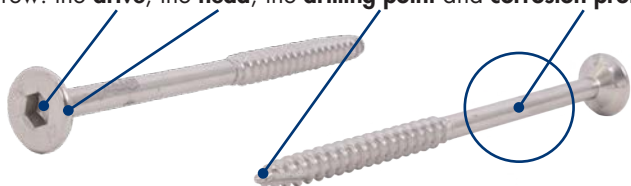




**A BEGINNERS
GUIDE TO
SCREWS**

THE BASICS

Screws are pretty easy to understand once you know the 4 basic features of a screw: the **drive**, the **head**, the **drilling point** and **corrosion protection**.



Screws offer many advantages over older technology fastenings and are used in **many more projects** now. For instance **landscape screws** have a nicer finish than bolts and are quicker to install, **timber screws** offer a much tighter join than nails, **concrete screws** are replacing old tech sleeve anchors because a concrete screw can be unscrewed, unlike a sleeve anchor, and **roofing screws** are easier and faster to screw in than banging in roofing nails.

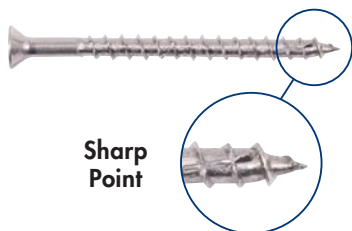
PlaceMakers has a **comprehensive range of screws** available, which can be viewed in the **Fastenings Catalogue** by scanning this QR code with your phone camera, or by following this link... placemakers.co.nz/fastenings-catalogue-in-english



THE TYPES

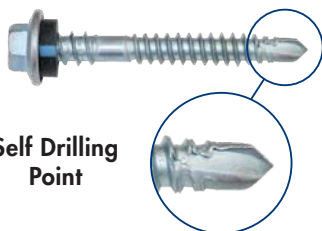
The main types of screws are used in either...

Wood or Metal



Sharp Point

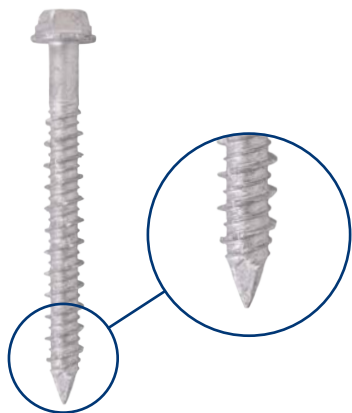
Wood to Wood, the sharp point drilling-tip easily drills in to wet and dry timber and is the most commonly used wood screw. In this example, the countersunk head pulls flush against the timber and is used a lot where nails were once used.



Self Drilling Point

Metal to Metal or metal to wood screws, called a 'Tek' screw, have a special drill point that bores into metal without pre-drilling. This example is a roofing screw with a weatherproof seal under the head and a hex head. Metal screws are also abbreviated as SDS (Self Drilling Screw) or SDM (Self Drilling Metal) screws.

Concrete/ Masonry ^{or} Fibre Cement



Concrete screws are made tough as they fix wood, battens, brackets and hardware onto concrete, block and brick. The screw is hardened, and in this example, the screw has a double thread for strong holding power. It is important to drill the right sized hole for concrete screws, a concrete drill bit is sometimes included in the box. Concrete screws are displacing old-school sleeve anchors and are available in hex and countersunk heads.



Fibre Cement screws are used to affix fibre cement panel onto metal and timber studs, or screwing clips and hardware onto fibre cement sheet, like a downpipe clip for instance. In this example, the screw has a drilling point like a 'Tek' screw to bore thru the abrasive fibre cement material and aggressive countersinking ribs to set themselves flush in to the hard cement surface.

SPECIALS



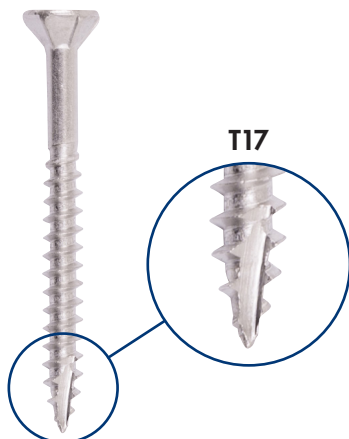
steel and **wings** that drill a clearance hole in the timber, so that the timber doesn't 'climb' up the thread of the screw when the screw is drilled in. Some of these screws can drill through 12mm of steel, without pre-drilling!

Button or **Wafer** screws are short screws (12-20mm long) and have a flat, low profile head used for fixing thin materials onto timber and metal. This example is galvanised for outside use and has a metal drill point, it could be used for screwing up a sign or a metal sheet where a countersinking head would wreck the panel. Zinc versions are used a lot in shop fittings for metal to metal joins.



Decking & Landscaping

Another drill point to look out for, used in decking screws, large diameter landscape screws, and heavy duty wood screws, is the **T17** or **Type 17** drilling point. T17 is a sharp flute or groove cut out on the end of the screw and allows aggressive and quick drilling into decking boards, battens, beams and screwing landscape timbers onto posts.



Landscape screws are heavy duty, mostly large diameter screws (with **T17** drill points) used in outdoor construction and landscaping projects. Powerful cordless drills are able to drive these big screws in to heavy and wet timbers **without pre-drilling**, making for **fast building** (much faster than using bolts and washers), and **very strong joins**. Different heads are available, some counter-sinking into timbers for a flush appearance and some with flat heads for very strong clamping power. All are Galvanised or Stainless steel and some can be up to 280mm long.

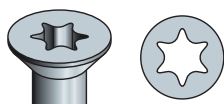


Decking screws come in various shapes, sizes and head profiles, all are stainless steel to handle extreme weather conditions and often come in bigger box quantities, as 1,000 screws cover about 20m² of decking (depending on the decking board width and bearer spacings).

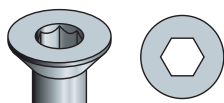
Check out the decking screw selector here, by scanning this QR code with your phone camera, or by following this link... placemakers.co.nz/decking-screws-selection-guide



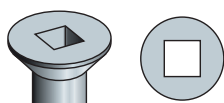
Screw Drive Types



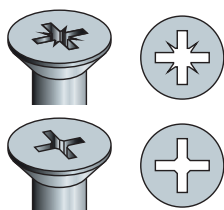
Torx is a tough drive type, the star shape strongly grips the driver bit to help prevent stripped heads. Torx comes in different sizes depending on the size of the screw head, T15 for the smallest to T40 for big screws. Torx is a decorative finish and is used mainly in decking and landscape screws.



Internal Hex is a powerful drive type used in big diameter batten and landscape screws. The hex shape is heavy-duty and can take a battering from impact drivers.



Square is the foremost drive type sold in NZ, square significantly reduces rounding-out of the drive by the driver bit compared with Pozi & Phillips screws. 3 square sizes (#1, #2 & #3), #2 square being the main volume size.



Pozi & Phillips head screws can be easily rounded out with worn driver bits or using too much torque on the screwdriver, making the square drive screw a stronger choice.

Best

Better

Good

Corrosion Resistance

Stainless Steel grade T316 – for the highest corrosion resistance and is suitable for outdoor use in coastal areas and extreme conditions.

Stainless Steel grade T304 – for very good corrosion resistance and is suitable for most outdoor applications exposed to the elements, use T316 grade for coastal.

B8 – is a hardwearing corrosion protection that is better performing than standard galvanised fastenings, for outdoor landscape projects using heavy duty timber screws and used in roofing screws.

Class 4 Galvanised – is a galvanised coating over the metal fastener and is a minimum corrosion protection for outdoor applications.

Zinc – offers the minimum amount of corrosion protection and is intended for interior applications.

Best

Good



Screws



Masonry



Timber Connectors



Bolts



Nails

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Decking Screw Selection Guide

placemakers.co.nz/decking-screws-selection-guide

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