

Sheet Metal Screw Application Guide

Tip: Set your PDF viewer to "Actual size" before printing to maintain scale.

Material	Gauge/Thickness	Recommended Type	Notes
Light Gauge Sheet Metal	18-26 gauge (thin)	Type A, Type AB, Tek 1, Tek 2	Coarse threads, sharp point, truss head prevents pull-through
Medium to Heavy Gauge	14-18 gauge (medium)	Type B, Type AB, Tek 2, Tek 3	May need pilot hole, finer threads for holding
Structural Steel	7-11 gauge (thick)	Type 17, Type 23, Tek 3, Tek 4	Thread cutting reduces stress, hex head for high torque
Stainless Steel	Any gauge	Type 17, Type 23, Stainless screws	Use stainless to prevent corrosion, thread cutting prevents galling
Aluminum & Soft Metals	Any gauge	Type A, Type AB, Al or SS screws	Avoid galvanic corrosion, don't over-tighten
Plastics & Composites	Any thickness	Type AB, Type 25 (if brittle)	Thread cutting for brittle, don't over-tighten

CRITICAL: Avoid Over-Tightening! Strips threads, cracks materials (especially plastics), and reduces holding power.

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