



## INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

### *PARTS & SERVICE DEPARTMENT*

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**TO:** Manufacturers' Representatives, District Sales Managers, Regional Managers, Technical & Customer Service Personnel, Service Agents, Sales & Marketing Personnel

**SUBJECT:** Stainless Steel Threads

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When Lochinvar started introducing stainless steel products such as the Knight, Armor, Knight XL, and the Squire indirect water heater we discovered that a number of our customers had questions concerning the proper sealing method when using stainless steel threads.

After researching the subject we found that the National and International Plumbing Code does have specific instructions found in Section 605, concerning Materials, Joints, and Connections when using stainless steel. Section 605.22.21 states, "Mechanical joints shall be installed per the manufacturer's instruction".

We have tested several different methods of sealing mechanical joints when joining stainless steel to another stainless steel or non stainless steel connector. To ensure a clean tight seal Lochinvar recommends the following:

- Ensure the threads for the male and female connections are thoroughly cleaned; wire brush to remove any corrosion as needed.
- Wrap the male threaded connector with a generous amount of Teflon tape. Lochinvar recommends a minimum of four wraps of Teflon tape; however, more may be needed based on the condition of the threads, or a thread sealing compound may be used.
- Thread the connections together until firmly tightened.
- Hydrostatically test the connection at system operating pressure and check for tightness. If no leaks are indicated, operate unit as needed.
- If leakage is noted during the hydrostatic test, separate the connections, inspect the connector threads, and repeat the steps listed above. If required, the threads may be sealed with several wraps of Teflon tape and an additional layer of thread sealer.