

Pilot Hole Size for a #8 Screw

The exact pilot bit for a #8 screw depends on the material. Use 7/64 in for softwood and 1/8 in for hardwood.

Material	Pilot bit (in)	Notes
Softwood (pine, cedar)	7/64	Standard for general work
Hardwood (oak, maple)	1/8	Prevents splitting in dense grain
Plywood	7/64	Keep away from the edge to avoid breakout
MDF / particleboard	1/8	Drill into the face, not the edge

Note: Clearance (shank) hole for a #8 screw: 11/64 in. Co

Reference values only — verify against the governing standard or manufacturer before use.