



PROFESSIONAL PTFE TAPE GRRIPS ON FIRST WRAP!

TIPS FOR USING PTFE TAPE

UNDERSTANDING PROPER APPLICATION, COMPATIBLE MATERIALS AND HOW TO APPLY IT RIGHT EVERY TIME

Using PTFE tape sounds simple enough — when you're mechanically joining a pipe and fitting, apply the tape to the male threads of the pipe. This will fill all the imperfections between the threads, and prevent leaks.

But using the tape is easier said than done. Oatey's Master Plumber answers common questions about PTFE tape to help you apply it right every time.



Q&A WITH OATEY'S MASTER PLUMBER

The male threads look good and the pipe threads into the female fitting smoothly — do I even need PTFE tape?

Yes. Because pipe threads are cut from dies, they may not be as perfect as they appear. Over time, the dies become worn and small imperfections will increase with each thread that is cut into the pipe. This wear and tear will create inconsistent thread cuts and ultimately lead to leaks. Thread tape fills in these imperfections, as well as imperfections from when the crest (top) of the thread is damaged during shipping, stocking or handling before assembly is completed. Thread sealant tape is a great option to eliminate leak paths anytime you mechanically join pipes. Once applied, it will last the life of the pipe.

What's the proper way to apply the tape?

The end of the thread tape should be as square as possible. Also, make sure the male threads are free of any debris. Place the end of the tape on the first thread from the end of the pipe, holding it in place with your finger or thumb. When threading it into the fitting, wrap the tape in the opposite direction to the direction the pipe will be turned.

How many times should I wrap the tape around?

When using 3.5 mil tape on pipe sizes up to 1¼", three revolutions should do it. Beyond that, you're just wasting your customer's time — and your own. A 3.0 mil tape needs four to five full wraps around the pipe end.

What if the pipe thread is wider than the tape?

You've got the wrong size. Most Hercules thread tapes come in three widths: half-inch, three-quarter-inch or 1 inch. Carry all three in your bag so you'll have the right size for any fitting.

The tape is slippery and keeps sliding off when I pull it. I keep having to start over. Is there anything I can do?

Use the new Hercules Grrip tape. As the name implies, it's tacky and won't slip off the threads. It comes in all three sizes. Once you've completed one revolution with Grrip tape, you don't need to keep holding it in place, making the process much easier.

Which materials can I apply PTFE tape to?

Hercules has tapes for all threaded pipes, valves and fittings, including those that carry acids, solvents, alkalis, steam, hot and cold water, LP gas and natural gas. They work on virtually any pipe materials, including brass, stainless steel, copper, galvanized or plastic pipes.

Will thread seal tape withstand extremely high or low temperatures? What about high pressure?

Oatey has tapes that perform over a temperature range of -450° to 500° F and up to 10,000 psi. They are weather-resistant, nonhardening, nontoxic, nonstick and nonflammable.

What tape should I use for plumbing like shower heads?

Grrip tape. Not only is it easier to use, it's gray, so it blends in well with chrome or brushed nickel fixtures. Grrip tape is a good utility tape that should be in every plumber's bag.



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