



How To Use A Spirit Level

A spirit level is a precision instrument and will not perform its delicate work if abused. Don't use it to bang in nails. Use a hammer.

The level is used to create perfectly horizontal and/or vertical planes. Some men will even establish a perfect 45-degree angle to the perpendicular; but that is rarely used by the layman.

The following practice recipe will show you how to test the accuracy of a level and, at the same time, instruct you in most of its uses. It is advisable that you perform these tests at the hardware store, before you purchase.

The ideal level for home use is approximately 18" inches long with double spirit level tubes at every opening on the face.

Utensils
Spirit level

Ingredients
*Several pieces of thin cardboard
Roll of masking tape*

1. Set level on tabletop. Any table will do.
2. Check the spirit tubes, and you'll notice that two lines have been drawn on each one (Fig. 11A).
3. If the bubble is to the right of the two lines, then place a piece of cardboard beneath the left end. If bubble is to the left of the lines, place cardboard beneath right end.
4. Keep adding or removing cardboard until bubble is centered between the two lines (Fig. 11 B).
5. Once the bubble is centered, turn the level over on the other side and rest it on the cardboard pieces already in place (Fig. 11 C). The bubble should still be in center.
6. Now turn level around and replace over cardboard. Bubble should still be centered. If the bubble has shifted in any of the changed positions, that means that the level is defective and must not be purchased.
7. Now lay the narrow edge of the level against the wall. If the bubble leans toward the wall, cardboard must be placed beneath the bottom end of the level and taped in place. If the bubble leans away from the wall, cardboard must be taped at the top end of the level. Adjust until bubble is centered.

8. Now turn level over and test again. Bubble should be centered.
9. Now turn level around and test once again. Bubble should still be centered.
10. If bubble is not in between the lines when the level is shifted around, this indicates that the vertical calibration of the tool is not in working order.

