

Caster Buying Guide

Wheel versus Caster

Wheel — A round object that rolls.

Caster — One component of a caster is the wheel. Once the wheel is installed in a frame it becomes part of the caster. The other major component is the stem or swivel plate to which it is attached.

How to measure Wheel or Caster

Height — Stem casters are measured from the ground to the base of the stem (stem is inserted into the item and therefore should be not included in the height measurement).
Plate casters are measured from the ground to the surface of the plate.

Wheel Width — Measure across the tread of the wheel.

Wheel Diameter — This may also be considered the height of the wheel. Measure from the floor to the top surface of the wheel.

Wheel Compound

Polyurethane Wheel — Non-marking with long life. Excellent mobility. Grease-resistant and good in wet environments. Temperature range -20° to 185°F.

Rubber Wheel, Solid — High-impact resistance. Non-marking, quiet. Resistant to chemicals, grease, oil and solvent. Temperature range -20° to 185°F.

Rubber Wheel, Semi-Pneumatic — Inner tube of air for easy movement. Non-marking, quiet.
Temperature range -20° to 185°F.

Phenolic-High Temp Wheel — Non-marking, high strength, high impact wheel resistant to oil, grease and dilute acids. Temperature range up to 425°F.

Terms

Threaded Swivel Casters — Turn 360° and provide instant response to directional change. There are threads on the stem that allow you to screw the caster in place.

Cross-Drill Swivel Stem Casters — A stem with cross-drilled holes to be bolted on either through a tapered hole or to pass through the hole and held in place with a lock nut.

Expandable Rubber Swivel Stem — Casters typically fit a wide range of both round and square tubing. Tighten topmost ring to compress rubber until it fits snugly into tube. If necessary, further tighten with a wrench using the nut under the swivel.

Plate Casters Available in Swivel & Plate — Give a more stable mounting base compared to stem casters.
These are mounted with 4 bolts, bolts not included.

Swivel Plate Casters — turn 360° and provide instant response to directional change.

Rigid Plate Casters — Do not turn and are intended for straight back and forth movement.

General Tips

If moving your equipment in tight spaces, choose all 4 swivel

If moving your equipment in long straight lines, choose 2 swivel and 2 rigid casters as it is easier to control.

If using equipment with a handle normally the swivel casters are installed on end with handle.