forcing parts.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

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Field Notes Page - Video 3

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 4: Toilet Tune-Up: Fill Valves, Flappers &

Understand the parts inside the tank and the difference between a running toilet and a floor leak.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Never assume the bowl or tank is clean.

[ ] If the toilet rocks, stop and inspect the flange before tightening.

[ ] Sewer gas smell, soft flooring, or loose flange means professional evaluation.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

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Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 4

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Test for silent leaks with dye.

Replace a worn flapper.

Document any floor softness around the toilet.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

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Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 4

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

You are not just fixing a part. You are protecting flooring, cabinets, drywall, wiring, safety, insurance, and resale value.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

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Field Notes Page - Video 4

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 5: Faucet & Fixture Leaks

Recognize faucet drip sources, supply leaks, aerator clogs, and when replacement beats repair.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Plumber tape for threaded connections

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Shut water off and relieve pressure.

[ ] Protect cabinet bottoms from water.

[ ] Do not force old shutoffs that feel seized.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

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Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 5

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Inspect sink deck seals.

Record faucet brand/model before buying parts.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 5

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

Clean work is cheaper than rushed work. A towel, a drop cloth, and a photo can save a whole afternoon.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

Field Notes Page - Video 5

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 6: Drain Care Without Destroying Pipes

Clear minor clogs without damaging traps, finishes, or old piping.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

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and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Avoid mixing chemicals or using harsh drain cleaners on unknown pipes.

[ ] Do not force an auger through fragile traps.

[ ] Repeated clogs, sewage odor, or backup require a pro.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

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Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 6

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Remove and clean a simple P-trap where appropriate.

Create a drain maintenance log.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

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Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 6

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

Own the first 90 seconds. Most repairs fail because nobody paused long enough to shut off, test, photograph, and think.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

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Field Notes Page - Video 6

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 7: Drywall Patch: Small Holes to Large Repairs

Patch nail pops, dents, small holes, and larger cutouts with clean finish expectations.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

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and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Wear a dust mask when sanding.

[ ] Check for wiring or plumbing before cutting.

[ ] Do not cover active moisture damage.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

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Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 7

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Feather compound and sand without overworking.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 7

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

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Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

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Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

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Good work is not magic. It is preparation, patience, and knowing when the problem is bigger than the tool in your hand.

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[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

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Field Notes Page - Video 7

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 8: Caulking Like a Pro

Remove failed caulk, prep the joint, and lay a clean bead that actually seals.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

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Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Use bathroom/kitchen caulk where moisture is present.

[ ] Do not seal in damp or moldy joints.

[ ] Ventilate when using solvents.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

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Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 8

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Cut out failed caulk.

Clean and dry the joint.

Apply, tool, and inspect a consistent bead.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

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Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 8

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

If the repair feels like a fight, stop. A house usually wins when you start forcing parts.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

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Field Notes Page - Video 8

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 9: Door Tune-Up: Hinges, Strike Plates &

Fix rubbing, loose hinges, latch alignment, and common door annoyances.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Do not remove too much wood at once.

[ ] Support heavy doors.

[ ] Fire-rated doors should not be modified without code awareness.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

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Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 9

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Tighten hinge screws.

Adjust strike plate alignment.

Use long screws in jamb-side hinges when appropriate.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

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Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 9

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

You are not just fixing a part. You are protecting flooring, cabinets, drywall, wiring, safety, insurance, and resale value.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

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Field Notes Page - Video 9

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 10: Window & Door Weatherstripping

Seal drafts around doors and operable windows while keeping ventilation and drainage in mind.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Do not block weep holes or drainage paths.

[ ] Check for water intrusion before sealing.

[ ] Avoid creating indoor air quality issues in very tight homes.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

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Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 10

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Perform paper and light-gap tests.

Install a door sweep.

Document draft locations for future insulation work.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

DIY Repair Mastery: 20-Video Pro Course | Michael - GOAL Investment Inc.

Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 10

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

Clean work is cheaper than rushed work. A towel, a drop cloth, and a photo can save a whole afternoon.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

Field Notes Page - Video 10

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 11: Interior Painting & Touch-Up Prep

Prepare surfaces, repair small defects, and avoid the rushed finish that makes paint fail.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Protect floors and fixtures.

[ ] Test unknown old paint before aggressive sanding in older homes.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 11

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Cut in and roll a small wall section.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

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Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 11

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

Own the first 90 seconds. Most repairs fail because nobody paused long enough to shut off, test, photograph, and think.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

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Field Notes Page - Video 11

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 12: Fixture Installs: Towel Bars, Shelves &

Anchor light-duty fixtures correctly and avoid torn drywall or crooked installs.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Know what is behind the wall before drilling.

[ ] Use anchors rated for the load.

[ ] Never mount grab bars into drywall anchors alone.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 12

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Install light-duty hardware with correct anchors.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

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Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 12

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

Good work is not magic. It is preparation, patience, and knowing when the problem is bigger than the tool in your hand.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

Field Notes Page - Video 12

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 13: Electrical Safety Orientation

Learn panel labels, breaker behavior, GFCI/AFCI basics, and red flags that stop DIY work.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Non-contact voltage tester

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Panel directory sheet

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Electricity can injure or kill.

[ ] Turn power off and verify before any simple device work.

[ ] Call a licensed electrician for aluminum wiring, knob-and-tube, buzzing, heat, scorching, or repeated trips.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

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Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 13

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Create a panel directory.

List outlets/switches needing professional review.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

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Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 13

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

If the repair feels like a fight, stop. A house usually wins when you start forcing parts.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

Field Notes Page - Video 13

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 14: Outlet Replacement: Like-for-Like Only

Understand the safe boundary for replacing a standard receptacle with the same type where legal and appropriate.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Replacement receptacle

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Power off, lock/tag if possible, and verify dead.

[ ] Do not change amperage or device type without code knowledge.

[ ] Stop if wiring is damaged, aluminum, backstabbed poorly, or box is overcrowded.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 14

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Photograph wiring before disconnecting.

Move one conductor at a time.

Test device and cover plate fit.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

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Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 14

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

You are not just fixing a part. You are protecting flooring, cabinets, drywall, wiring, safety, insurance, and resale value.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

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Field Notes Page - Video 14

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 15: Switch Replacement & Simple Controls

Replace a simple single-pole switch only when wiring is straightforward and known.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Do not guess on 3-way/4-way switches.

[ ] Neutral bundles and smart switches can change requirements.

[ ] Stop if wire colors do not match expected function.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

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Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 15

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Identify single-pole switch.

Replace like-for-like and test.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

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Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 15

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

Clean work is cheaper than rushed work. A towel, a drop cloth, and a photo can save a whole afternoon.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

Field Notes Page - Video 15

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 16: Light Fixture Safety & Replacement

Plan a basic light fixture replacement while respecting box support and wiring condition.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Support fixtures safely.

[ ] Verify the box is rated for the fixture weight.

[ ] Ceiling fans require fan-rated boxes.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

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Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 16

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Check fixture weight.

Photograph old connection.

Test operation and heat clearance.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

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Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 16

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

Own the first 90 seconds. Most repairs fail because nobody paused long enough to shut off, test, photograph, and think.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

Field Notes Page - Video 16

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 17: Flooring & Trim Touch-Ups

Handle small trim repairs, transition strips, squeaks, and finish touchups.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Wear eye protection.

[ ] Do not nail into unknown radiant heat or wiring areas.

[ ] Trip hazards should be corrected promptly.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 17

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Install a simple transition strip.

Fill and touch up nail holes.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

DIY Repair Mastery: 20-Video Pro Course | Michael - GOAL Investment Inc.

Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 17

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

Good work is not magic. It is preparation, patience, and knowing when the problem is bigger than the tool in your hand.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

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Field Notes Page - Video 17

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 18: Exterior Maintenance: Gutters, Seals &

Spot exterior problems before they become water, pest, or structural problems.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Use ladder safety.

[ ] Do not work on steep, wet, icy, or storm-damaged roofs.

[ ] Electrical service drops and ladders are a dangerous combination.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

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Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 18

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Clean gutters safely.

Inspect downspout discharge.

Photo-document failing caulk/flashing.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 18

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

If the repair feels like a fight, stop. A house usually wins when you start forcing parts.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

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Field Notes Page - Video 18

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 19: Troubleshooting Service Calls Before You

Run safe pre-checks that help you avoid unnecessary service calls and explain issues clearly when you do call.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Basic meter only if trained

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Do not bypass safety devices.

[ ] Do not reset breakers repeatedly.

[ ] Gas smell, CO alarm, or sparking means emergency procedure.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

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Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 19

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Create a symptom timeline.

Record model/serial numbers.

Prepare photos and questions for the contractor.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

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Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 19

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

You are not just fixing a part. You are protecting flooring, cabinets, drywall, wiring, safety, insurance, and resale value.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

Field Notes Page - Video 19

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Video 20: Final Capstone: The 30-Day Home Repair

Turn the course into a maintenance plan for your own home or rental property.

Real Jobsite Objective

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to explain the repair, identify the risk points, prepare the work area, and decide

whether the job is safe for you to complete or should be escalated.

Binder or digital folder

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

Used during inspection, setup, or completion. Match parts and materials to the existing condition

and manufacturer instructions.

[ ] Prioritize life safety first.

[ ] Permits and code requirements vary by location.

[ ] Document work and keep receipts.

[ ] Read product instructions before use.

[ ] Keep children and pets out of the work zone.

[ ] Photograph the condition before and after work.

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Printable Step-by-Step Handout - Video 20

Clear the work area and protect finished surfaces.

Identify shutoff, breaker, valve, fastener, or mounting point before disassembly.

Take photos from multiple angles before loosening, cutting, removing, or replacing

Build a 30-day punch list.

Separate DIY, handyman, and licensed trade tasks.

Schedule seasonal maintenance reminders.

Clean the work area and test the repair under normal use.

Document materials used, date completed, and any follow-up needed.

Stop immediately if the repair reveals hidden water damage, damaged wiring, gas odor, structural movement, overheating,

mold beyond a small contained area, sewage, or any condition outside the planned scope.

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Common Mistakes and Pro Habits - Video 20

Why It Causes Trouble

You lose the record of what was there and how it

Photograph before touching anything.

Buying parts by memory

Small differences in size, thread, rating, or style

Bring the old part, photo, or model number.

Breaks valves, strips screws, cracks plastic, or

Stop, apply the correct technique, or replace the

surrounding worn component.

These are often safety warnings, not

Escalate quickly when a warning sign appears.

Leaving no documentation

Future repairs become guesswork.

Keep receipts, photos, model numbers, and notes.

Clean work is cheaper than rushed work. A towel, a drop cloth, and a photo can save a whole afternoon.

[ ] Explain the repair in one sentence before starting.

[ ] Name the shutoff, breaker, or stop point.

[ ] Name the condition that would make you call a professional.

[ ] List the exact parts or materials used.

Field Notes Page - Video 20

Parts or Materials Used

DIY / Handyman / Licensed Trade Next

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Appendix A: Repair Decision Matrix

Licensed / Emergency Scope

Inspect aerator, shutoffs,

Replace faucet, supply line, trap, or

minor fixture component where

Main shutoff failure, hidden pipe leak,

Test GFCI/reset, check if

Replace like-for-like device only if

legal and wiring is known

Heat, scorch, buzzing, aluminum

wiring, panel work, repeated trips

Paper test, light-gap test

Weatherstrip, sweep, adjust

Rotten jamb, structural settlement,

fire-rated door concerns

Identify size and moisture

Patch and finish ordinary damage

Active leak, mold spread, fire

separation, structural crack

Filter check, thermostat

Basic register/airflow cleanup

Gas furnace malfunction, refrigerant,

combustion, repeated failures

Appendix B: Pre-Service Call Form

Use this before calling a contractor. Clear notes save time, reduce misunderstandings, and help the technician arrive with the

What changed recently

Shutoff/breaker/valve checked

Questions for contractor

Appendix C: Maintenance Calendar

Check insulation gaps, plumbing freeze risk, filters, weatherstripping.

Inspect under sinks, toilet bases, caulk lines, and electrical cords.

Test sump pump, clean gutters when safe, inspect exterior drainage.

Service AC prep, window/door seal check, exterior caulk review.

Check hose bibbs, deck fasteners, outdoor GFCI function.

Inspect bathrooms, fans, grout, caulk, and attic ventilation signs.

Check HVAC airflow, condensate drains, door sweeps, pests.

Inspect roofing from ground, gutters, downspouts, foundation drainage.

Furnace prep, filter stock, CO alarms, weatherstripping.

Winterize hose bibbs, seal drafts, clean gutters after leaves.

Smoke/CO alarm test, plumbing freeze prep, emergency kit.

Inspect cords, holiday loads, shutoff access, winter drafts.

Appendix D: Safety Source Notes

This workbook uses safety-first principles consistent with public safety agencies and homeowner guidance. Always follow the

manufacturer instructions and local code requirements for your location.

Electrical fire safety

NFPA electrical safety guidance; ESFI extension

Avoid overloaded cords, heat-producing appliances

on extension cords, hidden cords, damaged devices,

and repeated breaker resets.

Smoke alarms and fire prep

U.S. Fire Administration smoke alarm guidance

Test alarms regularly, keep working alarms in place,

and treat fire warning signs as life safety issues.

U.S. Department of Energy Energy Saver

Weatherstrip movable components; caulk stationary

cracks and joints after cleaning and drying surfaces.

CDC and EPA mold/moisture cleanup guidance

Fix moisture sources quickly; do not seal in moisture;

call professional help for large or unsafe

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Appendix E: Certificate of Completion

Certificate of Completion

_____

For completing the course workbook, safety checklists, field notes, and final

30-day home repair plan.

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Professional Addendum

Enhanced Reference Material — 2026 Edition

Learning Sequencing: How to Build DIY Skills Efficiently

Most homeowners make the mistake of learning repairs reactively — only when something breaks. The professional approach is to build skills proactively in order of complexity. Foundation skills (master these first): Measuring and marking accurately. Using a stud finder and understanding what's inside your walls. Using a level correctly. Operating a drill/driver (drilling vs. driving, bit selection, depth control). Caulking technique — the single most impactful cosmetic skill. Intermediate skills: Drywall patching. Trim and baseboard repair. Door adjustment (hinge tightening, strike plate adjustment, weatherstripping). Tile grout repair. Advanced skills: Tile removal and replacement. Subfloor repair. Flooring transitions. Basic electrical (outlet/switch replacement). Basic plumbing (fixture replacement). Master even the foundation skills and you eliminate $500–2,000/year in service calls for small repairs that any capable person can learn in an afternoon.

Tool Investment Guide: What to Buy vs. Rent

Buy (high frequency, pays back quickly): Cordless drill/driver combo kit ($100–200 — Milwaukee, DeWalt, or Makita). Stud finder ($25–45). 4-foot level ($35–60). Tape measure (25 ft) ($15–25). Utility knife with extra blades ($10). Caulk gun ($8–15). Putty knives (3", 6" flexible and stiff) ($15 set). Safety glasses and hearing protection ($20). Rent (low frequency, high cost, specialized): Tile saw. Wet saw. Drum floor sander. Drywall lift. Large ladders (24 ft+). Concrete saw. Hydro-jet. Air compressor and nail guns (if infrequent use). Borrow or one-time buy: Ladder (6-ft fiberglass step, 16-ft multi-position) — you will use a ladder constantly. The $150 quality ladder prevents the $15,000 fall.

References & Standards

Key Reference Standards: International Residential Code (IRC) 2021 • National Electrical Code (NEC) NFPA 70-2023 • International Plumbing Code (IPC) 2021 • International Mechanical Code (IMC) 2021 • International Building Code (IBC) 2021 • OSHA 29 CFR Part 1926 (Construction) • OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910 (General Industry) • Illinois Plumbing Code (77 Ill. Adm. Code 890) • Illinois Accessibility Code (71 Ill. Adm. Code 400) • Illinois Energy Conservation Code (2021 IECC) • ASTM International Standards • ANSI Standards • NFPA 101 Life Safety Code • EPA Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (40 CFR Part 745) • HUD Housing Quality Standards. Note: Code editions adopted vary by jurisdiction. Verify the edition enforced by your local AHJ.

How to use citations in this guide: When a code section is referenced (e.g., IRC R302.1), the reader should obtain the current adopted edition for their jurisdiction. Code sections referenced are from the 2021 editions unless otherwise noted. Always confirm with your local AHJ which edition is locally adopted and whether local amendments apply.

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ILLINOIS-SPECIFIC NOTE: Illinois statutes referenced in this guide include the Illinois Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (765 ILCS 720), Illinois Property Maintenance Code, and various municipal codes. Laws change — verify current statutes at ilga.gov before relying on any legal reference.

Published by: Goal Investment, Inc. DBA Handyman | 132 W Woodstock St Unit A, Crystal Lake, IL 60014 | goalinvestment.biz |
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