



CHOOSING THE RIGHT DRILL FOR THE JOB

Most jobs can be done using a simple **rotary drill**. It can be used for **wood** and **plywood**. It can also be used for **drywall**, **plaster**, **copper** and **steel**. Of course, you need to have the right drill bits too.

What about for harder materials like **brick** and **concrete**? A hammer drill works well for **blocks**, **brick**, **mortar** and **stone**. A **rotary hammer** works best for materials like **concrete** and **cement**.

Sometimes the terms hammer drill and rotary hammer are used to mean the same tool. However, a hammer drill chips away at the material. A rotary hammer pounds away at it to make a hole.

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What are some materials electricians work with on the job?
- 2 What are some tools electricians might need to work with those materials?

Reading

2 Read the trade magazine article. Then, complete the table using information from the article.

Drill Type	Material
Rotary drill	1 _____
Hammer drill	2 _____
Rotary hammer	3 _____

Vocabulary

3 Write a word that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

- 1 The substance that comes from trees was rotting. rotting
_ _ o _ d _
- 2 Reddish brown metal pipes are often found in old homes. reddish brown
_ _ p _ e _
- 3 The ceiling was covered in a thin coat of a mixture of lime, sand and water. mixture of lime, sand and water
p _ _ s _ _ r _
- 4 I tried drilling the mixture used to hold bricks or stones together but the drill bit broke. mixture used to hold bricks or stones together
_ _ r _ _ f _
- 5 The workers used a mixture of ground limestone and clay for the outside of the building. mixture of ground limestone and clay
c _ _ _ n _

4 Match the words (1-7) with the definitions (A-G).

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 _ block | 4 _ brick | 7 _ concrete |
| 2 _ stone | 5 _ plywood | |
| 3 _ steel | 6 _ drywall | |

- A a board made of plaster and covered in paper
B a metal that is made from combining iron and carbon
C a piece of material that is solid with flat surfaces on each side
D a board made of thin layers of wood glued together
E a hard material made with cement, small stones, sand and water
F a block of clay that is baked until it is hard
G the hard substance rocks are made from

5 Listen and read the trade magazine article. What is the difference between a rotary hammer and a hammer drill?

Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between an experienced and a new electrician. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 _ The floor is made of cement.
- 2 _ The man needs a rotary hammer.
- 3 _ The woman lends the man a tool.

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Experienced Electrician: You 1 _____ through this concrete floor.

New Electrician: I'm not sure what to use, though. Can you help me 2 _____?

Experienced Electrician: Well, you don't want to use a regular 3 _____ on concrete.

New Electrician: So, I need a 4 _____ or rotary hammer, then.

Experienced Electrician: You're on the right track.

New Electrician: Hammer drills are better for 5 _____, right?

Experienced Electrician: Yes. So, what do you need?

New Electrician: I need to use a rotary hammer. But I don't have one in my 6 _____.

Experienced Electrician: You can borrow mine.

Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

- I'm not sure ...
You don't want to use ...
Hammer drills are better for ...

Student A: You are a new electrician. Talk to Student B about:

- what you need to drill through
- which drill you should use
- whether you have the right drill

Student B: You are an experienced electrician. Talk to Student A about what he or she needs to do.

Writing

9 Use the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the electrician's notes about what to use to drill through the floor.

Electrician's Notes

Type of Material to be Drilled: _____

Possible Drills to Use: _____

Which Drill to Use and Why: _____