



# Screw Smarts

Even the most experienced DIYer needs reminding of the best tools for the job. Eureka DIY's expert, Fritz Ferreira, explains some of the uses of screws and the advantage of the new square drive.

## Wood screw

Wood screws have fewer threads per centimetre than screws used for metal fixing. Wood screws always have a smooth shank so that the piece of wood can be pulled flush against the joined piece.

### Uses

- ▶ Incredibly strong wood joints – no need for clamps if combined with glue.
- ▶ Can be used for any type of woodworking projects.

- ▶ For decoration purposes, as well as for rust resistance, use a solid brass wood screw.



## Cut screw

Cut screws are available in full thread (pictured) or smooth shank and have a square head and are rust-resistant, as opposed to the stainless steel cut screw, which is rustproof. It easily cuts into hard and soft wood and no pilot hole is needed for 3-4mm screws, making it a fast and efficient option.

### Uses

- ▶ Full thread varieties are ideal for joining metal to wood, while the smooth shank cut screws can be used to join wood to wood.

The stainless steel version is rustproof and therefore ideal for building decks near and around coastal regions. Use a square drive with the cut screws.



## Top tip:

When using harder wood like sleeper or meranti, it is advisable to drill pilot holes.



## GOOD TO KNOW

The new square drive is ideal for heavy use as it won't strip easily. As one-hand operation is possible, it saves time on production. When used with a power drill, the drill should have clutch control and high torque at slow speeds.

### Decking screw

The decking screw smooth shank (pictured) is 13 times more rust-resistant than normal zinc coating, making it ideal for building wooden decks. The screw also has a copper-coloured finish with a smaller head and is easy to countersink, making it visually more appealing as it blends into the wood.

#### Uses

- ▶ As the name suggests, the decking screw smooth shank is perfect for decking and outdoor wooden projects.



### Chipboard screw

Smooth shank chipboard screws (pictured) turn in the top piece of wood while pulling the bottom piece tightly together, leaving no gap. The full thread variety is best for fastening pieces of metal or wood to wood. The yellow passivation makes the screw rust-resistant. Easy to use with any power drill, or screwdriver. Use a pozi bit with the magnetic bit holder with your power drill or with a screwdriver with interchangeable bits.

#### Uses

- ▶ good for general DIY use;
- ▶ joining wood to wood;
- ▶ joining metal to wood.



### Drywall screw

Available in fine or coarse (pictured) thread with T5 self-drilling point. No need to drill a pilot hole.

#### Uses

- ▶ general purpose fastening into dry wall, RhinoBoard and ceiling boards;
- ▶ coarse thread makes it ideal for applications into wood bracing in the wall or in the roof.
- ▶ These screws can be used with a drywall plug that is available in nylon and zinc. Drywall plugs are designed for hollow applications where there most likely isn't a convenient stud or beam available. These include places such as walls and ceilings covered with drywall, and hollow-core doors.



### Drywall plug

Used with drywall screws, the plugs are available in nylon and zinc. Drywall plugs are designed for hollow applications where there most likely isn't a convenient stud or beam available. These include places such as walls and ceilings covered with drywall, and hollow-core doors.

#### Uses

- ▶ Use in drywalls and ceilings to hang everything from towel racks and toilet paper dispensers, to light fixtures, mirrors and shelving units.



### Machine screw and nut

Suitable for all-purpose fastening, these screws have a countersunk head for applications with a flush finish. Can be used with a nut or tapped hole.

#### Uses

- ▶ All purpose fastening: joining metal to metal, or wood to metal. When fastening this bolt do not use a lot of torque.



# DIY 101: SCREWS

## One-way screw

This is a fastener designed so that it can be installed with a slotted screwdriver, but cannot be removed. It is used to prevent tampering.

### Uses

- ▶ Best for security gates and applications where theft or vandalism is common. These include public bathroom fixtures and public enclosures.



## Coach screw

This screw is ideal for heavy duty woodwork and construction. It should be used with a wall plug for anchoring in masonry and concrete. Take special care not to over-tighten and drill pilot holes before installation in wood.



### Top tip:

Tighten the coach screw with the correct size spanner. Coach screws are made from mild steel, so do not over-tighten or they will break.

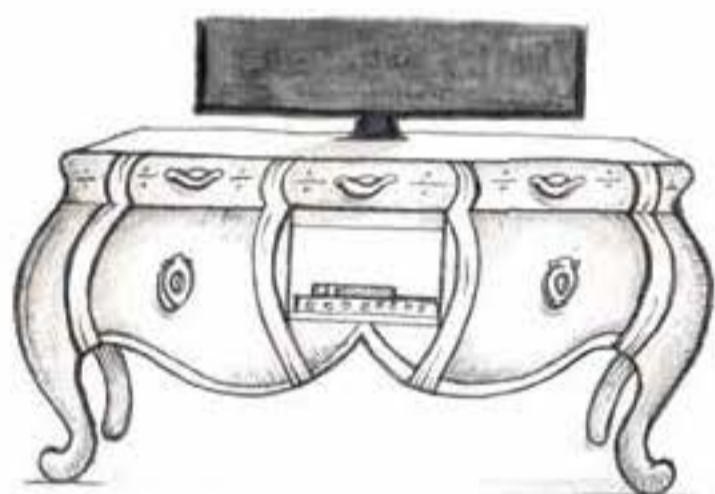


## TEK screw hex head coarse thread

The self-drill point of the fastener drills the perfect pilot hole for the thread to grip into the wood. It is very popular in a number of roof projects when used in conjunction with a bonded washer, since it is basically a self-tapping product and cuts back on the number of steps necessary to complete projects.

### Uses

- ▶ Used to fix steel roofing to wooden or steel beams, or plate to wood or steel.
- ▶ Use for screwing metal into wood, or even screwing metal into metal – depending on the thickness of the material.



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## GOOD TO KNOW

- ▶ Why should you include a washer? A washer will increase the surface of the screw so that it doesn't pull through the drilled hole.
- ▶ TEK screw hex head coarse thread allows the user to screw two pieces of material together without drilling a hole beforehand, which would be the case if you were using a normal screw without a self-drilling tip.

### Top tip:

Always drill the pilot hole for any screw 2mm smaller than the diameter of the screw.



## Get in touch

The team at Eureka has years of combined DIY experience and knowledge. They understand that DIY can be both challenging and rewarding and are willing to offer advice to readers on [www.eureka.co.za](http://www.eureka.co.za) or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone.

