



303 vs. 304 Stainless Steel

P/T TEST PLUGS - MATERIAL COMPARISON

Texas Test Plugs offers P/T test plugs manufactured from two widely used grades of 300-series stainless steel. Both provide strength, durability and corrosion resistance. The best choice depends on the operating environment and project specifications.

FEATURE	303 STAINLESS STEEL	304 STAINLESS STEEL
Stainless-steel family	Austenitic 300 series	Austenitic 300 series
General description	An 18-8 stainless steel formulated for excellent machinability.	A versatile 18-8 stainless steel with enhanced corrosion resistance.
Primary advantage	Excellent machinability, consistent dimensions and economical production.	Greater corrosion resistance in wet and demanding environments.
Machinability	Excellent	Good
Corrosion resistance	Very good for many HVAC, hydronic, geothermal and industrial applications.	Excellent for chilled-water, glycol and other demanding applications.
Typical applications	HVAC equipment, hydronic systems, geothermal equipment, mechanical rooms and general industrial piping.	Data-center cooling, chilled-water systems, glycol systems and projects specifying 304 stainless steel.
Connection sizes	1/4" NPT and 1/2" NPT	1/4" NPT and 1/2" NPT
Available lengths	Standard lengths; longer configurations are in development.	Standard lengths; longer configurations are in development.
Best choice when...	Dependable corrosion resistance, machinability and excellent value are the main requirements.	The project specification or operating environment calls for 304 stainless steel.

Choose 303 Stainless Steel

A dependable, corrosion-resistant and cost-effective choice for many common HVAC, hydronic, geothermal and industrial applications.

Choose 304 Stainless Steel

Recommended when project specifications require 304 or when additional corrosion resistance is preferred for chilled-water, glycol, data-center cooling or other demanding systems.

Both grades use the proven Texas Test Plugs self-sealing valve-core design and are backed by our two-year warranty. System fluid, temperature, pressure and environmental conditions should always be considered when selecting a material. Contact Texas Test Plugs for assistance with unusual or demanding applications.

Material guidance is general. Chlorides and certain chemicals can affect both 303 and 304 stainless steel; confirm compatibility for unusual fluids or environments.