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## INSPIRE Installation Techniques – FASTENERS

A range of the appropriate fasteners is essential to ensure you can finish the installation, regardless of the obstacles encountered. As wall and floor covering/sheeting prevents the installer from seeing the substrate, the installer must be prepared for any situation. An installer will be required to fit to timber, concrete, brick and/ or render, blocks, tiles, plasterboard, marble and other natural stone, aluminium or steel frame, or a combination of these. Specific fasteners are required for each of them, to ensure the fixing is permanent. Particularly for bathrooms and the moisture-rich areas, these fasteners may also need to be made from stainless steel.

### Brick, Block and Render

Fixing to brick, block and /or render generally uses the same fasteners as used for concrete.

Make sure the anchor is a minimum of times the diameter away from the other concrete anchors, and at least 5 times the diameter from all unsupported edges, to prevent cracking or breakaway of the brick or block. If the surface has been rendered, the fastener must pass through the render and into the substrate, as the render itself will provide no strength, and may break away if put under stress.

For hollow bricks or blocks, the following fasteners may also be used.

- Spring Toggle – this fastener has a pair of ‘wings’ that expand using a built-in spring. A hole is drilled in the brick or block until it enters the hollow interior. The screw or bolt section is unscrewed from the wings, passed through the hole in the brick/block, and it will automatically expand in the cavity on the other side. The screw can then be tightened until a firm grip is achieved.

