

DIY Process to Get Rid of Popcorn Ceilings Without Scraping

Tools & Materials Required

- 14-inch drywall taping knife
- 16-inch drywall mud pan
- 6-inch drywall taping knife (for between coats)
- All-purpose joint compound
- Water (small amount for mixing)
- Drop cloths or plastic sheeting
- Mixing tool or paddle
- Safety gear (goggles, dust mask)

Stepwise Process to Get Rid Of

1. Mix the Joint Compound

- Keep it thicker than usual
- Add very little water
- Mix until creamy and free of bubbles

2. Apply the First Coat

- Put joint compound on one side of the knife
- Apply with steady pressure
- Work in sections to maintain control
- Keep layers consistent in thickness

3. Smooth the Surface

- Apply pressure on the right side of the knife
- Lift the left side to avoid lines
- Go in opposite directions to remove ridges
- Keep the leading edge raised to prevent marks

4. Let It Dry

- Wait 24 hours between coats
- Don't sand between coats
- Use a 6-inch knife to scrape any high spots

5. Apply Second Coat

- Follow the same process as the first coat
- Focus on filling the remaining texture
- Keep strokes even and consistent

6. Final Touches

- Let dry completely
- Prepare for desired finish (like skip trowel texture)
- There is no need to sand if coats were applied properly

An Approximate Investment Required for Doing This

Item/Service	Cost Range (DIY)	Cost Range (Professional)
Basic Tools		
14-inch drywall taping knife	\$15-20	
16-inch mud pan	\$12-15	
6-inch taping knife	\$8-10	
Mixing paddle	\$10-15	
Drop cloths	\$5-10	
Materials (for 12x12 room)		
All-purpose joint compound (2 buckets)	\$30-40	
Safety gear (mask, goggles)	\$20-25	
Basic cleaning supplies	\$10-15	
Professional Service		
Professional skim coating		\$300-500 per room
Full ceiling removal/replacement		\$800-1200 per room
Extra Costs to Consider		
Ladder rental (if needed)	\$20-30 per day	
Extra lighting	\$15-25	
Ceiling texture (if wanted)	\$20-30 per bucket	
Total Investment	\$120-150	\$300-1200

This table helps visualize the difference between DIY and professional service costs for ceiling work in a 12x12 room.