

If you need to do more with the space available to you, and you want to divide a room into two, or create a separate space within a room, then a stud wall is the perfect solution. Comparatively easy to construct, and using inexpensive materials, stud walls are a quick and cost effective way of making a big difference to your home. With the right tools and materials, anyone with basic DIY experience can tackle this job.



TOOLS YOU NEED

You will need to use 4 x 2 timbers and screws that are at least 70 mm in length. The essential tools are an impact drill, a drill gun with a 4 mm drill bit, a tape measure, a set square, a saw and a pencil. Also, don't forget to wear safety glasses when drilling and sawing.



STEP 1: ASSEMBLING THE WALL

First of all, you can assemble the wall flat on the ground. Lay out the top and bottom timbers and then attach the two side upright timbers to form a square or rectangle shape, depending on the size of wall you are making. Secure each corner with two screws. Before adding screws, always make a pilot hole. This stops the timber from splitting.

When the basic structure has been put together, you will need to add the internal vertical timbers. Mark out 400 mm intervals on the top and bottom timbers. Place each internal timber central to the line that you've marked and, as before, make two pilot holes then add two screws to the ends of each internal timber.



Now that the basic structure and vertical internal timbers are in place, you need to secure them with noggins: the short pieces of timber that bridge the gaps between the internal vertical timbers, to make a single horizontal line across the centre of the wall. Using a set square and a saw, cut pieces of timber the precise length of the distance between each vertical (just under 400 mm). Then mark the centre line of each vertical timber. Secure each noggin from both sides. After you have secured the first noggin, you will need to drill in the screws at a 45 degree angle for those noggins for which access is restricted by the previous noggin. The wall is now assembled and ready to put into position.

STEP 2: FIXING THE WALL INTO POSITION

In order to lift the wall into place get someone to help you to stand it upright – don't try and do it by yourself. Use a couple of screws to attach it to the wall in the first instance. You then need to make sure that its position is at a perfect 90 degree angle to the wall. You can do this by using the 3 – 4 – 5 principle. If you measure one way 3 feet (or 3 metres) and the other way 4 feet, then the diagonal between the two will be 5 feet, as long as the two walls are a perfect right angle.

When you are satisfied that the angle is correct, you can secure the stud wall into position. As always, make pilot holes before adding screws to wall and floor. Make sure that your screws are not too long, as there may be pipes directly below your floor boards. If your screws are 70 mm, you should be okay – allowing for the timber thickness and the thickness of the floorboards. Your stud wall is now in position and you can add plaster boards as required.