



Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to Using XPress with Certain Chemicals and Applications:

- Yes: Hot Water (up to 180°F) at a maximum working pressure of 200 psi
- Yes: Chilled Water 0° to 180°F at a maximum working pressure of 200 psi
- Yes: Water Glycol Mixture (approved glycols: ethylene, propylene, & butylene, - up to 100% Concentration)
- Yes: Air, Compressed (oil content less than .025 ppb)
- Yes: Window Washer Fluid
- Yes: Oxygen (note: Oxygen for medical gas applications – NO)
- Yes: Nitrogen (max. working pressure 140 psi)
- Yes: Argon (max. working pressure 140 psi)
- Yes: Vacuum
- No: Low Pressure Steam (maximum working pressure 15 psi)
- No: Solar (Contact EPC to review the application)
- No: Refrigerants (Contact EPC to review the application)
- No: Chlorine
- No: Medical gas
- No: All Petroleum Products (e.g., oil, grease, diesel fuel, gasoline)
- No: DWV Pipe (pipe wall too thin)
- No: Copper tube with wall thickness less than ASTM B88 Type M
- No: Natural Gas – Propane – Fuel Gases
- No: Fire Protection Systems (not supported at this time but may be in the future)
- No: Paint Lines like those found in car manufacturing plants (The XPress fittings and seals currently offered are not compatible because of the silicone lubricant used on the seal)

Q What is the minimum distance (Gap) between XPress Fittings?

A The minimum Gap is ½” for all XPress fittings at sizes ½” through 4”.

Q What is the procedure for soldering near an XPress connection?

A Stay at least 12 inches away from the pressed connection. If 12 inches is not possible, installer should take proper precautions to keep the XPress joint cool while soldering.

- Wrap the joint with a cold wet rag
- Fabricate solder joint prior to installing the pressed fitting, making sure pipe is cooled before installing fitting.
- Use “spray type” spot freezing product.



Q As an inspector, how do I know if I am looking at a good joint?

A Check that the position of the depth insertion mark on the tube is adjacent to the end of the XPress fitting, then pressure test the joint in the same manner as a solder joint.

Q With what are the sealing elements in XPress fittings lubricated?

A The seals are lubricated with an NSF 61 I silicone oil. If it is necessary to lubricate the seals in the field, **use water only**. Do not use other lubricants. In particular, **do not** use any petroleum-based lubricants (petroleum and EPDM are incompatible).

Q How long will the EPDM seal last?

A When properly installed, the EPDM seal and connection will last as long as the copper pipe with which it is joined (50+ years).

Q How do I fabricate a system in tight places when using XPress?

A If necessary, pre-fabricate connections that are in tight places, then install.

Q Does the XPress system require the use of special valves?

A No. Users can continue with their favorite valve line by using the threaded adapters or by stubbing-out the valves and then pressing on from there.

Q What is the warranty for XPress?

XPress fittings carry a 50-year warranty against defects in material and workmanship from the manufacturer. To our knowledge, this 50-year warranty is essentially the same as, or better than, all warranties offered on copper tubing sold in the U.S.

Q Can you turn a pressed fitting on the tube without damaging the integrity of the joint?

A Yes. The fitting can be turned (not by hand) after pressing and will not affect the integrity of the joint. As a general rule of thumb, if the fitting is turned more than 5°, it should be re-pressed to restore the resistance to rotational movement.

Q What level of turbulence is caused by XPress fittings and will it cause premature wear in copper tubing?

A Deformation at the interior of the pressed joint has not proven to be a source of turbulence. The smooth surfaces created allow the fluid flow to remain undisturbed. Not reaming the ID of the pipe is the largest contributing factor to turbulence and premature wear in any copper piping system.



Q Is XPress approved for underground use?

A XPress fittings are approved for underground installation, which should be done in accordance with local plumbing and mechanical codes and practices.

Note: 1/2" to 1 1/4" soft copper is ok to press, **but EPC does not approve pressing soft copper larger than 1 1/4".**

Q To what degree does the temperature rating go up or down as pressure in the XPress fitting changes?

A The pressure rating is 200 psi maximum working pressure with a 600 psi maximum test pressure at all temperatures from 0°F to 250°F. Pressure changes within these limits have no impact on the temperature ratings.

Q What are the flow rates through XPress fittings?

A Flow rates and flow rate calculations are the same as those used for solder fitting installations.

Q How do XPress joints hold up to freezing temperatures?

A Water systems should not be allowed to freeze. When water freezes, it expands and creates pressures that exceed plumbing system pressure capabilities – i.e. tubes and fittings burst!

Q What should a user do if an XPress fitting leaks?

A In general, XPress fittings only leak due to few reasons:

- 1) The fitting was never pressed – solution – press the fitting
- 2) The copper tubing was not properly inserted prior to pressing – cannot be repaired, replace the fitting
- 3) The jaw was not properly aligned on the fitting (cross pressed; cross crimped) – cannot be repaired, replace the fitting
- 4) After confirming that Items 1 to 3 were originally performed satisfactorily, then re-press the fitting with the jaw rotated at 90° to the original position.

Under all other circumstances, if a fitting continues to leak, contact the pressing jaw and tool company & EPC.

Q Is XPress compatible with the cleaning agents used to disinfect a new plumbing system?

A Yes.

Q What should be done if a user accidentally cuts the seal with the copper pipe during tube insertion?

A If the seal is damaged by inserting the copper pipe, then the seal must to be replaced.

Q What should an installer do if a 1/2" or 3/4" tube rotates in XPress during a stub-out installation?

A Repressing the joint is the preferred repair. However, testing has shown that a joint which has spun 360° does not leak or exhibit reduced pressure-temperature performance.



Q Is an XPress press-connect fitting joint electrically conductive?

A Yes. The copper tube and the fitting body are in intimate contact once pressing occurs.

Q How was the life testing conducted for the seals and fittings?

A Life testing is performed per the requirements of IAPMO PS-117.