

Drilling holes for wall anchors

By drilling the hole in a wall too big, the wall anchor won't be able to grip, leading to the object it's supposed anchor, falling off the wall.

Drilling holes in walls, to put up cupboards and shelves, sound straight forward, but in actual fact, many get it wrong. But with some careful consideration and a few technical tips and tricks, anyone can successfully drill holes in walls to anchor objects.

Advice for drilling a perfect hole



Progressive drilling

One of the biggest mistakes people make when drilling holes is to go straight for the size hole required. Chucking a 10mm drill bit into the drill and drilling a hole can leave you with damaged plaster and a hole that is too large.

- Rather make use the progressive drilling method.
- Start off with a small drill bit and progressively work towards the required size.
- For example, start with a 4mm drill bit, followed by an 8mm and finally the 10mm.



Set drill to normal mode when drilling into plasterwork

Drilling into brick walls requires a drill machine with hammer action. But setting the drill to hammer action too early will result in damaged plaster and enlarge the front of the hole, resulting in a loose-fitting wall anchor.

- Keep the drill on normal drilling mode for drilling into the plasterwork.
- Only once you reach the brickwork, switch to hammer action.



Keep the drill square

Always keep the drill square with the wall.

- Don't let the drill sag.
- Don't push it upwards.
- Don't move it sideways.



Don't let the drill's chuck meet the wall

Stop before the drill's chuck meets the wall.

- Pushing the chuck into the wall will damage the plaster (and the chuck).
- Will enlarge the front of the hole.

Fix a hole that is too large

If you have an existing hole or drilled one, but find it's too big, there are a few things you can do to rectify the mistake.

- You can enlarge the existing hole, by carefully considering the above-mentioned tips, and use bigger wall anchors which will then fit that size holes.
- Make use of a fast anchoring/setting cement product and place a small amount into the hole, followed by the wall anchor. Once cured, the cement will anchor the wall anchor in the enlarged hole.

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