













Pipe Thread Definitions

Checking thread type can be done with a thread gauge. Thread types can also be specified on existing pipe labels, manufacturer specifications or on manufacturer drawings. The specified sealant tape or paste should be used when required for installation.

Definition of Pipe Thread Acronyms

NPT		National Pipe Thread (tapered)	National Pipe Thread Taper (NPT) is a U.S. standard for tapered threads on threaded pipes and fittings. In contrast to straight threads, a taper thread will be tighter and have a fluid/air-tight seal .
FPT		Female Pipe Thread (interchangeable with NPT)	FPT is a term for pipe fittings that MIP (male iron pipe) or MNPT (male national pipe thread) fittings fit into. Female threads are internal located inside of the pipe or fitting.
FIP		Female Iron Pipe (interchangeable with NPT)	FIP, Female Iron Pipe, or Female International Pipe- Similar to FPT, FIP connect NPT pipe together with internal threads.
MPT		Male Pipe Thread (interchangeable with NPT)	National pipe thread connection to an FPT (Female Pipe Thread) or equivalently an FIP (Female Iron Pipe). MPT the threads are located on the outside of the pipe or fitting.
MIP		Male Iron Pipe (interchangeable with NPT)	Male Iron Pipe , a threaded pipe or fitting connection to an FIP or FPT fitting.
PTF		SAE short taper pipe thread	SAE Short is mainly used in low pressure pneumatic and fuel applications.
NPTF		National Pipe Thread Fine (American National taper pipe thread for dry seal pressure tight joints)	National Pipe Thread Fine – also called Dry seal American National Standard Taper Pipe Thread is designed to provide a more leak-free seal without the use of Teflon tape or other sealant compound.
NPSM		National Pipe Straight Mechanical (American National straight pipe thread for mechanical joints)	NPS and NPSM are sometimes used to designate a straight, not tapered, thread for Free-Fitting Mechanical Joints for Fixtures.
NPSI		American National straight intermediate pipe thread	Dry seal American Intermediate Internal Straight Pipe Threads. Threads used with NPTF, has external threads for a dry-seal connection.
GHT		Garden Hose thread	GHT is standard for garden hoses as well as hose bibs, silcocks and fresh water valves on RV's, trailer homes and residential homes.
NST		National Standard Thread (Fire Hose thread)	NST is a thread form used on fire hoses and fire hose connection fittings and nozzles in the USA.
BSPT		British Standard taper pipe thread (metric dimensions)	BSPT is a standard screw thread type that has been adopted world wide, except in the United States where NPT is the standard .



Information sources include WW Grainger

If you are still having difficulty choosing the correct pipe thread, please contact us at askzoro@zoro.com or 855-289-9676

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