

Definition of Stainless Steel Grades

304/304L

This is the most widely used of the austenitic grades, 304 offers corrosion resistance to many chemicals and industrial atmospheres. Generally considering non-magnetic, it can become slightly magnetic when cold-worked. 304 is non-hardenable by heat treatment. In 304L, the carbon content has been lowered to .03% max. for corrosion resistance at heat affected zones from welding. This is a good choice when it comes to corrosion resistance at a good price.

Typical Applications

Architectural trim, beer barrels, cryogenic vessels, dairy equipment, and a wide variety of most food applications.

316/316L

Type 316 is an austenitic chrome nickel steel with superior corrosion resistance to that of other chrome nickel steels. Widely used when exposed to chemical corrodents, as well as marine atmospheres. 316 is generally considered non-magnetic, but can become magnetic when cold worked. In 316L, the carbon content has been lowered to .03% max. for corrosion resistance at heat affected zones from welding.

Typical Applications

Acetic acid compounds, kettles for cooking catsup, pulp and paper processing equipment, water softener tanks, and many marine applications.