

## Making holes in steel using a tungsten carbide hole cutter

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1

Most holes are already pre-punched in steel framing by the fabricator, however, there may be times when you need to make extra holes on site. Tungsten carbide cutting tools are recommended for their cutting accuracy.



2

Tungsten carbide is a chemical compound containing equal parts of tungsten and carbon. In its most basic form it is a fine grey powder, but can be pressed and formed into shapes for use in industrial machinery and tools.



3

The tungsten carbide compound, that makes the cutting tool, is more dense than steel so can withstand higher temperatures than standard high-speed steel tools. With correct use, tungsten carbide tools will have a longer life span than conventional hole saws.



4

Remember to use lubricants when cutting to enhance tool life, increase the efficiency of the cutting action and make it easier on your battery.




5

The cutting efficiency of the tungsten carbide cutters makes them very suitable for large penetration holes. See *Making penetration holes using a tungsten carbide cutter*.



6

 As with any hole cutting action, swarf will be created. It's important to remove swarf to avoid the risk of corrosion. For a professional result, clean off any swarf on the metal surface – a good magnet will easily and quickly pick up swarf from a base plate.

### Work safely with steel

BlueScope Steel recommends safety precautions are taken when working with steel – protect yourself with long sleeves, steel-capped boots, gloves and safety glasses and ensure you have the right tool for the job.

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