



CAIN BOLT & GASKET, INC.

Tap Bolt vs Cap Screw

What is the difference between a tap bolt and a cap screw?

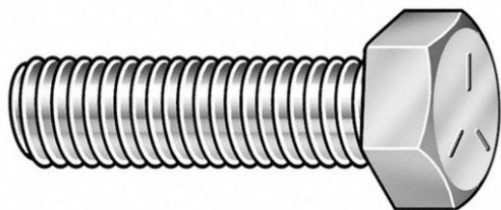
A tap bolt is (typically) a fully threaded hex bolt, while a cap screw is (typically) a hex head bolt that will be installed by turning the head of the bolt (screw) instead of tightening it with a nut. Usually cap screws are being threaded into something (a piece of machinery for example), rather than being used with a nut. A cap screw is not necessarily fully threaded unless you order it that way. Cap screws will follow a standard thread length formula as follows:

Standard Thread Length

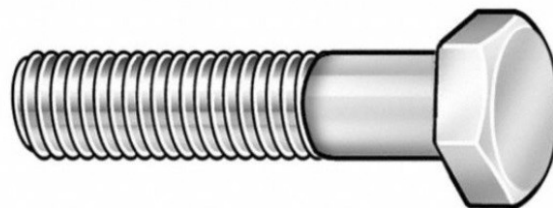
For cap screws 6" or less in length, thread length will be $(2 \times \text{diameter}) + 1/4"$

For cap screws longer than 6", thread length will be $(2 \times \text{diameter}) + 1/2"$

To summarize, a bolt is installed by turning a nut, while a screw is installed by turning the head of the fastener. A tap bolt implies that that fastener is fully threaded.



Tap Bolt



Cap Screw