

IMPORTANT FAQs

BOSHART
INDUSTRIES

PREMIUM STAINLESS FITTINGS & NIPPLES

CAN STAINLESS STEEL BE USED FOR POTABLE WATER?

Yes! Boshart Stainless Steel fittings are in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and either #304 or #316 can be used for potable water systems. Although stainless steel is not yet listed as an approved material in many North American plumbing codes, most inspectors do not question its use. If in doubt, check with your local inspector.

WHY ARE WALLS THINNER THAN ON GALVANIZED, BRASS, OR BRONZE FITTINGS?

There are several reasons stainless steel fittings do not require the same wall thickness as other materials, some of which are listed below:

- Boshart Stainless Steel fittings are “investment cast” creating a very smooth surface and eliminating the rest of “sand” holes that occur in cast brass, bronze, and galvanized fittings.
- Stainless steel has a very low general corrosion rate in water, so no corrosion allowance is required.
- Stainless steel alloys have extremely high structural strength, enabling these fittings to withstand cracking of pipe threads during assembly.

CAN I USE REGULAR THREAD SEAL TAPE OR PIPE JOINT COMPOUND WHEN INSTALLING?

No. There are specialty tapes and thread seal compounds that must be used to avoid galling or seizing of the threads caused by oxidation. The use of both together is a proven technique for a leak-proof connection.

IS ALL STAINLESS STEEL LEAD FREE?

Typically, #304 and #316 do not contain lead, however lead contamination can occur during the manufacturing process. So it's important to look for the Lead Free symbol or check with your supplier.

Boshart Stainless Steel fittings are certified Lead Free.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN #304 AND #316?

#316 stainless generally has more nickel, less chromium than #304, as well as 2-3% molybdenum added. Therefore, #316 is more corrosion resistant; especially in saline or chloride environments.



CAN ALL STAINLESS STEEL FITTINGS BE USED FOR FOOD PROCESSING?

Depending on the application, #304 may also be suitable for food processing. However, #316 is superior for corrosion resistance with certain foods.

CAN STAINLESS STEEL FITTINGS BE MIXED WITH OTHER MATERIAL IN A PLUMBING SYSTEM?

Yes! Stainless steel fittings can be used with bronze, brass, galvanized steel, and all plastics.

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