

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

When minor repairs and tasks like hanging frames, assembling furniture, fixing a leaky faucet or plunging a toilet come a-knocking, being equipped with the right tools can save you time, money and the frustration of waiting for a professional (when you may not need one). Here's a guide to the best tools you should have in your house for handling those everyday fixes.

1

UTILITY KNIFE

A utility knife is a handy tool for many tasks around the house, including opening packages and cutting through materials like cardboard. Look for a model that comes with replaceable blades for convenience.

Milwaukee Tool Fastback and Faskback Compact **UTILITY KNIFE SET** with 50 Blades, \$35, homedepot.ca.

2

SCREWDRIVER SET

No tool kit is complete without a set of screwdrivers. Opt for a variety of sizes and types, including flathead and Phillips. These versatile tools are crucial for tasks ranging from tightening loose screws on cabinet doors to assembling furniture. If you're low on space or want something more compact, choose a multi-bit screwdriver with removable heads.

Craftsman Push-N-Pick Multi-Bit **SCREWDRIVER** in Red and Black, \$21, rona.ca.

6

ADJUSTABLE WRENCH

An adjustable wrench is a useful tool that can handle various nut and bolt sizes. Perfect for loosening stubborn nuts, tightening pipe connections and plumbing repairs, it's a must-have for your tool kit.

Husky 8" Adjustable **WRENCH**, \$12, homedepot.ca.

5

TOOLBOX

Choose storage large enough to corral all your basic tools. The ideal: a sturdy box or bag specifically designed to hold these types of products that can also fit easily in the bottom of a cupboard or under a staircase, for example. Practical, purpose-built containers are easier to transport and guarantee you have everything you need within reach.

Craftsman Deep **TOOL BOX** in Black and Red, \$60, rona.ca.

4

LEVEL

For tasks that require precision, such as installing shelves and hanging photos, a level is essential. A bubble level like this one ensures that everything remains straight and even.

Craftsman I-Beam 24" **LEVEL**, \$16, rona.ca.

3

FLASHLIGHT

A reliable flashlight is crucial for working in dimly lit areas or during power outages. Keep one in your tool kit for emergencies or those repairs that happen in less-than-ideal lighting conditions. Consider a headlamp version so you can work hands-free.

Energizer Vision HD Red 4-Mode **HEADLAMP**, \$20, rona.ca.

7

DUCT TAPE

While not a traditional tool, duct tape is a versatile solution for temporary fixes. Whether it's patching a leaky hose or securing loose items, having a roll of duct tape can be a quick and effective solution for small repairs.

Gorilla Utility **DUCT TAPE** in Black, \$8, canadiantire.ca.



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TAPE MEASURE

Precise measurements are the foundation of any successful repair or project. A reliable tape measure is essential for tasks like hanging curtains, spacing furniture or determining the dimensions for a new shelf. Choose one that includes both metric and imperial measurements to avoid confusion!

Amazon Basics 5 m/16' Self-Locking **TAPE MEASURE**, \$13, amazon.ca.



11

HAMMER

From hanging picture frames to minor carpentry, a good hammer is indispensable. Choose a model with a comfortable grip for better control, and you'll be ready to tackle a range of tasks around the house.

Mastercraft 8 oz Stubby Claw **HAMMER** with Forged Steel and Non-Slip Handle, \$8, canadiantire.ca.

8

PLUNGER

Every home should have a plunger on standby for minor plumbing issues, such as clogged sinks or toilets. It's a simple tool that can save you from calling a plumber for those small, common problems.

Moen 5-inch Plastic Sink **PLUNGER** with 12-inch Handle, \$8.50, homedepot.ca.



9

POWER DRILL

While not strictly necessary for every homeowner, a power drill can be a game-changer. It makes tasks like assembling furniture, hanging curtains or mounting shelves quicker and more efficient.

Fixa Power **DRILL**, \$60, ikea.ca.



10

STUD FINDER

When it comes to hanging heavy items on the wall, a stud finder is your bestie. It helps locate the solid wood framing behind your walls, ensuring a secure anchor for your screws or nails.

Zircon **E50 STUD SENSOR**, \$40, homehardware.ca.