



NEW FITTING ADVICE

18th December 2020

The pre-drilling of clearance style pilot holes in SmartBoard is now a requirement because:

1. Hoppings cannot control the type of drill/drive tool used to fit SmartBoard screws. The use of a Combi drill as opposed to an impact driver, as recommended tends to:

Over-stress the protective coating and integrity of the shaft of the screw, as excessive friction and heat is generated at speeds higher than appropriate.

Make it more likely that the coating around the recess at the head of the screw is damaged due to the drive tool slipping ('camout'), as a result of inappropriately high speed and less adequate torque control.

2. Although slightly slower overall it makes for a better job, because:

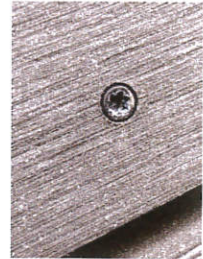
The chance of damaging the coating (as shown right) around the head of the screw, due to camout, is all but eliminated.

It is much easier to extract screws should a board need removing in the future.

One can achieve a neater looking finish as screw depth is more easily controlled and adjusted and any minor 'mushrooming' (as shown right) of SmartBoard around the head of the screw that can crop up every now and then is eliminated.

Improved view of the head of the screw when fitting as composite swarf is no longer generated. This makes it is easier to set the screw neatly at the surface of the board, not below.

No composite swarf when fitting also means the current plug of it between the top of the joist and underside of the board is eliminated eradicating any unnecessary tension stress on the shaft of the screw.



All new orders will promote the new advice as shown

Advice in the form of a self-adhesive applied here



#20 Torx Drive

63mm

IMPORTANT:

Fit these screws through pre-drilled pilot holes in your SmartBoard Decking using a 18volt combi-drill and the premium quality 4.5mm drill bit enclosed.

WHEN PRE-DRILLING:

- Do not to drill into the framing below, as doing so will seriously impair the holding power of the screw.
- Take care not to mark the surface of the board with the chuck of the drill.
- Never position screws closer than 20mm from an edge or end of SmartBoard decking.
- **For maximum screw depth control:** Use a premium quality 18volt impact driver. Combi-drills should only be used in a low torque setting mode.

And each box will contain a premium quality 4.5mm diameter HSS drill bit (as shown left) adequately capable of drilling 200 holes through SmartBoard.

Although clearly of importance to all parties involved in the supply of SmartBoard, Hoppings view this as interim advice. Interim advice in the sense that we ultimately want SmartBoard fitted without the need to pre-drill and are developing a new fixing to meet that ambition. In the meantime, we are exploring the possibility of creating a drill bit with a 20mm depth set facility, to allow the new pre-drilling process to be performed when decking boards are in their final position on the subframe.