

Protex Wall Safe Installation Guide

Overview

Wall safes provide secure storage for documents, cash, valuables in residential or commercial applications. Installation requires structural assessment, proper framing, and appropriate anchoring. This guide covers installation procedures.

Stud Spacing Standards

Standard wall framing: 16 inches on-center (OC). Some older buildings: 24 inches OC. Measure between studs to verify spacing. Between-stud models fit exactly in standard 16-inch spacing (actual width 14 inches nominal).

Between-Stud Installation

Between-stud models fit existing wall cavity without structural modification. Locate wall studs using stud finder. Verify no electrical, plumbing within cavity. Cut drywall opening matching safe width. Insert safe between studs. Anchor through flanges to studs.

Mounting Hardware

Protex safes include: anchoring bolts, lag screws, mounting flange. Heavy safes (100+ lbs) require ½-inch bolts into studs. Light safes: smaller anchors sufficient. Never mount to drywall only—always bolt to wooden studs or masonry.

Recessed Installation Depth

Safes project 2-4 inches from wall surface. Interior finishes accommodate projection: trim around safe, drywall patch, painting. Plan finish approach before installation. Document safe location for future drywall modifications.

Fire Rating Considerations

Fire-rated safes (1-hour rating typical): Perform additional function during fires. Installation: Do not insulate around safe—insulation blocks fire protection design. Ensure room temperature control prevents safe exterior from exceeding design parameters.

Concealment Options

Hide safe behind picture frame, tapestry, or false wall panel. Concealment deters casual theft but does not prevent determined attack. Document safe location in facility records. Avoid obvious locations (bedroom nightstand, office wall).

Anchoring to Masonry

Concrete/brick walls: Use concrete anchors, expansion bolts, lag shields. Drill pilot holes first. Anchor spacing matches stud installation (16-inch OC principle). Verify anchor holding power (safe weight ÷ number of anchors).