

# Nail it!

Even the most experienced DIYer needs reminding of the best tools for the job. Eureka DIY's expert, Fritz Ferreira, explains some of the uses of nails and how to identify your clouts from your pins.



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## Cut steel nail

Cut nails are designed for general use and are manufactured from mild steel plate. They grip better than wire nails because of their unique profile.

### Uses

These nails are for general use on wooden door frames, for boat building, on rail tracks and for restoration projects.



## Panel pin

Panel pins are thinner than clout nails and are light with a narrow-headed profile.

### Uses

Used to fix plywood or hardboard.



## Top tip:

Keeping your nails sorted and labelled will prevent waste and frustration when you come to use them.



## Fluted flat masonry nail

These nails are hardened to be driven into concrete and the flute gives the nail more grip.

### Uses

Used for fixing plywood subfloor sheathing and also to secure carpet tack strips before carpet installation.



## Semi-clout nail

As with galvanized clout nails, semi-clout nails can be used both indoors and outdoors. These nails have a bigger head diameter, so that the head of the nail doesn't pull through.

### Uses

They are commonly used for indoor projects such as making and repairing furniture, building cabinets, constructing counter-tops and for attaching insulation boards.



## Roof nail and seal

Roofing nails have short threads and a spiral shank to assist in grabbing the wood sheathing that is usually installed under roofing materials. It helps prevent the nail from popping out or becoming loose. The seal compliments the screw by keeping this application watertight.

### Uses

Roofing nails keep your IBR or corrugated roof sheathing secure and locked in place against the elements.



## Galvanized clout nail

These nails are used both indoors and out, with the galvanizing making the nail more rust-resistant.

### Uses

Clout nails are commonly used for indoor projects such as making and repairing furniture, building cabinets, constructing counter-tops and attaching insulation boards. They can also be used to attach thin siding and panelling, or when installing ceilings and partitions.



## Top tip:

Use top speed screws, along with bonded washers, for a solution when replacing old roof nails.



## Serrated clout nail

As their name suggests, serrated clout nails have a serrated edge under the head which is designed to give the nail extra grip.

### Uses

Serrated clout nails are commonly used for indoor projects such as making and repairing furniture, building cabinets, constructing counter-tops and attaching insulation boards. They can also be used to attach thin siding and panelling, or when installing ceilings and partitions.



# DIY 101: NAILS

## Oval nail

Oval nail heads reduce the risk of splitting the timber when driven in the direction of the wood grain.

### Uses

These are for joinery applications where appearance is important.



## Brass-plated escutcheon pin

This is a decorative nail with a round, domed head made of steel and plated with brass.

### Uses

Escutcheon pins are used for fastening escutcheons, label-card holders or other decorative hardware-to-wood surfaces.



## Wire nail

Wire nails are mass-produced by cutting coils of wire and are cheaper to buy in bulk quantities. They are among the most common of nails.

### Uses

Used when fixing timber battens, wood-to-wood in boards, pallets and roof trusses.



## Upholstery tack

Upholstery tacks are designed to be used with upholstery and for decorative purposes

### Uses

Upholstery tacks are used to secure upholstery onto wooden furniture frames.



## Masonry nail

These are hardened heavy-duty nails that can be driven into concrete or plaster.

### Uses

They are suitable for driving into concrete and bricks, for hanging pictures or for fastening metal plate to concrete.



## Blue cut tack

There are two types of blue cut tacks, namely the round-headed tack and the flat-headed tack.

### Uses

The round-headed tack is ideal for securing upholstery onto furniture and is more of a decorative fixer than the flat-headed tack, which is ideal for fixing soles to shoes.



The team at Eureka has years of combined DIY experience and knowledge. They understand that DIY can be both challenging and rewarding and are willing to offer advice to readers on [www.eureka.co.za](http://www.eureka.co.za) or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone.

