



# Using Tape or Paste Sealants With Plastic & Metal Threads

FG-3B-0105

## 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!

*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 Teflon® 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.

Joint Assembly:

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

Hold end and pull tape tight into threads



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.

For Female Adapter Transitions To Metal Pipe:

Torque Requirements For Head Adapter Connections:



**METAL PIPE CONNECTION:**  
Tighten hand-tight plus 1-1/2 to 2 turns.



**SR PLASTIC THREAD:**  
Min. Torque: 5 ft-lbs.  
Max. Torque: 10 ft-lbs.



**METAL THREAD:**  
Min. Torque: 15 ft-lbs.  
Max. Torque: 20 ft-lbs.



**ZINC SR PLASTIC THREAD:**  
Min. Torque: 15 ft-lbs.  
Max. Torque: 20 ft-lbs.