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Know the proper nail for the job before you tackle that project

That to do the job right you need the right tools.

And that rule applies to everything from elaborate power tools right down to the nails you use to hold it all together. In fact, nails come in all shapes and sizes and each kind has its own purpose. The do-it-your-self experts at Home Hardware offer the following quick lesson on nails.

The part of the nail that's driven into the wood is called the shank and it determines the nail's holding power. A plain nail is fine for a project where the nail doesn't need to hold much in place, but for additional hold, use a barbed nail that has indents on the shank. On tougher jobs, use a threaded nail for maximum holding power.

There are three kinds of threaded nails and the one you chose depends on the material at hand:

- For softwoods such as plywood, or drywall, use annular threaded nails. These nails separate the wood fibres that lock into the rings to resist removal.
- For hardwoods, such as flooring, siding and rafters, use spiral threaded (or screw) nails that turn as they are driven into the wood.
- For masonry and mortar use a nail with vertical threads to cut through the masonry and minimize cracking.

Now you can sound like a prowhen asking for a box of nails! Visit your local Home Hardware, Home Building Centre and Home Hardware Building Centre stores for all your home renovating and repair needs.

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