

Tapcon Drill Bit Size Chart

Carbide drill bit for each Tapcon size · the bit is one size under the screw

TAPCON SCREW	CARBIDE DRILL BIT	HOLE DEPTH
3/16"	5/32" 4 mm	1/4" past the screw
1/4"	3/16" 4.8 mm	1/4" past the screw
3/8"	5/16" 7.9 mm	1" past the screw
1/2"	7/16" 11.1 mm	1" past the screw
5/8"	1/2" 12.7 mm	1" past the screw
3/4"	5/8" 15.9 mm	1" past the screw

The carbide bit is always ONE SIZE UNDER the screw (a 1/4" Tapcon uses a 3/16" bit, not a 1/4" bit) — the screw cuts its own threads into the masonry, so the hole must leave solid material to grip. The two highlighted rows (3/16" and 1/4") are the common DIY sizes.

Hole depth: drill at least 1/4" deeper than the screw will sit for 3/16" and 1/4" Tapcons, and 1" deeper for 3/8" and up, to clear the dust. Minimum embedment 1" into solid base material.

Requires a HAMMER DRILL (or rotary hammer) in hammer-plus-rotation mode and a carbide-tipped bit meeting ANSI B212.15 — a regular twist bit in a regular drill will not make a usable hole. Works in solid concrete, brick and block; drill into the brick itself, not the mortar joint. Always check the size printed on the anchor packaging; for structural or code-governed work follow the manufacturer's data and local code.