
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.

Plasterboard

Where possible, screws should be attached where the plasterboard fixes to the timber/metal studs behind it. This will give the best strength but is not always possible. Where attaching to plasterboard with a hollow recess behind, the following products may be useful.

- Spring Toggle – as explained above for bricks. The length of the screw required is less than for bricks, but a range of lengths is available to choose, and can be selected based on the frame thickness.
- Plasterboard Screw - made of either zinc plated steel, aluminium or plastic, this screw has a very coarse thread, and each screw will hold up to 10kgs in sheer weight. It screws directly into plasterboard, and any 8-gauge screw can be driven into the hole in the middle of it. If using these screws, it should not be the only type of fixing, particularly if used for holding up headers/pelmets. They should be used in conjunction with other fasteners, or if this is not possible, with a construction adhesive running the length of the framing to be attached.
- Hollow Wall Anchors – a large range of hollow wall anchors are available for almost every application. Most of these are made from metal or plastic and expand on the other side of the plasterboard when screw is inserted.

