

HOW TO...

PILOT HOLE SIZES FOR WOOD SCREWS

As the upper part of the shanks of wood screw are unthreaded, clearance holes should be drilled in the top piece of timber, this will allow the timber to be pulled tight onto the underlying surface.

If the unthreaded shank is longer than the thickness of the top timber and the screw is larger than 6 gauge or the underlying timber is a hard wood, the clearance hole should be extended into the top of the underlying timber.

Screw Gauge #	Shank Hole	Pilot Soft Wood	Pilot Hard Wood
0	1/16	1/64	1/32
1	5/64	1/32	1/32
2	3/32	1/32	3/64
3	7/64	3/64	1/16
4	7/64	3/64	1/16
5	1/8	1/16	5/64
6	9/64	1/16	5/64
7	5/32	1/16	3/32
8	11/64	5/64	3/32
9	3/16	5/64	7/64
10	3/16	3/32	7/64
11	13/64	3/32	1/8
12	7/32	7/64	1/8
14	1/4	7/64	9/64
16	17/64	9/64	5/32
18	19/64	9/64	3/16
20	21/64	11/64	13/64