

BSP Conversion



Categories: Couplings & Adaptors

When measuring thread size, there's often confusion as thread sizes are based on trade size rather than actual dimension. Here is our simple guide to measuring a thread and identifying it as a British Standard Pipe (BSP).

The BSP is the UK's most commonly used type of thread and falls into two categories:

BSPP threads are parallel, both male and female (G)

BSPT threads are always conical if it is male thread (R), but a female thread can both be conical (Rc) and parallel (Rp)

R, Rp and Rc threads are taken from BS21:1985 pipe threads for tubes and fittings where pressure-tight joints are made on the threads. Meanwhile G threads are taken from BS2779:1986 pipe threads for tubes and fittings where pressure-tight joints are usually made on a washer or 'O' ring.

Using a ruler or vernier, measure across the outside diameter of a male or hose tailpiece thread or measure the inside diameter of a female thread.



If the thread measures 0.5" it is not a 1/2" BSP thread. Using the table below you can see that a measurement of 0.5" is actually a 1/4" BSP thread and that a 0.75" measurement is a 1/2" BSP thread. So, you can basically take 0.25".

Trade Size (BSP)	Threads per inch (TPI)	Max Diameter		Min Diameter	
		inch	mm	inch	mm
1/8	28	0.383	9.728	0.3372	8.565
1/4	19	0.518	13.157	0.4506	11.445
3/8	19	0.656	16.662	0.5886	14.95
1/2	14	0.825	20.955	0.7336	18.633
3/4	14	1.041	26.441	0.9496	24.12
1	11	1.309	33.249	1.1926	30.292