

Drywall Screw Size Chart

Screw length by drywall thickness & stud type · coarse thread -> wood, fine -> metal

DRYWALL THICKNESS	WOOD STUDS (COARSE)	METAL STUDS (FINE)
1/4"-3/8" (Thin / patch / curved work)	1"	1"
1/2" (Walls)	1-1/4"	1" or 1-1/4"
1/2" (Ceilings)	1-5/8"	1-1/4"
5/8" (Walls)	1-5/8"	1-1/4"
5/8" (Ceilings)	1-5/8"-2"	1-1/4"

Thread is the #1 thing people get wrong: coarse thread for WOOD studs, fine thread for METAL studs — match it to whatever the screw drives into. #6 gauge is the standard drywall screw (step up to #8 for thick or multi-layer board). #6/#8 is the SCREW GAUGE — the screw's own thickness — not a drill-bit number. Bugle head, driven just below flush.

Length is set by penetration, not the board alone: the screw must bite about 5/8" into a wood stud (or ~3/8" into steel) past the drywall, so length ~ thickness + that bite. Ceilings step up a size because gravity pulls on the sheet continuously.

These are common, widely used standards for typical residential drywall over wood or metal framing — a standard approach, not a substitute for code. For fire-rated (Type X), multi-layer or code-inspected assemblies, follow the board manufacturer's instructions and local building code.