
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.

Concrete

Fixing to concrete can be done in a number of ways, and the type of fastener chosen will be dependent on the quality of the concrete, the strength required, closeness of the fixing to the edge, and the choice of top, floor, or face mounting.

- Plastic expansion plugs – this is the most common fixing used into concrete (also known as ‘spaghetti’ when supplied in roll form). A hole is drilled into the concrete at the required depth, and the expansion plug is inserted. A screw is mounted through the frame and into the plug, which expands in the hole. For standard 8 – 10-gauge chipboard screw, a green plug should be used, which will require a 7mm hole to be drilled in the concrete. If a red plug is used, a 6mm hole would be drilled and a smaller gauge screw used. There are several ranges of expansion plugs available on the market, with different levels of quality and use.
- Concrete screws – specialist screws are available that hold directly into concrete without the use of plugs. These are generally more expensive but can be useful where greater strength is required, or additional screws need to be added to a frame that has already been fitted. A hole will still need to be drilled into the concrete, but this can generally be drilled straight through the frame and into the concrete.
- Sleeve anchors – these are designed for heavy – duty applications. They can be useful for attaching bi-fold or slider headers into walls or reveals, where the shutters will be quite heavy and require extra strength to keep them there.

