



Museum Textile Services

Installing a Slat onto a Wall

Textile slats, whether Velcro or magnetic, are easy to install yourself, as long as you understand what kind of walls you have. Drywall anchors work well in most walls when your screw doesn't align with a stud. Plaster walls sometimes need a more sophisticated anchor. You can buy either from a hardware store. This task, like many, is easier with a second person to help.

- Decide how far down from the ceiling you want your textile to hang, e.g. 36" down.
- Hold the slat up to the wall at the desired location. Double check that the slat is parallel to the ceiling before proceeding. Place a pencil dot in the pre-drilled holes of the slat. These dots now correspond to where you will place your anchors/screws.
- Using a drill, make a pilot hole at each of the dots that is narrower than the shaft of your anchor, if you are using one.
- Using a screw driver or screw gun, drive wall anchors into your three pilot holes. They should be flush to the wall when you are finished.
- Holding your slat up to the wall, insert a screw through one hole in the slat and drive it into the first anchor until it is flush. Proceed until all of your screws are installed.
- You have room for error on a Velcro slat because you can adjust the Velcro for an optimal hang. For a magnetic slat, however, you want to be as accurate as possible because the metal strip inserted into the sleeve on the back of your textile will sit in the lip of the magnetic slat.