



Types of Screw & Screwdrivers

There are many different types of Screw & Screwdriver. However the THREE main types that you are likely to come across are these:



Types of Screw

These days Screws are measured in millimetres. They are usually described by three characteristics:

- Head Shape - Slotted/Phillips/Pozi/Torx etc.
- Diameter - How wide the shaft (screw bit) is
- Length - How long the screw is.

The most common size screws that you are likely to be using are 4mm and 5mm screws. For smaller fixings we might use 3mm screws. For really Heavy duty items we might use 6mm Screws.

The wider and longer the screw, the stronger it is.



Slotted/Flat-head/Flat-blade Screwdrivers

These were the most traditional types of Screwdriver. We don't tend to use them as much these days, as slotted screws have generally gone out of fashion.

They are an essential part of a tool-kit, even if you don't use them as a screwdriver. They're great for opening Paint Tins, and lifting up the lid on our Outside Stop Taps.

Most importantly, we need them to operate Isolation Valves on our plumbing pipework. So its really important to keep one somewhere nice and handy.



Phillips Screwdrivers (PH)

Phillips Screwdrivers are a simple cross shape. They're good for general use . They can slip a bit if you turn too hard, which can help avoid over-tightening.

A **Phillips Screwdriver** will fit into a **Pozi** Screw, but won't have the same kind of traction.



Pozi Screwdrivers (PZ)

Pozi Screwdrivers have an extra cross on the head, which helps them grip better and not slip out. They're great when you need to turn screws tightly without damaging them.

Pozi Screwdrivers don't work well in **Phillips** Screws. They can't get deep enough into the head. This can lead to the screwdriver slipping and damaging the head of the screw by rounding it off/stripping it out. This can be a big problem. **Make sure that you use the right type of screwdriver with the right type of Screw**



Sizes of Screwdrivers

You will see the following sizes of Screwdriver:



Size 1 - will fit **3mm** Screws



Size 2 - will fit **4mm, 4.5mm & 5mm** screws

Size 3 - will fit **6mm** screws



Handle/Grip Importance

A comfortable handle is key when using a screwdriver for a long time. Look for handles that are soft and don't slip, so your hands don't get tired or sore.



Stay Safe - VDE Screwdrivers

VDE Screwdrivers are safe for working with electricity up to 1000 volts. They will have this written somewhere on them. You are only protected if you hold the handle, which is insulated., so always hold the handle if you are anywhere near a live wire.

Avoid using the small screwdriver with a clear handle on live wires—it's not safe, and won't protect you against electrocution. They are very good as a sacrificial tool - so you can use them for marking holes, or as a small screwdriver, but not near any live electrics



Long-Handled Screwdrivers: More Power

Long-handled screwdrivers give you more power to turn screws, especially if they're stuck. They also help you reach screws that are far away or in tricky spots. If a screw seems to be stuck, try tightening it up. Sometimes that will help break the seal that it has formed, and allow you to move it.



Magnetic Screwdrivers: Easy and Handy

Magnetic screwdrivers are really helpful, especially in tight spaces or with small screws. The magnet holds the screw in place, so you don't drop it. Long-handled ones give you both reach and the magnet's convenience. Magic!