

The Basic Toolkit

Practical skills

The dozen tools that handle nearly every household repair, and what each is really for.

Enough for furniture, shelves, minor plumbing and most flat-pack disasters.

Driving & gripping

Screwdrivers — Phillips and flat, 2 sizes each

Adjustable spanner

Pliers — combination and long-nose

Allen keys, metric set

Measuring & marking

Tape measure, 5 m

Spirit level, 600 mm

Pencil

Stud and cable detector

Cutting & striking

Claw hammer, 16 oz

Utility knife with spare blades

Handsaw

Power

Cordless drill-driver

Drill bits — wood, masonry, metal

Assorted screws and wall plugs

Use the largest screwdriver that fits the slot. Most stripped screws are a too-small driver, not a bad screw.