

Standard Taps Cutting Speeds

Workpiece Material	Brinell Hardness (BHN)	Surface Speed (SFM)
Low Carbon Steel - 1018, 12L12, 1108, 1213	≤ 120	65
Low & Medium Carbon Steel - 1018, 1551, 11L44	120 - 250	40
Medium Carbon and Alloyed Steel - 1040, 1140, 4340, 8640	≤ 250	40
Tool and Die Steels - P20, A2, D2, H12	≤ 250	20
Tool and Die Steels - P20, A2, D2, H12	250 - 350	15
Free Machining Stainless Steels - 303, 410, 416, 440F	≤ 260	35
Moderate Machining Stainless Steels - 304, 316	≤ 300	25
Difficult Machining Stainless Steels - 17-4PH, 316L, AM350	≤ 300	10
Cast Iron - Soft Gray	≤ 160	70
Cast Iron - Gray	160 - 260	60
Cast Iron - Ductile	250	50
Cast Iron - Malleable	250 - 330	35
Titanium Alloys - Commercially Pure 99.0	110 - 170	20
Titanium Alloys - Ti-6Al-4V, ASTM B367 Grades C-3, C-4	≤ 250	15
High Temperature Alloys - Inconel, Hastelloy, Waspaloy	≤ 150	25
High Temperature Alloys - Inconel, Hastelloy, Waspaloy	150 - 250	10
Aluminum Alloys - 2025, 6061, A140, 514.0	≤ 150	100
Copper Alloys - Brass and Bronze	≤ 200	50
Magnesium Alloys - AZ80A, HM12A, AM60A, ZE41A	50 - 90	70

SPEEDS shown are suggested starting points only and may be increased or decreased depending on actual material and machining conditions. Start conservatively and increase until the machining cycle is optimized.

TAP SPEEDS may be **increased** for coated taps, spiral point taps, fine pitch taps and when the percentage of thread is decreased.

TAP SPEEDS may need to be **decreased** for uncoated taps, spiral flute taps, coarse pitch taps, bottoming taps, difficult materials, longer thread lengths, and when the percentage of thread is increased.

THREAD FORMING TAPS generally form threads more efficiently at higher speeds. Suggested speeds are 50% to 100% higher than the suggested speeds for cutting taps in similar applications.

PIPE TAP SPEEDS should be between one-half and three-quarters of the speeds of taps of comparable diameter and pitch.