

Hex Bolts - Although technically different, hex bolts are often referred to as *hex cap screws*. Hex bolts are used in a variety of applications and are a standard in the construction, manufacturing, and machinery industries. In general, hex bolts are not manufactured to the same level of tolerances as *hex cap screws* which helps identify one of the key differences between the two fasteners.

Carriage Bolts - Carriage bolts have a domed or flat head with a square section at the top of the shank (just under the head). This square section allows the bolt to grip into the item that is being fastened without spinning during the tightening process. These types of fasteners can be used in applications that require an aesthetically pleasing finish.

Lag Bolts - Also called *lag screws*, lag bolts are essentially a larger version of a wood screw with either a square or hex head. These types of fasteners are used in fastening lumber and are tightened and loosened by applying torque to the head of the bolt.

Wood Screws - Commonly available in flat, round or oval heads, wood screws are designed to attach multiple pieces of wood or other soft materials together. Wood screws will most often have a partially unthreaded portion directly below the head which allows for tighter fastening of the materials.

Sheet Metal Screws - As the name suggests, sheet metal screws are designed with sharp points and threading in order to cut through sheet metal. Typically these types of fasteners are threaded across the entire length of the shank and are an excellent choice for fastening wood to metal.

Machine Screws - Often used with nuts as well as driven into tapped holes, machine screws tend to be smaller in size than bolts. Generally machine screws are tightened by turning the head of the screw, whereas in bolts the tightening might be completed via the turning of the accompanying nut.

Socket Screws - These types of fasteners are typically used in applications that don't provide sufficient clearance for conventional fastening methods such as a wrench. Also referred to as an *Allen bolt*, socket screws normally have a cylindrical head diameter of 1.5 times that of its shank with an accompanying hexagonal drive hole. A hex key is the typical tool used in tightening socket screws.

