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Don't Toss That Damaged Wood Yet: 7 Solutions to Mend Split and Cracked Wood

Splits and cracks on wood should not dictate the lifespan and functionality of wood. Sometimes, it is easy to make these wood issues disappear if you master the simple solutions that we prepared. Most wooden furniture face the problem of splits and cracks, especially in [wood veneer](#) because of its thin nature. The result often is having to call in a professional, spend hundreds of dollars, and get the wooden surface repaired.

Knowing how to repair split and cracked wood can help you maintain your wooden furniture or floors without spending money for professional intervention. This article will help do just that.

Related Post: [📖 Stop! How to Prevent Rot on Wood](#)

How To Repair Splits And Cracks On Wood

Splits and cracks are the most common [problems in wooden finish](#) or furniture. But repairing these damages may take a few minutes as long as you follow the easy steps below.

Materials Needed

- Repairing agent of your choice
- Damp cloth
- Toothpick
- Putty knife
- Disposable container

Step 1: Preparation

Preparation might be about something other than repairing the wood, but it makes the process convenient. In doing so:

- Remove everything from the table that might get caught during the task.
- Keep all the tools listed above within reach.
- Clean the piece of wood that you will be fixing.

Step 2: Repairing

In this step, we will be using different methods to repair the problems of the wood. There are various sub-steps for this phase, depending on the method of your choice. Read them below.

Using epoxy resin

The [epoxy resin](#) acts as an adhesive to fill the gaps and holds fragile wood fibers together. This one creates a stronger bond compared to any paste wood filler that could offer once the fill has dried and is fully set.

Important Note: Don't buy low-quality epoxy products. These items most likely need updated formulations and won't provide satisfying results. Thus, purchasing [high-quality epoxy filler](#) from a reputable company is the best option.

- Mix epoxy and hardener with a 1:1 ratio.
- Pour the hardener first before the resin into a disposable container.
- Stir the mixture using a single-use spoon until it becomes transparent. Use no more hardener than is advised.
- Mix the epoxy with a small amount of the tint, but this one is optional. Mix until you have the ideal tone.
- Pour epoxy fill carefully into the crack, slightly overfilling the space.
- In 24 hours, most epoxy materials will dry and cure solidly. Let it dry longer if necessary. You can only sand down the excess once it has fully cured.

Note: It is advisable to remove any air bubbles that appear when you pour the epoxy before the epoxy hardens. You can use a needle to prick the bubbles.

Using sawdust and glue

How do you repair split wood with sawdust and glue? Here is how.

- Collect sawdust [after sanding the wood](#).
- Mix the sawdust with the wood glue in equal amounts.
- Using your fingertip, apply the paste to the area wherever you find the split or cracks.
- If needed, apply more glue till the glue emerges from the opposite side.
- Place the clamps across the wood and perpendicular to the split. Place the clamp every six inches if the split is six inches longer than six inches. This will help you keep the clamps tight and the glue to ooze out dry.
- Finally, wipe off the excess glue with a damp cloth.

Using joint compound

Another way to fill up the gap due to cracks and splits is by using the [joint compound](#). You can use the putty knife to spread the compound. After applying the compound, please leave it to dry and then sand it to make it smooth. Guess what? The compound cannot be stained.

Using wood filler

To fill the splits and cracks, you can also use [wood fillers](#). Get the right color matching to your woodwork to conceal the damage effectively. Because, at the end of the day, you don't want a wood filler that does not complement the wood color.

Using wood glue

You will need a toothpick for this method because it is most suited for splits in the wood only. If you see a split, you only need to fix a toothpick in the middle. This will help you keep the split open and leave room to work with it.

- Once you have some space there, [add the wood glue](#) in the split.
- Push the split wood in place and hold it for sixty seconds.
- Clear out the glue from the surface, and you're ready!

Stripping

Another way you can repair the split wood is by stripping. It is a very common process when it comes to repairing painted doors.

- Strip the area and use hot glue to attach the wood back together.
- Fix the wood together by setting a clamp to close the cracks.

Polyester resin

[Polyester resin](#) can also be used to repair split wood. This will help you to repair the wood with ease and use the area of the wood for any purpose. Here is how.

- Take the chipped areas and insert resins in them.
- Add the right amount of resins to ensure no excess amount of the same left.

Sawdust and Glue

Using sawdust and glue can be ideal when the crack is broad and shallow. It is one of the most inexpensive ways to prevent cracks from spreading further. Here are the steps to follow.

- Begin with collecting sawdust in a container where you will mix it with glue. The sawdust can be collected from the work (ideally sanding) done on the same wood to match the color. The finer the dust, the better its efficiency will be as a filler.
- Mix wood glue to the sawdust thoroughly until you achieve a putty-like consistency.
- Use a scraper to apply the prepared filler over the crack and push it as far as possible into the crack. Gently scrape off the excess DIY filler from the area around the crack. Let it dry and cure.
- After it dries completely, sand it using fine-grit sandpaper to give it a smooth finish before applying any paint or stain.

Cracked Wood Decks: Repair or Replace

DIYers often tend to replace wood decks, floorings, and panels if they are cracked or have gaps. But before you spend those extra bucks for a new deck, why not repair it instead? Repairing your wooden deck can save you time and money in the long run. Also, this preventive measure of repairing the holes and gaps in the deck can prolong its integrity.

Step-by-Step Instruction: Mending Cracks in Wood Deck

There are two ways we need to approach this project. If there are cracks and holes in the wooden deck, which are less than four inches long, we need to have one approach for repairing them. And if the cracks are deeper than four inches, there is a separate process to follow.

Tools You Will Be Needing

- Garden sprayer
- Deck wash solution
- Brightener
- Plastic sheets
- Hose pipe
- Water
- Scrub brush
- Protective Gear - work gloves, gumboots, goggles, and face cover

To Fill Cracks in the Deck Under Four Inches in Length

1. First, inspect the entire deck, top and bottom. Mainly check the areas in direct contact with sunlight or water, as these places are more susceptible to cracking.
2. Before filling the cracks on the deck, it is a good idea to tape plastic sheeting over the siding or structures next to the deck. Put a protective covering till about waist height to ensure any spillage from the wooden sealants, cleaners, etc., will not damage them.
3. Mix a solution of deck wash and brighter in the garden sprayer. Spray the entire deck with the mixture.
4. Using the scrub brush, clean the deck of any debris. If the wood deck you are working with has leftover paint stains, use a stripper solution or any alternatives to remove excess paint on the wood.
5. Rinse the wood deck with water. Let it dry thoroughly.
6. Sand everything smoothly. Wear a dust mask and use a sanding pole and 50-grit sandpaper for sanding the entire deck.
7. Check for any residual wood stains and paints.
8. Once you have cleaned the wooden deck properly and removed the old wood stain, it is time to apply the protective sealant to cover the cracks.
9. Next, fill up the cracks. You can use the methods mentioned above to repair the holes in your wood deck.
10. Lastly, let the entire deck dry, preferably overnight.

To Fill Cracks in Deck Over Four Inches in Length

1. Using a nail puller, remove the old nails of the wooden plank you are repairing. If the cracks are deeper than 4 inches, you must replace the wooden plank.
2. Replace the wooden panel with a new one. You can use 2-inch wood screws to fasten them at all joists.
3. Once you have secured the newly installed panels, complete the task by following the above procedure (steps 4 to 10).

What Causes Cracks and Splits on Wood?

Cracked wood can completely expose the integrity of your wooden item. As a result, ruin the wood furniture entirely. Although, splitting and cracking of wood can be caused by a variety of reasons. Below are some of the most common reasons why wood attains cracks.

Weather and Temperature

Environmental conditions can pose a serious degrading factor on your wood. Exterior wood can split due to high temperatures and dryness. Some wood can also crack during the treating process in factories due to extreme temperatures. Likewise, rain also poses a threat to cracking wood. [Watered-down wood](#) is extremely soft, which can leave the wood sagging.

Nailing or Screwing Problems

Fastening two pieces of wood can be done by hammering a nail straight through, and sometimes can crack the wood. Large nails can split dry wood indefinitely if hammered in the wrong place at the wrong time. Moreover, too many screws and nails can compromise the rigidity of the wood in that area.

Read: [Safety Tips: Removing Nails and Screw before Working on Wood](#)

Manufacturing Problems

Although wood is durable and rigid, it can be brittle if dropped from a high place. Problems during shipping - falling off of heights and collisions - can split wood. This problem can go unnoticed until the time it is used.

FAQs

Why Does Wood Split and Crack?

Since wood is a natural resource, it responds to its surroundings differently than vinyl and iron. Cracks are naturally present in [newly cut wood](#) when it dries and cracks. Wood expands when

wet and shrinks when it dries, like other materials. The wood's uneven drying is what results in the cracks.

Is it Normal for Wood to Crack?

Cracking in timber frame structures such as furniture, fences, and buildings is due to structural problems. Even after the wood has been cut, molded, and prepared for building, cracking is a fairly natural process that occurs throughout the life of the wood.

Conclusion

Split and cracked wood is a common problem, but something that can easily ruin your house's interior visual appeal and put a hole in your pocket. Save yourself from the trouble of getting expensive repairs with some glue, resin, wood filler, and DIY skills. With these techniques, fixing split and cracked wood is an easy task for [wood maintenance procedures](#).

Further Readings

[Wood Types 101: Three Main Types & How To Identify](#)

[Help is Here: Inspecting Wood Infestation and Applying Best Solutions](#)

[Increase Your Knowledge: Facts About Wood](#)