

Sureline® TECH-TIPS

Practical tips for customers working with SURELINE® steel poles.

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Tips for drilling steel

SURELINE® steel poles can be easily drilled in-the-field using steel drill bits.

Drilling it is best carried out using a variable speed drill.



Drilling steel

Drilling holes greater than 8mm in diameter with a standard steel drill bit should be done in stages. For example if a hole size of 22mm is required, start by using a 7mm drill bit followed by a 14mm bit before stepping up to the final 22mm diameter bit.

Alternatively, tapered drill bits or unibits can be used for drilling. Commonly used sizes to accommodate most in-field needs are 8mm - 16mm and 4mm - 22mm.



Unibit or tapered drill bit



Where operators are planning to put a bolt directly through the pole, templates are available to accommodate each pole diameter in the range. Using the correct template will provide accurate positioning for through-holes.

Using a water-based cutting compound will assist with drilling.

When a hole is drilled operators should wipe the steel swarf away with a clean cloth.



Swarf on pole post drilling

Apply a zinc rich paint to any newly drilled hole to touch-up the raw edges of steel and protect against corrosion.

If the hole is required for use at a later date, use plastic plugs to seal the hole. These are available from BlueScope Steel.



Zinc rich paint used on the new hole and plastic plug fitted to seal the hole.