

ELI MO School of Woodworking & Handyman Skills

HANDYMAN Level 1 – Course Summary & Tips

To do repairs in your home and save lots of money, you need 3 things

- 1) Knowledge (“knowhow”) to do the repairs. This is what the course taught you
- 2) The proper tools (as listed below)
- 3) CONFIDENCE. Don’t be afraid to do repairs.

Session 1: WALLS

- a) Explaining drywall (gevis) and blockim/cement walls
- b) How to use a drill
- c) Hanging pictures and shelves / use plugs(dibbles) / demonstrate jumbos
- d) Repairing holes in walls / drywall and blockim / use plaster

TIPS :

- 1) Most homes in Israel have concrete/cement walls, floors & ceilings. To hang things, you will need a hammer drill to make holes in concrete/cement. You can use the same drill to make holes in gevis
- 2) Drill a hole that is just a bit smaller than the dibble (plug). The plug should fit snugly into the wall
- 3) Use plugs for hanging things on your walls > pictures, shelves, hooks, etc
- 4) For very light objects you could drill a screw directly into gevis but not cement.
- 5) You could also try gluing brackets or hooks to walls (especially tile walls). Two good types of glues are Super 7, or Epoxy. (Remember, Epoxy is very strong, but it cannot be easily removed.)
- 6) To patch a hole in a wall, try to remove the plug. Put plaster into the hole with a putty knife
- 7) If you don’t already own a “hammer” drill, you can buy a 600W Hunter Drill at Nisan Building Center for 220 shekels. This is a versatile all around drill that you can use to put holes in concrete, gevis, wood and other materials. You may also want to purchase a Hunter kit of plugs, screws and drill bits for 50 shekels.

Session 2: SYSTEMS in your home

- a) Cleaning AC filters / check/clean AC drain pipe
- b) Repairing screens / patch a screen /
- c) Fixing or adjusting cabinet doors / how to glue back a hinge bracket

TIPS :

- 1) Your AC systems will generally have a white corrugated drain pipe. If you can see the end of that pipe, make sure that it is dripping when your AC unit is on cooling mode. If it is not dripping, it could be clogged and will need to be cleaned or replaced
- 2) Check and clean your AC filters at least 2 or 3 times a year. Best to rinse them with water (a hose) and let them dry before you put them back in the AC unit
- 3) To repair a screen, remove the old gumi and the old screen. Use a screening tool (looks like a small pizza cutter) to push down the new gumi into the new screen material. I recommend using fiberglass screening.
- 4) You can buy a screen patch at local hardware stores, or make your own patch and use spray glue to attach it.
- 5) To adjust/align a cabinet door, use a screwdriver to tighten or loosen the screws on the hinge. This will move the door slightly up/down, or sideways.
- 6) To replace a hinge that has been disconnected from a cabinet or door, you can glue it back with Epoxy. *(remember, you only have about 5 minutes before the epoxy starts to dry)*

Session 3: Plumbing Basics – INPUT (water coming into your taps, etc)

- a) Clean tap spout / Tighten loosen tap spout

- b) Attach tap to sink (changing tap)
- c) Hook up water feeds
- d) Change/clean shower handle / Glue shower handle holder to wall
- e) Rescue tape for small leaks
- f) Explain how pipes are hooked up / Teflon tape, plumber's wool
- g) Show water main with valve / explain chanukiah
- n) Hook up small drinking water tap / Tami4
- o) Install/change water filters (outside, under sink)

TIPS :

- 1) **Remember to SHUT OFF the water before repairing pipes.**
- 2) Use WD40 to lubricate and loosen valves and joints that are tight
- 3) You will likely need an adjustable wrench or pliers to remove or loosen joints
- 4) If your water is coming out slowly from taps, you may have a kink in the water line (below your sink) or there could be debris in the tap spout filter (at the tip of the tap). Remove it and clean it out.
- 5) If your tap is leaking near the base of the spout, you could have a loose connection or a bad gumi. Check that the connection is tight or potentially replace the gumi.
- 6) Wherever there are leaks or drips, check that the connections are tight and the gumi is OK.
- 7) You can change your water feed lines (below your sink, that connect to your taps). Just unscrew them and use Teflon tape when screwing the new ones back on.
- 8) Rescue Tape is made from silicone and can temporarily fix small leaks in pipes. Just wrap it a few times, tightly around the pipe where the leak is.
- 9) Don't be afraid to change your water filters. Use WD40 to loosen the cap of the filter. Depending on water usage in your home, change filters at least 2 – 4 times per year.

Session 4: Plumbing Basics – OUTPUT (water leaving through drains)

- a) Understanding how a drain works / cleaning drain filters / unclogging pipes
- b) Play with pipes/ drain attachments – take it apart, put it together
- c) Understanding how a toilet works / fixing or replacing flushing mechanism and toilet seats

TIPS :

- 1) Use WD40 to loosen tight joints
- 2) Good to have a plumber's wrench if possible
- 3) If there are small leaks coming from drain pipes, check 1) that leaking joints are screwed tightly, 2) check the gumi (rubber washer) to make sure there is one and that it is not worn out.
- 4) Before you replace the toilet filling or flushing mechanisms, open the top of the tank, and visually check that nothing is stuck in them. Then wiggle the parts – this may free them up to operate.
- 5) The float on the filling mechanism can be adjusted to give you a bigger or smaller flush (ie. more or less water). Just adjust the plastic screw on the float, up or down.
- 6) If you need to replace the flushing mechanism,
 - a. Turn off the water to the toilet and disconnected the hose to the toilet
 - b. Flush the toilet to let the water drain from the tank. Then use a rag to absorb the remaining water in the bottom of the tank.
 - c. Unscrew the two screws underneath the tank, which hold the tank to the bowl. You will likely need to give them a shot of WD40 and then use a pliers or wrench to loosen them
 - d. Remove the tank.
 - e. Unscrew the flushing mechanism from the bottom of the tank and replace it with the new flushing mechanism. Make sure to put the gumi (rubber washer) between the flushing mechanism and the tank (on the bottom INSIDE of the tank). Tightly secure the flushing mechanism
 - f. Put the large rubber gumi on the outside bottom of the tank between the tank and the bowl.
 - g. Secure the two screws on the bottom of the tank to the bowl.
 - h. If there is a leak, you may have to repeat the process.

- i. Tighten everything quite tight, but not too tight that it breaks the porcelain tank or bowl.
- 7) If your toilet seat is loose simply tighten the two screws under the bowl at the back of the seat.
- 8) Don't be afraid to do these repairs. Remember to shut off the water before change or repair things.

Session 5: BASIC ELECTRIC

- a) Explain how electricity runs in a circuit
- b) How to repair or change a switch or outlet that is falling out
- c) How to hang a light

TIPS :

- 1) **ALWAYS SHUT OFF THE POWER BEFORE YOU DO A REPAIR**
- 2) Locate your breaker box. Label all of the breakers >> which rooms/appliances they turn off the power to. Best way to do this is to turn on all of the lights in your home and have a tester (nightlight). As you turn off each breaker you will see which lights and outlets it controls. Label the breaker.
- 3) Electricity is a CIRCUIT. The circuit must be complete for the power to flow. Often the BROWN wire is for power coming in (L) and the blue wire is for power leaving the circuit (N). However these wires could be mixed up in your outlets, switches and lights. The Yellow/Green wire is the GROUND wire.
- 4) These days most simple lights do not need to be grounded. They usually only have two wires (Blue/Brown)
- 5) To replace a light simply loosen the screws in the connector, remove the old light wires and replace it with the new one. Re-tighten the screws in the connector (you'll need the small head electrical screwdriver).
- 6) When changing or tightening an outlet or switch, first shut off the power in that room. The two side screws have grab bars that hold the switch or outlet into the wall cup. Loosen those side screws to remove, and tighten them when you want to put the switch/outlet back in.
- 7) Always good to take a picture of the wires BEFORE you remove the outlet/switch so that you know where the wires go when you put it back in. (also take pictures of plumbing pipes before you remove them!).

Session 6: INTERMEDIATE ELECTRIC

- a) Removing/replacing a switch
- b) Making extension cords / replacing plugs & outlets

TIPS :

- 1) **ALWAYS SHUT OFF THE POWER BEFORE YOU DO A REPAIR**
- 2) You will need 4 tools a) small Philips head screwdriver, b) small flat head electrical screwdriver, c) wire stripper, d) small long nose pliers.
- 3) To remove a switch, loosen the side "grab bar" clips and loosen the switch from the wall.
- 4) Take a picture of the wiring in the switch – so that you know how to put it back in.
- 5) Remove (unscrew) the two wires that are attached to the switch. There could be other wires connected to the switch > these may be used by other switches or outlets. Put all of the wires back into the new switch exactly the way they were in the old one.
- 6) To attach a new plug or outlet to a wire, appliance or extension cord, first make sure it is unplugged.
- 7) Cut the wire to the length you desire, and strip the ends to expose the 3 wires (blue, brown, yellow).
- 8) Twist the ends of the wires to a tight pointy tip
- 9) When installing a new plug, remove the prongs from the plug, insert the wires into the prongs and put them into the plug housing. Attach the white wire at the bottom of the housing. Screw it tightly together.
- 10) When installing a new outlet, remove the gold squiggly shaped prongs, insert the wires and put them back into the outlet housing. Attach the white wire at the bottom of the housing. Screw it tightly together.
- 11) RESPECT Electricity but do not be afraid of it. Electricity is a huge part of our homes and our lives.
- 12) **AGAIN – SHUT THE POWER OFF BEFORE YOU DO ANY REPAIR**

FINAL TIP>>> YOU CAN DO IT. YOU NOW HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE TO FIX MANY THINGS IN YOUR HOME. Don't be afraid to try. The more you practice, the better you will become – and you will save thousands of shekels in simple home repairs and maintenance