



Selection, Design & Installation Basics

Joining Methods - Threaded Connections

Joining Method - Threaded Connections

Threaded connections require the application of a thread sealant that is compatible with PVC and CPVC material. Spears® recommends the use of Spears® Blue 75™ Thread Sealant.

CAUTION - Use only thread sealants recommended for PVC or CPVC plastic. Other joint compounds or pastes may contain substances that could cause stress cracks in PVC or CPVC materials.

Apply sealant to the male threads only. Make sure all threads are covered. **DO NOT** clog the waterway with excess sealant. If PTFE tape must be used, Spears® recommends a thickness of at least .0025" that meets or exceeds military specification, MIL-T-27730A. **DO NOT** use a combination of tape and thread sealant on the same joint. Apply PTFE tape in the direction of the threads by starting with the first full thread and continuing over the entire thread length. Make sure all threads are covered. Generally, 2 - 3 wraps are sufficient to produce a watertight connection

DO NOT over-torque any threaded connections. Generally, one to two turns beyond finger-tight are required for a threaded connection. Use a smooth-jawed wrench or strap wrench when installing threaded connections.

Threading Pipe

PVC and CPVC pipe can be threaded using either standard hand pipe stocks or power-operated equipment. Since rigid PVC plastic pipe has the same outside diameter as standard steel pipe in comparable sizes, standard steel pipe taps and dies can be used. A cut thread or deep scratch results in a stress concentration point. As a result, only Schedule 80 and Schedule 120 pipe should be threaded. A 50% pressure de-rating is applied to threaded pipe to compensate for this. **DO NOT** thread Schedule 40 pipe. For optimum results in threading, use new taps and dies; but in any case, they should be cleaned and sharpened and in good condition. Power threading machines should be fitted with dies having a 5° negative front rake and ground especially for this type of pipe; tapered guide sleeves are not required. For hand stocks the dies should have a negative front rake of 5° to 10°. Dies which have been designed for use on brass or copper pipes may be used successfully. Carboly dies give longer service. (Taps should be ground with a 0° to 10° negative rake, depending upon the size and pitch of the thread. Die chasers should have a 33° chamfer on the lead; a 10° front or negative rake; and a

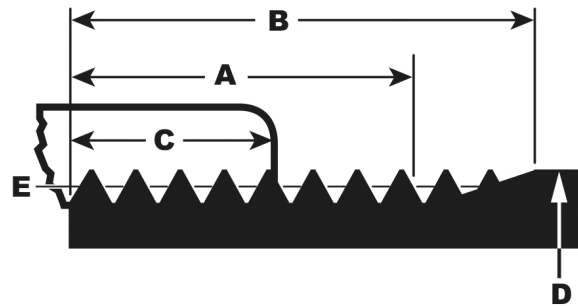
5° rake on the back or relief edge.). Self-opening die heads and collapsible taps, power threading machines and a slight chamfer to lead the tap or dies will speed production; however, taps and dies should not be driven at high speeds or with heavy pressure.

A tapered plug should be inserted into the pipe when threading, to hold the pipe round and to prevent the die from distorting and digging into the pipe wall. This ensures uniform thread depth all the way around. Pipe for threading should be held in a suitable pipe vise, but saw-tooth jaws should not be used. Flanges and close nipples should be threaded in jigs or tapping fixtures. To prevent crushing or scoring the pipe, some type of protective wrap, such as canvas, emery paper, or a light metal sleeve should be used; rounding of chuck jaws will also be helpful. Rigid PVC or CPVC plastic pipe should be threaded without use of lubricants. Standard cutting oils can cause stress cracking in plastics and should not be used. Water-soluble oil or plain water is recommended. Degreasing with any solvents is not recommended, nor should solvents be used in any cleanup. Always clear cuttings from the die.

DO NOT OVER THREAD - To obtain a tight, leak proof joint, the thread dimensions shown in the table should be used. If pipe is over threaded, fittings cannot be run on far enough to make a tight seal.

American National Standards Institute Code B1.20.1 covers dimensions and tolerances for tapered pipe threads. **Only Schedule 80 or heavier wall pipe should be threaded.**

Angle between sides of thread is 60 degrees. Taper of thread, on diameter, is 3/4 inch per foot. The basic thread depth is 0.8 x pitch of thread and the crest and root are truncated an amount equal to 0.033 x pitch, excepting 8 threads per inch which have a basic depth of 0.788 x pitch and are truncated 0.045 x pitch at the crest and 0.033 x pitch at the root.



PIPE THREADS

Nominal Size (in.) (Max.) (In.)	Outside Diameter (in.) D	Number of Threads Per Inch	Normal Engagement By Hand (in.) C	Length of Effective Thread (in.) A	Total Length: End of pipe to vanish point (in.) B	Pitch Diameter at end of Internal Thread (in.) E	Depth of Thread (Max.) (in.)
1/8	0.405	27	0.180	0.2639	0.3924	0.37476	0.02963
1/4	0.540	18	0.228	0.4018	0.5946	0.49163	0.04444
3/8	0.675	18	0.240	0.4078	0.6006	0.62701	0.04444
1/2	0.840	14	0.320	0.5337	0.7815	0.77843	0.05714
3/4	1.050	14	0.339	0.5457	0.7935	0.98887	0.05714
1	1.315	11-1/2	0.400	0.6828	0.9845	1.23863	0.06957
1-1/4	1.660	11-1/2	0.420	0.7068	1.0085	1.58338	0.06957
1-1/2	1.900	11-1/2	0.420	0.7235	1.0252	1.82234	0.06957
2	2.375	11-1/2	0.436	0.7565	1.0582	2.29627	0.06957
2-1/2	2.875	8	0.682	1.1375	1.5712	2.76216	0.10000
3	3.500	8	0.766	1.2000	1.6337	3.38850	0.10000
4	4.500	8	0.844	1.3000	1.7337	4.38713	0.10000
5	5.563	8	0.937	1.4063	1.8400	5.44929	0.10000
6	6.625	8	0.958	1.5125	1.9462	6.50597	0.10000



Which Threaded Joint Sealant to Use?

- Tape sealants are more susceptible to improper installation
- Paste sealants are more likely to contain incompatible chemicals
- Either type – Paste or Tape – must be properly used but **NEVER** use both!
- Do not use paste or tape on Gasket Sealed Head Adapters

*The Best Choice
For Threaded Joints*

Spears® Recommends a **Compatible Paste**

Paste-type thread sealants fill the threads better than tape. Application is less critical, as long as the sealant is compatible with the particular plastic used. Some “pipe dopes” and pastes can cause chemical stress cracking. Spears® **BLUE 75™** thread sealant has been specially formulated and tested for use with these plastic piping components.



The Problem with Using TFE Tape Sealants

TFE tape sealants require special attention on application. Failure to follow the instructions below can result in female thread breaks due to excessive tape use, difficult assembly due to insufficient tape, leaks due to failure to cover starting threads, and leaks due to incorrectly applied tape that bunches at the thread entrance. Since TFE tape is a really good lubricant, care must be taken not to over-tighten taped joints.

*If You **MUST** Use Tape Sealant, Use It Correctly!*

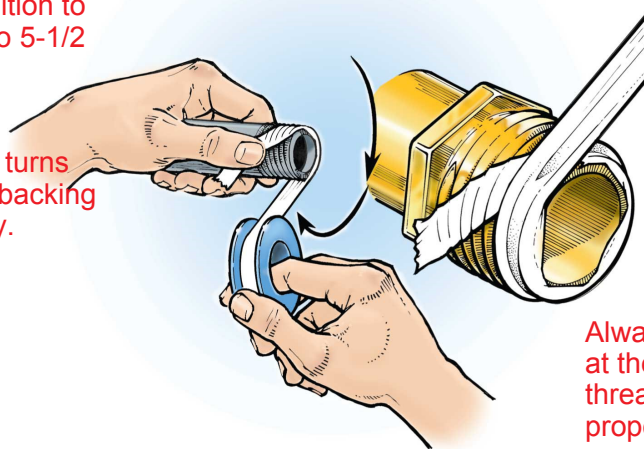
Wrap Tape In Direction of Threads
(clockwise for right-hand thread):

- For Head Adapters, use **ONLY 2-3** wraps of tape and tighten to specified torque.
- For Female Adapter transition to metal pipe, use **ONLY 5 to 5-1/2** wraps of tape.

Hold end and pull tape tight into threads

Joint Assembly:

Tighten threaded joints 1-2 turns beyond finger tight. Avoid “backing up” the wrenched assembly. **DO NOT** over-tighten.



Use a TFE Tape Sealant with a minimum thickness of 2.5 mil.

Always cover end of fitting at the start to prevent thread seizing prior to proper joint makeup.