

Mirror & Artwork Hanging Checklist (Free Printable PDF)

Print this, tape it beside the wall and work down it. Every line is a decision people usually make by eye — wall type, fixing rating, safe zones, hook height — and getting each one right in order is the difference between a mirror that sits level for ten years and a repair job.

1. Before you buy a single fixing

- ☐ Weigh the piece on bathroom scales, holding it and subtracting your own weight if it is awkward.
- ☐ Write the weight on a sticky note and keep it with you — every fixing choice comes from this number.
- ☐ Knock the wall: hollow drumming = plasterboard or lath; dull and dead = solid masonry.
- ☐ Push a drawing pin in by thumb — it enters plasterboard, refuses on brick or block.
- ☐ Check for dot-and-dab: hollow sound on an external or party wall usually means board dabbed onto blockwork.
- ☐ Measure the wall area and note anything within 300 mm: sockets, switches, radiators, boxing-in.

2. Choose the fixing (halve every rating)

- ☐ Work to roughly half the fixing's stated maximum load, never the headline figure.
- ☐ Solid brick or block: 7 mm masonry plug with a 5 x 60 mm screw.
- ☐ Plasterboard on studs: 5 x 60 mm woodscrew straight into the timber wherever possible.
- ☐ Plasterboard, no stud, over 10 kg: metal spring toggle or self-drilling metal anchor.
- ☐ Dot-and-dab: through-fixing (Corefix type) that reaches the blockwork behind the cavity.
- ☐ Lath and plaster: fix into the lath timbers or a stud, never into plaster alone.
- ☐ Anything over 25 kg: French cleat or two-plus fixings spread across studs.
- ☐ Bathroom or damp room: stainless or zinc-plated screws and corrosion-resistant anchors.

3. Work out the height before you mark anything

- ☐ Target centre of the piece at 145–152 cm from the finished floor.
- ☐ Over furniture: leave a 15–25 cm gap between the furniture top and the frame bottom.
- ☐ Hook height = floor-to-centre + (frame height ÷ 2) – hardware drop when taut.
- ☐ Fit the D-rings or hardware to the frame first, then measure the distance between them.
- ☐ Draw one light horizontal pencil line with a spirit level and mark both holes on it.
- ☐ Step back and check the line against door heads, picture rails and window reveals.

4. Safety checks — do not skip

- ☐ Scan with a detector in metal AND live-cable modes, in a cross pattern 30 cm around each mark.
- ☐ Treat the 150 mm band below the ceiling and beside every internal corner as a cable route.
- ☐ Treat the vertical and horizontal zones running from every socket and switch as live.
- ☐ Extra care above and below kitchens and bathrooms, where pipework runs.
- ☐ Safety glasses on before the drill spins; masking tape over tile to stop the bit skating.
- ☐ If in any doubt about a reading, move the fixing rather than risking the hole.

5. Drill, fix and hang

- ☐ Wrap tape round the bit at fixing length plus 10 mm and drill to depth, not by feel.
- ☐ Hammer action ON for masonry, OFF for plasterboard, tile and lath.
- ☐ Tape a folded envelope under the hole to catch the dust.
- ☐ Plugs flush with the surface — not proud, not sunk.
- ☐ Toggles fully deployed behind the board: tug the screw gently before loading it.
- ☐ Leave 4–5 mm of screw head standing proud so the D-ring seats on the shank.
- ☐ Two people for anything over 15 kg; lift with the glass face towards you.
- ☐ Seat both rings, then level by adjusting one hook rather than tilting the frame.

6. Final checks before you tidy up

- ☐ Press firmly down on the top edge with your palm and listen for creaking or movement.
- ☐ Check level across the top with a spirit level, not by eye.
- ☐ Fit self-adhesive rubber bumpers to the bottom corners to stop marking and drifting.
- ☐ Re-check level after 24 hours — settling reveals an under-rated fixing early.
- ☐ Photograph the fixing positions before the piece goes back on, for future reference.
- ☐ Stop and call a professional for: over 40 kg, glass over head height, stairwells, or any wall you cannot identify.

Rather have it hung for you? Fixed prices, DBS-checked fitters and £5m public liability cover — get a quote at helloservices.co.uk/quote or read the full guide at helloservices.co.uk/blog/how-to-hang-mirrors-and-artwork