

How to Use Chipboard Screws

Chipboard screws are designed specifically for fastening chipboard, particleboard, MDF, melamine-faced chipboard (MFC), and other wood-based sheet materials. Their deep thread provides excellent holding strength and helps create strong furniture and cabinet joints.

Tools Required

- Chipboard screws (correct length for the material thickness)
- Cordless drill/driver
- Pozi or Phillips screwdriver bit (matching screw head type)
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Drill bit for pilot holes (recommended)

Step 1 – Position the Components

Align the two pieces of chipboard in their final position.

Ensure edges are flush and square before fixing.

Step 2 – Mark the Screw Positions

Mark the screw locations on the outer face of the first panel.

Typical spacing:

- 50–75mm from each end
 - Additional screws every 150–250mm on longer joints
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Step 3 – Drill Pilot Holes

Pilot holes are strongly recommended when using melamine-faced chipboard.

Benefits:

- Reduces risk of splitting
- Improves alignment
- Makes driving easier
- Minimises melamine chipping

Drill the pilot hole through the outer panel and partially into the mating panel.

Step 4 – Drive the Screw

Insert the chipboard screw through the pilot hole.

Using a drill/driver:

1. Hold the boards firmly together.
2. Keep the drill square to the surface.
3. Drive the screw slowly.
4. Stop when the screw head sits flush with the surface.

Avoid overtightening, as this can strip the chipboard and weaken the joint.

Step 5 – Check the Joint

After fixing:

- Ensure panels remain square.
 - Check all edges are aligned.
 - Confirm there is no movement between components.
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Tips for Melamine-Faced Chipboard (MFC)

- ✓ Use sharp drill bits.
 - ✓ Drill pilot holes before fixing.
 - ✓ Drive screws at a moderate speed.
 - ✓ Support the workpiece fully during assembly.
 - ✓ Wipe away any dust before assembly for a tighter joint.
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Safety Information

- Wear safety glasses when drilling.
- Keep hands clear of the drill path.
- Secure workpieces before fixing.
- Use the correct screw length to prevent breakthrough.

A correctly fitted chipboard screw should pull the two panels tightly together and leave a neat, flush finish.