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DENT REPAIR

*With a little patience, most minor **body repair** can be done in your own driveway.*

What you will need -

- Sandpaper (various grits)
- Soft sanding block
- Body filler
- Sure-form file
- Smooth “dinging” hammer
- Combination hammer dolly
- Suction-cup pullers
- Spray can primer
- Spray can touch-up paint
- Rubbing compound

Do-It-Yourself difficulty guide -

EASY AVERAGE **ADVANCED**

Estimated cost savings -

Hundreds of dollars

Advance Auto Parts has everything that you need for do-it-yourself body repair. For small dents where the metal and paint are not creased, all you may need is a firm push from the palm of your hand to return the metal to its original shape. More common damage, such as creases and scrapes, may require body filler and spot painting, which is no more difficult than repairing a hole in the wall of your house. The best advice is to tackle the small jobs first, then move on to the larger ones after you have practiced your body repair skills.

For hundreds of other do-it-yourself projects and tips visit www.AdvanceAutoParts.com

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Step-By-Step Instructions

Equipment You'll Use

Tips You'll Need



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why you should repair your vehicle's bodywork.



Nothing looks worse than

body damage that hasn't been repaired. It reflects poorly on you and takes the fun out of driving. However, professional body repairs are extremely expensive, and many times your vehicle just isn't worth the investment. Most drivers can successfully repair minor body damage and rust if they are willing to put in the time and effort.

Be sure to pick up an Advance Auto Parts **Service Maintenance Schedule** for information on other important car care projects.



how to repair body damage *do-it-yourself & save!*

Many of the body repair techniques shown here are fairly easy to understand. We recommend getting a book on bodywork that details the processes before starting any repair.



1 These suction cups and bridge devices are perfect for popping out shallow dents. If the paint is not scraped, the vehicle may not even need touch-up paint.



5 Before applying body filler, you must grind the area to bare metal. Use an 80-grit sanding disc. It removes paint fast and provides a rough surface for good adhesion.



2 The tools most often used by professionals are a "dinging" hammer and backup dolly. Use care, you can do more damage than good with these.



6 Mix the body filler according to the directions. Using a quality spreader, smooth out the filler as much as possible. This will save a lot of filing and sanding.



3 A good way to pull a dent, if you cannot bump it from behind, is to use a suction cup. Lightly tap around the dent's edges while you pull.



7 Use a sure-form file to smooth the body panel to the approximate shape. Make your strokes with the file on an angle (in both directions).



4 When the damage has creased the metal, bump out the dent from behind as much as possible, and fill the remaining dent with body filler. Follow the instructions on the can.



8 Finish smoothing the repair with a flexible sanding block and 80-grit sand paper. Prime the area and reblock with 320-grit. Finish with 500-grit, then paint.