
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.

Timber

Fixing to timber (or timber behind plasterboard) is generally done with screws. Air powered nail guns can be used, but this method does reduce adjusting ability. The most common type of screw used when installing shutters is an 8- gauge chipboard or plasterboard screw (10- gauge can be used for longer length screws).

Holes should be pre-drilled in the framing before the screw is driven, to ensure the frame does not split.

It is recommended that Phillips head or square drive screws and tips be used. These are more commercially available, with the square drive screw giving superior driving power and less slippage, reducing the chance of damage to frame. Screw's length is subjective; it will depend on the depth of the framing being attached, the hardness of the timber being attached to, and the total number of screws used. In general, the screw should penetrate the timber substrate by at least 20mm but may need more in some cases. Always check the length of the screw against the depth of the frame to be attached, to ensure correct penetration. Once the entire frame has been mounted, it should be tested by hand for firmness.

