



Permissions For Reprints Contact: 1-800-640-8285

## How To Repair Loose Door Hinges

Rotted and chipping wood in the door frame and doorjamb are the most common reasons hinges come loose. At best, the symptoms are annoying; at worst, they are extremely dangerous and could result in the door actually falling away from the frame and causing injury to some innocent bystander. If you have a door with this malady, get going on the cure.

### Utensils

Scissors  
Pencil  
Hammer  
Screwdriver  
Extra screws, if necessary

### Ingredients

Masking tape  
Toothpicks  
White polyvinyl glue  
Bar of soap

### Approximate Time: 30 To 45 Minutes

1. Cut small tabs of masking tape and place on leaves of each hinge (Fig. 30A).
2. Place one piece of tape adjacent to hinge on wood frame and the door.
3. Starting at the top, mark the hinge leaves as follows: door side 1, 2, 3; jamb side A, B, C.
4. If there are three hinges, remove the pin in center hinge first by tapping out of position with hammer and screwdriver.
5. Tape the pin and mark it, so you can return it to original location.
6. Repeat process on bottom hinge pin.
7. Now swing door and remove top pin and mark as before.
8. Jiggle door, and it will come away. Rest it against wall.
9. Unscrew hinges from frame and jamb.
10. Dip toothpicks into polyvinyl glue.
11. Insert toothpicks into all screw holes by tapping into place with hammer (Fig. 30B). Insert as many toothpicks as necessary for tight fit.

12. Break off protruding toothpicks so they are flush with surface (Fig. 30B).

13. Rub all screws into a bar of soap so threads are filled.

14. Replace any missing screws with wood screws to match old ones.

15. Replace hinge leaves where they belong and rescrew into position on door frame and jamb. Make sure screws are tight and secure.

16. Replace door into hinge slots.

17. Reinsert hinge pins in original hinges, starting at top.

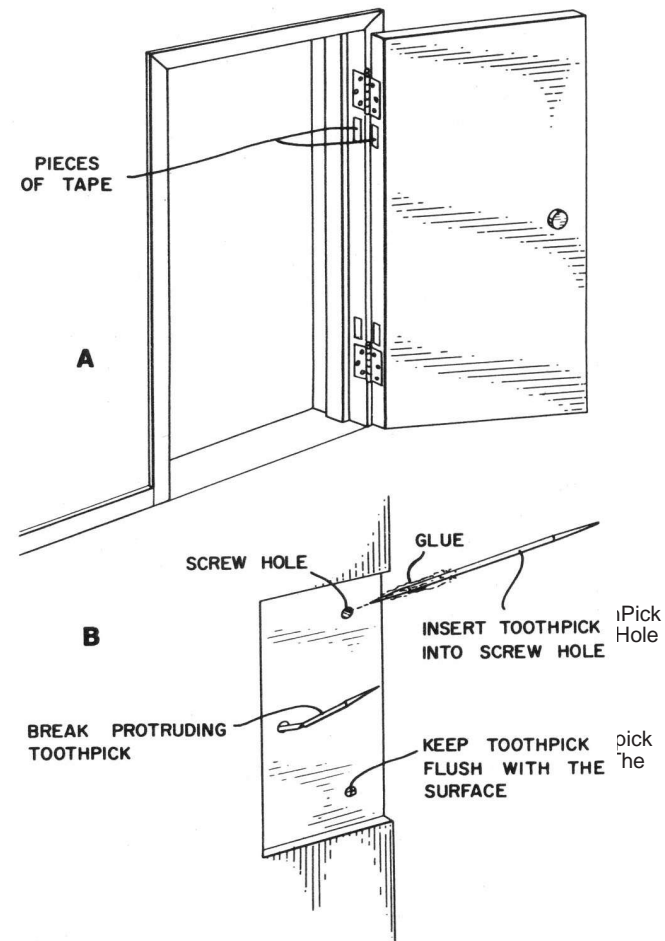


Figure 30.  
Repairing Loose Hinges