



e-tip

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10 USES FOR DRYWALL SCREWS

PUT UP A PAINT STATION. A master carpenter screws one through each corner of a scrap board and rests cabinet doors he's just painted on the four points for a makeshift drying rack.

SUB FOR A STOPPER. Screw one into the nozzle of a tube of glue or caulk to clear and seal it; leave it in for a top that screws off.

SCRIBE. If you lose the needlelike awl off your combo square, the point on a fine-thread drywall screw can scratch an equally sharp mark.

SILENCE A SQUEAK. For creaking floors beneath the carpet, find where the floor meets a joist, then put a 2-inch drywall screw an inch and a half into it through the carpet. A sharp, glancing blow with a hammer will snap off the head safely below the carpet's pile.

REPLACE A PUNCH. A general contractor gently taps a 2-inch drywall screw with a hammer to chip away a tiny amount of glaze on ceramic tile. This keeps drill bits from "walking" and helps masonry bits get started.

PILOT A HOLE. In lieu of a 1/8 inch starter bit, a drywall screw will predrill an easy path for larger hand-turned hooks, eye screws, and lag bolts in a pinch.

CLEAN UP A CONNECTION. Before installing new fittings, use a drywall screw's fine point to dig old compound and tape out of pipe threads.

SNAKE A SINK. With threads so toothy they snag on fibers, a drywall screw tied to a string and twirled in a drain can clear a mild hair clog.

SPACE DECK BOARDS. To lay deck boards evenly. A general contractor drops the screws between each course before he nails it down. Big heads keep the boards in place as he aligns the ends.

CRAFT A TRAMMEL. A general contractor fashions his from the points of two screws driven through a strip of wood. By spacing them as wide as his proposed radius, he can scratch a perfect circle.

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