

UK Wall Plug Size Chart

UK wall plug colours — drill bit, screw, load and use (indicative loads, solid brick)

COLOUR	DRILL BIT	SCREW DIA.	LOAD*	TYPICAL USE
Yellow	5mm	3.0–4.5mm	~15kg	Small frames, hooks
Red	6mm	3.5–5.0mm	~20kg	Shelf brackets, rails
Brown	7mm	4.0–6.0mm	~25kg	Curtain poles, shelving
Blue	8–10mm	5.0–6.0mm	~35kg	TVs, heavy brackets
Grey	10–12mm	6.0–8.0mm	~45kg	Heavy-duty fixings

THE ONE RULE: the drill bit matches the plug colour, and the screw is 1-2 mm smaller than the bit. Most wall-plug failures come from getting this backwards - an oversized hole the plug spins in.

Loads are INDICATIVE maxima in SOLID BRICK only, not hard specifications. Actual capacity depends on the substrate, screw engagement depth and installation quality; weaker, older or aerated block holds significantly less. For anything that matters, follow the plug manufacturer's datasheet.

Colour-to-size is a common UK convention, not a universal standard - it varies by brand, so always check the packaging. Blue is commonly 10 mm (a minority of sources give 8 mm); grey is 10-12 mm.

Wall plugs need solid material (brick, block, concrete) - never use them in hollow plasterboard, where they spin and pull out. Above roughly 50 kg per fixing, use a steel sleeve anchor instead of a plastic plug. Brick and block need a hammer drill and a carbide masonry bit.