

Intro to Wall Anchors

If you want to hang something decorative or functional on your sheetrock walls, chances are unless it is very small and light weight, you'll need to select an anchoring system to secure it properly. This article will help you to make a selection of an anchor for a variety of hanging applications. For each of the following anchors, you will need a drill and drill bits to install.



Nylon Wall Plug

When you purchase something to be hung on your wall or ceiling, you often find these anchors in the package contents. You can use these for lightweight applications, but for items that are heavy or will take a lot of stress,. we recommend that you use one of the anchors shown below.

Recommended for: Light duty hanging (small frames, smoke detectors)

To install: Drill a hole in the wall that the tip of the anchor can fit into, but the rest of the anchor is snug. Tap the anchor the rest of the way into the wall with a hammer. To be sure you select the correct drill bit size, start small and test for fit. Then enlarge the hole with a bigger bit if needed.



EZ Anchor

This anchor has great holding power because the large, course threads really grab hold of the sheetrock to lock the anchor in place. Installation is indeed very easy . Available in both plastic and metal. The metal version will drill right into a stud.



Recommended for: These come in two sizes, the large rated at 75 lbs, the small at 50. These are good for medium to large framed artwork, towel bars, curtain rods, window treatments. Use the metal version for plaster walls.

To install: Use a drill with a screwdriver bit to install the anchor. There is no need to drill a hole as the anchor is self tapping.



Toggle Bolt

This anchor is especially great for hanging things from the ceiling.

Recommended for: Hanging heavy items from the ceiling like plants.

To install: Drill a hole big enough for the hinged bracket to fit through. The bolt can be replaced with a threaded hook or eye bolt, depending on your application. Note that you will have to thread the bolt through whatever is to be hung, then attach the hinged piece, before folding and inserting into the drilled hole. You will not be able to take the bolt all the way out without permanently losing the bracket.



Hollow Wall Anchor

This anchor is great for heavy duty hanging. Be sure to match the anchor size to the thickness of the material you are mounting to.

Recommended for: Hanging about anything in walls, ceilings, and hollow core doors. The bolt can be reversed out, leaving a threaded insert in place and a more decorative bolt of the same size can be used.

To install: Drill a hole in the wall, just large enough to slide the anchor in. Use a drill with a driver bit to tighten the bolt, which clamps the anchor to the back side of your wall. Tighten until it's firmly in place.