



Stainless Steel Fastener Management and Tips and Tricks Of The Trade For a Successful Installation

JCM Quality Fittings Equipped With 18-8 Stainless Steel Bolts and Nuts

When not properly handled it is the nature of stainless steel fasteners to gall and freeze (seize up). This is due to the inherent properties of the stainless material. Galling and freezing is often triggered by the presence of metal chips, burrs and grains of sand on the threads of the bolts and nuts. Extra care has been taken by JCM prior to assembly and packing of this fitting to assure a trouble-free installation.

1. The nuts and bolts are made from material of different hardness so that they have different strengths.
2. Nuts are coated with a special anti-seize coating. Additional lubricant may be needed. A Molybdenum-Base lubricant is recommended.
3. Each nut is assembled by hand to be sure that it went on the bolt freely.
4. The bolts and nuts are handled carefully to avoid damage to the threads.
5. The bolts and nuts are made to exacting specifications to assure that the correct material is used and that the thread form is correct.

Stainless hardware is especially susceptible to galling. JCM supplies specially coated nuts to eliminate the galling caused by over-torque but the bolt threads must be kept clean, free from nicks and not pitched or thrown into the tool bucket during the installation process. Use of the JCM 901 Master Wrench highly recommended. Use of a calibrated torque wrench is recommended to confirm bolt torque levels have been achieved. Use of pneumatic wrench for installation could cause hardware to seize and is not recommended.

Tricks of the Trade

Years of field experience, special applications and product testing have revealed many subtleties regarding application and installation of bolted fittings. For maximum performance under adverse conditions take advantage of the JCM "Tricks of the Trade."

Lubricate the pipe with soap-water or water. Oil based pipe lubricants produce a film between the gasket and pipe surface that is not water soluble and can interfere with the gasket/pipe watertight seal.

Do not rotate the sleeve on the pipe. Rotation of the sleeve on the pipe can result in the gasket being ripped from the groove and damaging the gasket beyond repair. Some manufacturers recommend rotation - JCM does not.

Tighten the bolts in the sequence provided in the instructions. Fittings are engineered to "load" the gasket in a certain fashion. Instructions provide the "sequence" of tightening bolts. Ensure the gap between sleeve sections is equal on all sides

Confirm bolt torques with a torque wrench. Proper compression of the gasket is critical to the success of the tapping sleeve installation. A torque wrench should be used to ensure recommended levels are achieved. Most field problems are directly related to lack of proper torque levels.

For water applications, proper valve installation, support and trenching per AWWA M-44. Improper assembly support and careless backfilling can sabotage an otherwise perfect installation.