

FIRE HOSE THREAD GUIDE

NH/NST vs NPSH

The most frequently used fire hoses today come with NH/NST or NPSH threads.

- The most common thread type in use by fire departments today is NST or National Standard Thread and is often referred to as “fire hose thread”. NST also goes by the initials NH or National Hose and may even be referred to as NHT or National Hose Thread, but NST or NH is more common these days. NH = NST.
- Fire hoses with National Pipe Straight Hose Thread (NPSH) have the same threads per inch as National Pipe Thread (NPT) but the threads do not taper. This allows a female coupling to thread onto a NPT fitting without being a permanent connection.
- Both NH/NST and NPSH are “straight” threads which means the threads are consistent from tip to collar and the seal is made via the gasket inside the female coupling mating against the square face of the male coupling. The threads do not make the seal, they merely hold the two fittings tightly together.
- The female and male side of a fire hose coupling with NH/NST threads will only connect to fittings, nozzles or hoses with NH/NST threads. For example, a fire hose with NH/NST threaded couplings will require a nozzle with NH/NST threads.
- The female side of a fire hose coupling with NPSH threads will connect to fittings or hoses with NPSH or NPT threads. For example, a female fire hose coupling with NPSH threads will connect to a PVC pipe, metal pipe or couplings with NPSH threads.
- The male side of a fire hose coupling with NPSH threads will only connect to fittings, nozzles or hoses with NPSH threads. It will NOT thread into a female NPT pipe. For example, a male fire hose coupling with NPSH threads will require a nozzle with NPSH threads.

Note: Some fire departments and industrial locations in the United States have special threaded fire hoses that will not work with either NH/NST or NPSH.