

How to Attach Hardware Cloth

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The name hardware cloth is a bit of a misnomer, since it is actually made of metal. The cloth comes in a roll and is made of thin-gauge wire that is welded together to form a mesh with tiny square openings throughout. It is used for a variety of purposes, including constructing animal cages and closing up openings in buildings, among others. Attaching the hardware cloth to the installation surface requires only basic tools.



(Dale Davidson/Demand Media)

Things You'll Need

- Tin snips
- Hammer
- Heavy work gloves

- Drill (optional)
- Masonry drill bit (optional)
- Tape measure
- Marker
- U-shaped hardware tacks
- 1/4-inch masonry screws (optional)

Measure the location where you are installing the hardware cloth with a tape measure to determine the proper length and width. Unroll the hardware cloth on the ground and use a black marker to draw the dimensions on it.



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Cut the hardware cloth using a pair of tin snips and following the marker lines.



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Hold the hardware cloth in the installation location and place a U-shaped hardware tack at the top edge so that it straddles one of the vertical wires. Tap the tack with a hammer until it is flush with the installation surface. Repeat the process to insert tacks every 4 to 5 inches along the top of the hardware cloth.



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Continue installing tacks along all edges of the hardware cloth to secure it to the surface.



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Tips & Warnings

- If the installation surface is made of concrete or masonry, drill 1/2-inch deep holes into the surface using a drill with a masonry bit. Then hold the hardware cloth in place and secure it with 1/4-inch masonry screws inserted with a screwdriver. Make sure the heads of the screws press down tightly on the mesh wires instead of in the square holes.
- Secure hardware cloth to metal poles and pipes with cable ties.
- The cut ends of hardware cloth are very sharp, so always wear heavy work gloves when handling it.