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CopperPress®
By Merit Brass Co.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



**MERIT
BRASS**
DIRECTING THE FLOW OF *Quality*

Merit Brass Co.

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How does a CopperPress[®] fitting and valves seal?

A special tool physically “presses” the fittings and valve onto the tube creating a mechanically sound joint. Hydraulic tightness is ensured by an elastomeric sealing element that prohibits any leaks.

How does a press fitting and valves compare to other joining methods?

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 time 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.

What type of tubing should be used with CopperPress[®] fittings and valves?

Merit's CopperPress[®] fittings and valves 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” – 1¼”.

Where can Merit's line of CopperPress[®] fittings and valves be used?

Anywhere traditional copper fittings and valves are used including: plumbing & heating; hot, chilled and process water systems; and commercial or industrial applications such as low pressure steam or where liquids are conveyed.

What type of press fittings and valves does Merit carry?

Merit's CopperPress[®] fittings and valves are available with an EPDM sealing element for water applications. Check out our offering for CopperPress[®] fittings [here](#).

Merit also carries an offering of StainlessPress[®] fittings and valves in HNBR, FKM and EPDM sealing elements. Additionally, we carry CarbonPress[®] fittings in HNBR, EPDM and FKM.

Can I install CopperPress[®] fittings and valves in a wet (charged) system?

Merit's CopperPress[®] fittings and valves 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 an advantage of press fittings.

What are these CopperPress[®] fittings and valves made of?

CopperPress[®] fittings and valves are constructed of lead-free copper, brass and bronze and are certified to 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, Merit's CopperPress[®] fittings and valves feature a colored band that not only provides a visual indication of the sealing element material (green for H₂O), 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, clean and

provide an economical alternative to other means of joining tube.

Are press connections secure?

Press connections are as secure as any other joining method.

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 a press connection?

Please access our tooling reference guide [here](#).

What are the pressure and temperature ranges of Merit's CopperPress[®] fittings and valves?

This line has a working pressure and temperature range of 0 - 300PSI and 0° - 250°F respectively on ASTM B88 Type K, L and M copper tubing in the hard-drawn

condition and the soft copper tubing in sizes ½" - 1¼."

Which sealing element should I select?

Merit's CopperPress[®] fittings and valves are available with an EPDM sealing element for water applications. Access our approved applications [here](#). Always consult your project and engineering teams prior to any installation.

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.





LOCATIONS

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200 Vista Boulevard Suite #106
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LONG BEACH PIPE DEPOT

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