

Pilot Hole Size Chart for Wood Screws

Pilot hole diameters by screw gauge for softwood and hardwood, plus the matching countersink size.

Screw gauge	Softwood pilot (in)	Hardwood pilot (in)	Countersink dia (in)
#4	3/64	1/16	1/4
#6	3/64	1/16	9/32
#8	7/64	1/8	5/16
#10	1/8	9/64	3/8
#12	9/64	5/32	7/16
#14	5/32	11/64	1/2

Note: The pilot hole equals the screw root diameter.

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