

Installation Tips for Plumbing Hydraulic Systems

Hose

The use of hydraulic hose is only recommended when the need for flexibility exists. Generally, the only hydraulic hose in an application is that used to connect the power source to the fixture.

All hydraulic hoses expand under pressure. This uses costly energy as well as volume. Some hoses expand at a greater rate than others, even though size remains the same.

Generally speaking, an 8 foot length of hydraulic hose will expand at a rate absorbing one cubic inch of high pressure oil at 3000 p.s.i.

When applying hose, the following is recommended:

Do Not:

- Overextend bend radius of hose.
- Put unnecessary strain at fitting ends.
- Subject hose to abrasive conditions.
- Use hose that hasn't been identified.

Do:

- Use a minimum size of 3/8" I.D.
- Check with factory for alternate brands.
- Use firesleeve protective covering in applications where flame is present (like weld fixtures).
- Make sure power source has enough high pressure volume to compensate for hose expansion.

Tubing

Whenever possible use 3/8" diameter steel fluid line tubing for hydraulic lines. This is a low carbon, soft tube and readily available. Depending on the application, two types are recommended:

- 3/8" diameter x .049 wall thickness for pressures to 3000 p.s.i.
- 3/8" diameter x .065 wall thickness for pressures to 5000 p.s.i.

When rigid tubing is applied to air circuitry, use copper tube. This will reduce the corrosive effect of water most likely found in your air lines. Caution: Do not use copper in a high pressure hydraulic circuit!

Fittings

Pipe Thread Fittings

Upon installation, apply a good sealing compound on threads of fitting only. When Teflon tape is used, overlap threads 1-1/2 to two turns tightly in direction of thread. Be careful not to extend tape over end of fitting. Do not overtighten pipe threads as they may put unnecessary strain on pressure vessels.

Straight Thread Fittings (SAE J514)

These fittings require no sealing material as the built-in o-ring provides a positive seal. The threads are a Class 2 straight thread with no taper. Before installation, be sure to lubricate the o-ring. Tighten these fittings to approximately 50-150 ft./lbs.

The Tube Flare

Cut tube squarely and remove any burrs. Split flares may be caused by the tube being too hard, opening up of scratches and draw marks, or failure to deburr tube end.

Place nut, then sleeve onto tube with open end of nut and toe end of sleeve toward end of tube.

Flare to standard 37° angle (maximum diameter of flare is equal to maximum diameter of sleeve). A correct flare should extend beyond the inside diameter of toe on sleeve but not beyond outside diameter of toe on sleeve.

Never attempt to spring tube to force alignment using the fitting installed. This can damage the flare and wrinkle, kink or flatten the tube. This can be avoided by using the correct tools.