

Pre Installation For Stud/Hollow Wall Fixing

Warning, before installation you must ensure that the wall you are fixing to is free from any hidden electrical wire or pipe work. If in doubt consult with a qualified trades person. Installation of the shelf must be carried out by a competent person.

This guide outlines a method for securing heavy items to a hollow wall such as a plasterboard stud partition

If you're lucky, when fixing something heavy to a plasterboard stud wall, you may find that the fixing points align with the timber studs. Clearly, if this is the case, there will be no issue with fixing the item as the timber studs will provide suitable strength.

Where the timbers do not line up with your fixings, you can use a suitably sized timber batten to bridge between them. It must be sufficiently strong to support the weight of the item to be fixed. When recessed into the wall so that it is flush or beneath the surface, the end result will be invisible.

Always check with a detector that there are no pipes or cables hidden in the wall beneath the area to be cut or drilled. When drilling always wear suitable safety goggles.



1) Locate the timber studs in the wall. To locate them, gently tap the surface until you hear a muffled sound indicating the presence of solid timber behind. If you work your way across the wall where you want to make the fixings, you should be able to fairly accurately identify the position of the upright timber studs.



3) Position the batten on the wall and mark around it.



5) As you reach each of the timbers behind, you will need to use a sharp craft knife to cut the plasterboard rather than the pad saw.



2) Determine across which ones you are going to span with the bridging timber and cut the batten to length. This will need to be long enough and at the correct height to accommodate your fixings. The bridge will need to sit on the studwork at each end – or you can fix short battens to the side of the stud at either end to fix to.

4) Drill through the plasterboard to provide a starting point and, using a pad saw, cut out the marked section.



6) Remove the waste

7) Hold the bridge piece in place. If it is necessary to recess it further into the wall, either to make it flush or to allow for plastering over, measure by how much and mark the batten accordingly.



8) Notch the batten to suit. End notches can simply be cut with a hand saw. If you are spanning multiple studs, at the intermediate notches cut the outer lines to depth then pare out the rest with a chisel.

9) Once you are satisfied with the depth of the batten in the wall, drill holes in the bridge piece at each stud ready for fixing with screws.



10) Fix it to the studwork with screws of sufficient diameter and length to provide adequate support. Important Note: For floating shelves, use a timber batten that is smaller than the thickness of the shelf. When installed the shelf will cover any evidence of the pre-installation work and the next steps will not be required.

11) Make good the decoration around including plastering or filling over the batten as required. Apply a coat of PVA to the timber before plastering so that the plaster will adhere properly.



12) . For small areas you can make good with filler or dry wall compound as shown in the picture. Apply the filler using a wide spatula over the whole area. By applying a little pressure you can 'feather' the edges to blend with the surrounding area.

13) Allow the filler to dry then sand smooth and repaint to match the existing decor.

