

# Drill Press Speed Limits

If your drill bits are sharp, but you're experiencing tear-out when drilling holes, there's a good chance that the drill press speed is set too slow. There are several factors that determine the proper drilling speed, including the size and type of bit, plus the density of the material being drilled. The chart below provides a range of drill press speeds that should work well.

Type of Drill Bit	Size of Drill Bit	Hardwood Speed (rpm)	Softwood Speed (rpm)
Brad Point	1/8" - 1/4"	1000	2000
	3/8" - 1/2"	750	1800
	5/8" - 3/4"	375	1600
	7/8" - 1"	250	1000
Forstner	1/4" - 3/8"	750	2200
	1/2" - 5/8"	500	2000
	3/4" - 1"	500	1600
	1 1/8" - 1 1/4"	250	1000
	1 3/8" - 2"	250	500
	2 1/8" - 3"	250	250
Spade Bit	1/4" - 5/8"	1800	2200
	3/4" - 1"	1600	1800
	1 1/4" - 1 1/2"	1200	1600
Countersink	Fluted	1000	1200
	Shearcutting	800	1000