

Quick-Fix vs Pro Checklist

Sorting cosmetic ceiling damage from damage that needs a professional look

Likely a Quick Fix

- 1 Hairline cracks that have not changed size recently**
A crack that has stayed the same for a while is generally treated as cosmetic, not a sign of ongoing movement.
- 2 Nail or screw pops with no surrounding softness**
A small raised bump where a fastener has worked loose from the framing behind it.
- 3 Old paint, texture, or a patch that never blended in**
Cosmetic mismatches that do not affect how sound the drywall is underneath.

Get a Professional Look First

- 1 Any sagging, bowing, or drooping in the ceiling**
Points to something behind the board that needs attention before anything gets covered.
- 2 Soft, spongy, or crumbling spots when pressed**
A sign the board itself has broken down, not something a surface layer can address.
- 3 Active leaks, fresh stains, or a musty smell**
Ask a qualified professional to confirm the source is fixed and the area is dry before covering it.
- 4 Any suspected mould**
Route this to a qualified remediation professional rather than a DIY cover-up of any kind.

Before You Glue Anything Up

- 1 Clean, sand, and flatten the surface**
Dust, loose texture, and raised patches all reduce how well an adhesive can grip.
- 2 Prime any bare or freshly patched areas**
Helps the surface absorb adhesive evenly across the whole panel.
- 3 Ask which adhesive the tile manufacturer recommends for your surface**
Following the manufacturer's own instructions matters more than the brand you already have on hand.

Bring this list with you before you buy adhesive or book any professional help.

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