

What Drill Bit for What Material

What drill bit for what material — type, tip and drill

MATERIAL	BIT TYPE	TIP GEOMETRY	DRILL NEEDED	TELL-TALE
Wood	Brad point	Spike + 2 spurs	Any drill	Centre spur
Metal	Twist / split	Cone, 118°/135°	Any drill + oil	No centre spur
Masonry	Carbide-tipped	Blunt carbide wedge	Hammer / rotary	Carbide wedge

The tip identifies the bit: a sharp centre spike with two outer spurs is a wood brad point; a plain cone with no spike is a metal twist bit (118 degrees standard, 135-degree split point for hard metal); a blunt carbide wedge with no spur and a slightly wider head is a masonry bit.

Concrete, brick and block need a carbide-tipped masonry bit AND a hammer drill or rotary hammer. A plain twist bit in an ordinary drill cannot cut concrete at any grade - it only spins and polishes the surface.

The shank sets which drill a bit fits: straight and hex shanks clamp in a standard three-jaw chuck; SDS-Plus and SDS-Max shanks fit a rotary hammer only and will not fit a standard chuck.

This chart covers bit TYPE by material. The exact bit DIAMETER is set by the screw, anchor or hole you are drilling for - see whatdrillbit.com for the size converter and charts.