


# Installation Guidelines for Freestanding Safes

 **For installation guidelines on underfloor or wall safes please ask for our specific literature**

The good installation of a safe is critical to the security it will afford. If it is not correctly installed it could be easy for a burglar to remove it from your property. Burton Safes therefore always recommends using a professional safe installer or locksmith to complete the work. In the event that you choose to install your own safe please follow the advice below carefully.

Since every property is different, it is impossible to give clear rules about the installation of safes, only guidelines. If you are ever unsure about your safe installation, please contact Burton Safes or your local supplying stockist for advice and always seek the approval of your insurance company if cover is important.

Your safe should be supplied with a set of fixing bolts and pre-drilled fixing holes. If using the pre-supplied fixing bolts, follow the installation instructions included within your fixing pack. Please note that the pre-supplied fixings are not suitable for all applications. If you require alternative fixings, follow the fitting instructions of the relevant fixing supplier.

## Health & Safety

Safes are heavy items. If you decide to install your own safe, please undertake a risk assessment before moving and fixing it. Ensure that both the floor loading along the installation route and in the safe's final location are suitably strong for the safe's weight. If you are unsure consult a structural engineer.

Please make sure that you wear suitable safety equipment such as steel toe cap boots, gloves and eye protection. Ensure you have enough people and the correct lifting equipment to safely handle the weight of your safe.

Take care to check for hidden cables and pipes in the floor/wall before drilling your fixing holes.

## Location

Locate your safe in a practical place, that is easy for you to access and use. Position it flush against a wall and where possible, in a corner, against two walls. Try to remove any skirting boards, cables and other items that may prevent it fitting tight up against the wall. Restrict access around the safe as much as possible.

Avoid fixing close to the edges of any concrete slabs, stonework, masonry or wood, as this could cause the substrate to crack and weaken.

All certified safes should be fixed into the fabric of your building. However, some of our entry level products (£1000- £3000 cash rating) are suitable for fixing into wooden furniture. In this case, always ensure that the safe is fixed using all the pre-drilled fixing holes.

## Substrate

Concrete will usually offer the best type of fixing. However, even in this case its important that the concrete is re- enforced and of a suitable strength and depth. If laying a new concrete base, we recommend a strength of between 20N mm<sup>2</sup> and 60N mm<sup>2</sup> and a minimum depth of 150mm. Ensure you drill well down into the body of the concrete, to a minimum of 100mm. In all cases make sure you have gone well below any top screed.

If fixing into floorboards or timber walls, try to find a joist for the strongest possible fixing.

If fixing into stone or brickwork, ensure you fix into the centre of the block and avoid edges and any mortar.

If fixing into wooden furniture, avoid fixing to any removable shelving. Ensure that any wood is at least 10mm thick. Where possible reinforce the fixing with additional timbers or steel plates underneath and behind the furniture. If you are using steel plates; a drill and tap method of fixing is required to be able to fix the bolt through the steel.

## Fixing types

All our safes are supplied with a set of fixings suitable for use with that model. However, they are not suitable for all substrates, so you may have to source alternatives. You can buy alternative fixings from Burton Safes. If you choose to source your own, please ensure that you use the same diameter of fixing and the standard bolt supplied with your safe. Ensure it has a tensile strength of 800N/mm<sup>2</sup> (8.8). In addition, it is recommended to also use 2 steel washers with a Vickers Hardness of 300HV. For M10 & M12 bolts these should have an outer diameter of 24mm and for M16 bolts they should have an outer diameter of 30mm.

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## We recommend the following fixing bolt types for the following substrates:

Concrete: Concrete screw or high performance concrete thunder bolt  
Brick or solid block: Thunder bolt  
Natural stone: Thunder bolt or high performance concrete screw  
Cracked concrete or stone: Chemical injection system or compound cartridge + a threaded metal bar  
Wood joist: Coach bolt  
Wood floorboard and built in furniture: Coach bolt or rubber rawlnut  
Underfloor heating and tanked surfaces: High strength adhesive system

## Location & quantity of fixing bolts

If you have an EN1143-1/2 certified safe that weighs under 1000kg, you must fix it down using at least one of the pre-fabricated fixing holes. Burton Safes recommends that all safes are fixed, regardless of their weight. Where possible use a minimum of two fixing holes. Using both the base and back fixing holes is also recommended if applicable.

## General advice & tips

Sometimes the place you want your safe located does not afford the best possible fixing. In this case, you should always seek the approval of your insurance company if cover from them is important. It may be worth considering a smaller safe(s) in the most convenient place(s) for daily use. In addition, install a larger safe in a more secure location. Use this larger safe for the storage of less frequently accessed items and to transfer valuables from your smaller safe(s) when your property is vacant overnight or for periods in excess of 24 hours.

Modern adhesives can be very effective alternatives to bolting. It is worth considering their use when you want to increase the security of a bolted safe or, bolting is not possible due to the circumstances of your property. The downside of gluing is that it will be difficult to move your safe at a later date. Although it is possible, adhesive should be a last resort.

Chemical fixings are a good option if you want to increase the security of a fixing and/or, you are unsure about the quality of the substrate that you are fixing into.

Where possible, avoid fixing into hollow blockwork, stud walling, floorboards and wooden furniture. If no alternatives exist, we recommend you try to use additional measures to protect the safe. Contact Burton Safes or your supplying stockist for further advice.

When fitting a safe into a cupboard you sometimes need to raise the height of the safe to enable access. In this case we recommend purchasing a specially fabricated steel plinth for the best security and safety.

If you don't have any solid substrates to fix to, consider having a concrete plinth place your safe onto.

Under some circumstances it is beneficial to retro fit additional fixing holes into your safe. This could technically invalidate any product certification but, in practice can increase the security of your fitted product. In all cases it is very important that this work is only carried out by Burton Safes and that you consult your insurance company in advance to seek their prior approval.

Any safes offering certified fire protection should not have additional fixing holes added, as it will create an additional space for heat ingress and void the fire protection.

## Burton Safes has the following standard fixing kits available for sale:

Regular fixing kit (choose from concrete, masonry or wood):

Chemical fixing kit:

Adhesive fixing kit:

Steel plinths H100mm-H500:

Steel plinths H550-H1000:

A range of alternative fixings are available on request

**Please call or email our installations team if you need any help or advice regarding your safe installation**  
**Burton Safes are able to offer a full installation service throughout the UK, Europe and many other locations globally. For pricing and availability in your area please call our installations team on +44 (0)1484 663388 or email [enquiries@burtonsecurity.com](mailto:enquiries@burtonsecurity.com)**



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