



Joining Method - Flanged Connections

PVC and CPVC flanges are available in several designs, including solid one-piece flanges, two piece Van Stone style flanges featuring a moveable ring for bolt alignment, and blind flanges for capping off a piping run. Flanges are available in socket, spigot and threaded configurations and are coupling devices designed for joining IPS (Iron Pipe Size) plastic piping systems where frequent disassembly may be required, can be used as a transitional fitting for joining plastic to metal piping systems, and for connection to other flanged type valves and equipment. A gasket is used between flanges to form a water-tight seal. Proper gasket material should be selected for fluids compatibility. Most plastic flanges carry a maximum working pressure rating of 150 psi non-shock for water at 73°F. Pressure ratings may vary according to size and construction of the flange. Consult flange manufacturer.

Gaskets

Select appropriate size and bolt pattern gasket. Full faced, 1/8" thick elastomer gaskets with a Shore "A" Durometer of approximately 70 are recommended. Verify that the gasket material is suitable for use with the application fluids.

Bolt Patterns & Selection

Most PVC and CPVC flanges are produced with ANSI B16.5 Bolt Patterns for Class 125/150 flanges. Optional Class 300 bolt patterns (NOT a 300 psi rating), certain ANSI/Metric dual pattern flanges, and metric bolt patterns can be produced. Proper bolt size, number and length should be selected for the specific flanges and equipment being assembled. Bolt length requirements will vary according to the flange or equipment manufacturer. Always use 2-wide flat washers for each bolt, one under the bolt head and one under the nut (do not use thin "fender" washers).

Bolt Torque

Threads should be cleaned and well lubricated (**WARNING:** Use only bolt lubricants compatible with PVC or CPVC material). Actual field conditions may require variations in these recommendations. **UNNECESSARY OVER TORQUING WILL DAMAGE THE FLANGE.** Torque should always be applied in approximately 5 ft.-lb. increments using a 180° opposing sequence.

Flange Make-up

Follow proper solvent cementing and/or threaded component procedures as applicable to join the flange to the pipe. Once a flange is joined to pipe, the method for joining two flanges is as follows:

1. Piping runs joined to the flanges must be installed in a straight line position to the flange to avoid stress at the flange due to misalignment. Piping must also be secured and supported to prevent lateral movement which can create stress and damage the flange.
2. With gasket in place, align the bolt holes of the mating flanges by rotating the ring into position.
3. Insert all bolts, washers (two standard flat washers per bolt), and nuts.
4. Make sure the faces of the mating surfaces are flush against gasket prior to bolting down the flanges.
5. Tighten the nuts by hand until they are snug. Establish uniform pressure over the flange face by tightening the bolts in 5 ft.-lb. increments according to the Torque value shown in the following table using a 180° opposing sequence.

6. Care must be taken to avoid "bending" the flange when joining a Spears® flange to a "raised face" flange, or a wafer-style valve. Do not use bolts to bring together improperly mated flanges.

Recommended Flange Bolt Torque for Plastic Flanges

Flange Size (in.)	No. of Bolt Holes	Bolt Dia. (in.)	Min. Bolt Length (in.) ¹	Torque ft.-lb.
1/2	4	1/2	2	12
3/4	4	1/2	2	12
1	4	1/2	2-1/4	12
1-1/4	4	1/2	2-1/4	12
1-1/2	4	1/2	2-1/2	12
2	4	5/8	3	25
2-1/2	4	5/8	3-1/4	25
3	4	5/8	3-1/4	25
4	8	5/8	3-1/2	25
6	8	3/4	4	40
8	8	3/4	4-1/2	40
10	12	7/8	5	64
12	12	7/8	5	95
14	12	1	6	110
16	16	1	6-1/2	110
18	16	1-1/8	6-1/2	110
20 ²	20	1-1/8	5-1/2	110
24 ²	20	1-1/4	5-1/2	110

Note:

- 1 -Minimum bolt length is based on connecting two (2) Spears® flanges, two flat washers, gasket and nut. Adjustments will need to be made to accommodate valves and other equipment.
- 2 -Bolt Length for Spears® Fabricated 20 inch & 24 inch Flanges with Plastic Rings

Joining Method - Mechanical Grooved Couplings

In many installations where transition to metal pipe, or where disassembly is a prime factor, metallic grooved style couplings with gasket seal can be used to join PVC and CPVC pipe to alternate IPS size piping materials. In addition to the ease of disassembly, this type of connection also allows for a certain degree of angular adjustment and expansion/contraction. Special rolled-groove pipe can be joined, but easy to use molded Grooved Coupling Adapters then can be solvent cemented to plain end pipe are available for use with metallic grooved couplings.

Only flexible style metallic grooved couplings are recommended for use with plastic pipe. Rigid style couplings should not be used as these can provide a compressive/shear load to plastic pipe resulting in failure. Always check the compatibility of the grooved coupling gasket material with the intended application fluids.

•NOTE A gasket/joint lubricant is recommended to prevent pinching the gasket and to assist the seating and alignment processes during assembly of grooved couplings. Certain lubricants may contain a petroleum base or other chemicals, which will cause damage to the plastic pipe, gasket and adapter. Always verify the suitability for use of the selected lubricant with the lubricant manufacturer.