



ISHMEET MALHOTRA'S

YOURSELF

FIX YOUR S*IT AND SAVE YOUR DOUGH

A STARTER GUIDE FOR HOMEOWNERS
TO SAVE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS



ISHMEET MALHOTRA
REALTOR®

"HOME REPAIRS: WHERE 'OOPS' MEETS 'OOH, THAT ACTUALLY WORKED!'"

— CHATGPT (IT'S NOT WRONG)

But seriously. A handyman in the GTA charges \$100–\$150 just to show up. Learn a handful of basic fixes and you will save thousands of dollars over the life of your home.

I'm a chronic over-researcher. I read the reviews, watched the videos, and made the mistakes — so you don't have to.

NEW IN V2.0

- What the pros charge vs. DIY costs
- A Canadian seasonal upkeep calendar
- Emergency shutoffs 101 (find them NOW)
- Where to actually learn this stuff

Everything underlined in this guide is a link.

MY FIRST CANADIAN TOOLBOX

Before you become Bob the Builder, you need some tools. Budget picks vs. buy-it-once picks.

	NOOB	BALLER
Toolbox	Maxpower	Dewalt
Drill Set	Black+Decker	Dewalt
Bit Set	(comes w/ drill)	Dewalt
Stud Finder	Zircon	Zircon A100
Tape Measure	Craftsman	Lexivon
Level	Stanley	Dewalt
Hammer	Craftsman	Stanley
Wrench	Amazon	Workpro
Pliers	Craftsman	Vanjoin
Allen Keys	Gray	Amazon
Safety Goggles (LOL)	Melasa	Dewalt

THE REST OF YOUR ARSENAL

The unglamorous stuff that actually does the work.

- Drywall anchors
- Command picture-hanging strips
- DryDex wall repair kit
- Silicone caulking + caulking gun
- Duct tape (obviously)
- A box of assorted screws
- Utility knife
- Putty knife
- Paint roller kit
- Painter's brush
- Painter's tape
- Work gloves
- Headlamp (trust me on this one)

PRO TIP

Save every unused screw and Allen key from your IKEA furniture. That mystery jar becomes a parts store at 9pm on a Sunday.

SH*T YOU SHOULD LEARN TO FIX

1. Hanging a TV
2. Filling a drywall hole
3. Hanging frames (without craters — see #2)
4. Changing an electrical socket / switch
5. Caulking around sinks and tubs
6. Painting your walls
7. Changing bulbs (duuuuh)
8. Assembling furniture (I mean, please)
9. Shampooing carpet (rent the machine)
10. Changing a showerhead
11. Installing a bidet (it's about time, people)
12. A running toilet (it's the flapper. \$15.)
13. Unclogging drains (plunger, not acid)
14. Resetting a tripped breaker
15. Basic appliance fixes (e.g. burnt stove coil)
16. Hiding wires in drywall (not for the weak)

DIY VS CALLING A GUY

What a GTA handyman roughly charges vs.
what the parts cost when you do it yourself.

	THE GUY	YOU
Hang a TV	\$150–\$250	~\$30
Patch a drywall hole	\$150–\$300	\$20
Re-caulk the tub	\$150–\$250	\$15
Swap a switch	\$120–\$200	\$10
New showerhead	\$100–\$150	\$40–\$80
Install a bidet	\$150–\$250	\$80–\$120
Paint a bedroom	\$400–\$800	~\$120
Fix a running toilet	\$150–\$220	\$15

Learn all eight and you've banked
roughly \$1,400–\$2,400. You're welcome.

Rough 2026 GTA ranges. Your guy may charge more. That's the point.

CANADIAN SEASONS HIT DIFFERENT

Your house lives through -20 and +30 every single year. Here's the upkeep rhythm.

SPRING

- Clean eavestroughs + downspouts
- Check grading (water AWAY from house)
- Service the AC before the heat
- Look for winter damage outside

SUMMER

- Re-caulk windows and doors
- Clean the dryer vent (fire hazard!)
- Deck: wash, inspect, re-stain
- Check window screens + weep holes

FALL

- Furnace: service + new filter
- Winterize outdoor taps (or they burst)
- Weatherstrip doors and windows
- Test smoke + CO alarms, new batteries

WINTER

- Watch for ice dams on the roof
- Keep humidity 30–40% (condensation)
- Change furnace filter again
- Know where your shutoffs are (next page)

KNOW YOUR SHUTOFFS

Find these the day you move in. Label them.
3am-you will thank moving-day-you.

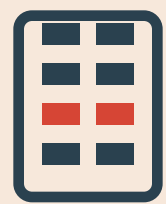
MAIN WATER VALVE

Usually in the basement where the line enters. Righty-tighty stops floods.



BREAKER PANEL

Label every switch. Yes, all of them. Yes, it takes an hour. Do it.



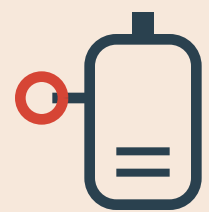
GAS SHUTOFF

On the meter outside. If you ever smell gas: leave first, call after.



WATER HEATER VALVE

Stops the tank from feeding a leak. Also note the pilot / power switch.



WHEN *NOT* TO DIY

Gas lines. Inside the electrical panel. Anything structural. Roofs (gravity is undefeated).
Anything that needs a permit. Call the pro —
that's saving dough too.

WHERE TO ACTUALLY LEARN

YouTube University. Free tuition. These four channels cover 95% of this guide:

Home RenoVision DIY

Canadian. Jeff is the internet's contractor dad.

Dad, how do I?

For everyone who didn't get taught this stuff.

See Jane Drill

Clear, patient, zero gatekeeping.

This Old House

The OGs. 40+ years of fixing things properly.

STILL STUCK?

DM me "MOVE" on Instagram. I've either fixed it, researched it to death, or know the guy.

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