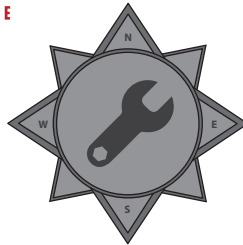


FINDING A STUD

When you are doing work throughout the house, there are some important but simple safety things to consider.

Behind every wall, there are studs that create the strength in the wall. Knowing where these are is essential for building and home repair.

FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



EARN THIS NUGGET

- If you don't have a stud-finder at home, find a family member or friend who has one and experiment with using it.
- Identify three studs. Use the stud-finder around an electrical outlet to identify the direction of the electrical wires behind the sheetrock.

LEVEL 1

PERIOD 1

TASK 1

The walls in the average American home are only made of sheetrock or drywall. This is an inexpensive building material, but it is not very strong. This is where the studs come in. They are spaced out along the wall, usually made of 2 x 4 wood and the sheetrock is attached to these.

If you want to hang a shelf on the wall, you really want to know where the stud is and screw the shelf supports into that. If you just try to attach it to the sheetrock, the chances are that it will tear out of the wall almost immediately. Then you have some frustrating home repairs to do, before you try to hang that shelf again.

Now, there is hardware designed to drill straight into the sheetrock and make it stronger. The trouble is you don't want to use that hardware on a section of sheetrock that is in front of a stud. So whichever way you go, you'll need to know where the studs are.

A stud-finder is a small and simple-to-use device that you slide along the wall. It will beep and light up when it detects a stud. Then you can mark the edges of the studs. A good stud finder has the added safety protection of detecting electrical wires. So it will warn you if you are going to drill into an area with electrical wires.

This is a safety device that every home should have.

Whether you are hanging a shelf or screwing an anchor into the wall, you can do it safely and know you have the item firmly attached to the wall.

