

Pilot Hole Sizes by Wood Group

Pilot sizes vary with wood type, bolt length, and diameter. Wood groups (ALSC) commonly map as: *Soft Wood* (Groups 3–4), *Medium Wood* (Group 2), *Hard Wood* (Group 1). Many newer U.S. homes use studs of spruce (Group 3–4) or Douglas fir (Group 2–3).

Lag Bolt Size	Pilot Hole Size		
	Soft Wood*	Medium Wood*	Hard Wood*
1/4"	3/32"	5/32"	3/16"
5/16"	9/64"	3/16"	13/64"
3/8"	11/64"	15/64"	1/4"
1/2"	15/64"	5/16"	11/32"
5/8"	5/16"	13/32"	29/64"
3/4"	13/32"	1/2"	9/16"

* Soft Wood (Group 3–4), Medium Wood (Group 2), Hard Wood (Group 1). Consult an engineer for specific applications.