

CopperPress® FAQ's



How does a CopperPress® fitting seal?

A special tool physically “presses” the fitting onto the tube creating a mechanically sound joint. Hydraulic tightness is insured by an o-ring seal.

How does a press fitting compare to other joining methods?

Simply put, press fit technology allows tubes to be joined mechanically without threading or soldering. This means no solvents, thread sealants, or open flames are required. Pressing is a comparably fast joining method requiring less technical skill to install than other means. Press installations typically costs 30% - 50% less than those made with other joining methods due to labor and auxiliary material savings, and the joints made are clean and professional looking every time.

What type of tubing should be used with CopperPress® fittings?

CopperPress® fittings are designed to be used with ASTM B88 Type K, L and M copper tubing in the hard-drawn condition ½” – 4” and soft copper tubing in sizes ½” to 1¼”.

Where can CopperPress® fittings be used?

Anywhere traditional copper fittings are used – plumbing and heating, hot, chilled and process water systems, and commercial or industrial applications where gas, low pressure steam, or liquids are conveyed.

What type of CopperPress® fittings does Supply Source Products offer?

Supply Source Products provides a complete line of copper press fittings including adapters (male, female, street, pex and flange), couplings with and without stops, reducers, elbows, tees (equal and reducing), drop ear elbows, end caps, cross overs, and unions in sizes ½” – 4”. As a matter of fact, we carry a like for like product line nearly identical to the market leader.

Can I install CopperPress® fittings in a wet (charged) system?

CopperPress® fittings can be installed in wet or dry systems, however system pressures should be relieved to avoid injury prior to installation. Being able to make a repair without a complete system drain is a huge advantage.

What are CopperPress® fittings made of?

Our fittings are constructed of lead-free copper or brass and are in compliance with NSF/ANSI/CAN 61.

How can I be assured a joint has been pressed in an installation?

In addition to a mechanical leak before press feature, CopperPress® fittings feature a colored band that not only provides a visual indication of the o-ring material (green for H₂O and yellow for gas), but also alert the installer of an un-pressed connection condition. When pressed, the band falls away.

Why should I use press products instead of those joined by traditional methods (soldering, brazing, welding, threading, etc.)?

Press connections can be made in the fraction of the time required by other joining methods, and no open flame or flame permit is required. Faster installations translate into significant labor savings. Connections made by pressing are sound, simple, and clean and provide an economical alternative to other means of joining tube.

Are press connections secure?

Absolutely. Press connections made per Supply Source Product's recommended practice are as secure as any other joining method. Press technology has a multi-decade track record of successful installations all across the world.

How long does it take to make a press connection?

A press connection can be made in less than a minute with preparing the tube taking 30 seconds or less (deburring and marking insertion depth) and the actual pressing only a few seconds – literally the time it takes to insert the tube and cycle the tool. Unlike other methods full structural integrity and sealing capability is realized immediately.

Can a joint be adjusted after pressing?

Slight torsional adjustments (generally 5 degrees or less) can be made after pressing. More significant rotations require that the joint to be repressed.

What press tools should I use when making CopperPress® press connection?

CopperPress® fittings can be pressed with Milwaukee, REMS, Rigid and Rothenberger tools and associated CTS jaws. Contact Supply Source Products' Customer Service for specific jaw set compatibility.

What are the pressure and temperature ranges of CopperPress® fittings?

CopperPress® fittings have a working pressure and temperature range of 0 - 300 psi and 0 - 250°F respectively on ASTM B88 Type K, L and M copper tubing in the hard-drawn condition and soft copper tubing in sizes ½" to 1¼".

Which o-ring should I select?

CopperPress® fittings are available with an EPDM o-ring for water applications and HNBR o-ring for gas applications. Contact Supply Source Products' Customer Service for specific chemical compatibility.

What pipe hanger and support requirements should my installation follow?

Support hanger spacing should correspond to the ASME B31.1 Power Piping Code, ASME B31.3 Process Piping Code, or ASME B31.9 Building Services Piping Code as appropriate. Consult the local authority having jurisdiction for possible additional requirements. Proper bearing and spacing of supports are necessary to prevent excessive bending or sagging. The weight of the conveyed material should also be considered.

Are dielectric unions necessary when joining dissimilar metals?

Yes. Using a dielectric union is a recommended practice. When two dissimilar metals (like copper and iron) come into contact in the presence of an electrolyte like water, an electrical current will flow between the two and the more anodic metal, in this case the iron, will corrode more quickly than it would if not coupled, and can ultimately lead to joint failure. This type of failure is often seen in water heater applications. A dielectric union separates the two metals with a gasket, preventing the current flow and resulting galvanic corrosion.