



Metal Material Selection Guide for Medical Devices

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| Metal | Stainless Steel | Low Carbon Stainless Steel | Stainless Steel | Stainless Steel |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Designation | 304 | 304L | 316 | 316L |
| Description | The most common chromium-nickel stainless steel Corrosion resistant | Lower carbon stainless steel Corrosion resistant, less susceptible to intergranular corrosion | Bio compatible steel | Bio compatible steel |
| Machinability | Good | Good | Good | Good |
| Corrosion Resistance | Good | Good | Good | Good |
| Wear Resistance | Average | Average | Average | Average |
| Ease of Welding | Good | Great | Good | Great |
| Implantable? | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| MRI Safe? | No | No | No | No |
| | | | | |
| Properties | Stainless Steel | Low Carbon Stainless Steel | Stainless Steel | Stainless Steel |
| Hardness (Brinell) | 123 | 151 | 149 | 149 |
| Fatigue Limit | 240 MPa 35 ksi | 240 MPa 35 ksi | 270 MPa 39 ksi | 270 MPa 39 ksi |
| Yield Strength | 215 MPa 31 ksi | 210 MPa 30 ksi | 240 MPa 35 ksi | 205 MPa 30 ksi |
| Tensile Strength | 505 MPa 73 ksi | 564 MPa 82 ksi | 550 MPa 80 ksi | 515 MPa 75 ksi |
| Elastic Modulus | 193-200 GPa 27,900-29,000 ksi | 193-200 GPa 27,900-29,000 ksi | 193 GPa 27,900 ksi | 193 GPa 27,900 ksi |
| Density | 8 g/cm ³ .29 lb/in ³ | 8 g/cm ³ .29 lb/in ³ | 8 g/cm ³ .29 lb/in ³ | 8 g/cm ³ .29 lb/in ³ |
| Heat Capacity | .5 J/g C .12 BTU/lb F | .5 J/g C .12 BTU/lb F | .5 J/g C .12 BTU/lb F | .5 J/g C .12 BTU/lb F |
| Melting Point | 1,400-1,455° C 2,552-2,651° F | 1,400-1,455° C 2,552-2,651° F | 1,370-1,400° C 2,500-2,550° F | 1,375-1,400° C 2,510-2,550° F |
| Resistivity | 7.2x10 ⁻⁷ ohm-m | 7.3x10 ⁻⁷ ohm-m | 7.4x10 ⁻⁷ ohm-m | 7.4x10 ⁻⁷ ohm-m |
| Applications | Tools, Equipment | Heavy equipment requiring welds | Steel implants | Steel implants |



| Metal | Titanium | Nitinol | Cobalt-Chrome Alloy | Platinum |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Designation | Ti-6Al-4V | SE 508 | ASTM F1537 | |
| Description | Titanium alloy High hardness, heat resistant metal | Superelastic alloy Superelastic (Bendy), Shape memory | Non-toxic for medical applications | Low corrosion metal Low corrosion |
| Machinability | Poor | Poor | Challenging | Poor |
| Corrosion Resistance | Good | Good, when treated properly | Great | Great |
| Wear Resistance | Great | Good | Good | Good |
| Ease of Welding | Poor | Very Poor | Poor | Good |
| Implantable? | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| MRI Safe? | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | | | | |
| Properties | Titanium | Nitinol | Cobalt-Chrome Alloy | Platinum |
| Hardness (Brinell) | 334 | 301-351 | 302 | 264 |
| Fatigue Limit | 580 MPa 84 ksi | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Yield Strength | 880 MPa 128 ksi | Low | 585 MPa 85 ksi | 125-165 MPa 18-24 ksi |
| Tensile Strength | 950 MPa 138 ksi | > 1070 Mpa > 155 ksi | 1,035 MPa 150 ksi | 245 MPa 36 ksi |
| Elastic Modulus | 114 GPa 16,500 ksi | 41-75 GPa 5,900-10,800 ksi | 241 GPa 35,000 ksi | 171 GPa 24,800 ksi |
| Density | 4.43 g/cm ³ .16 lb/in ³ | 6.5 g/cm ³ .23 lb/in ³ | 8.2 g/cm ³ .3 lb/in ³ | 21.45 g/cm ³ .77 lb/in ³ |
| Heat Capacity | .5 J/g C .12 BTU/lb F | .46 J/g C .11 BTU/lb F | .39 J/g C .09 BTU/lb F | .77 J/g C .13 BTU/lb F |
| Melting Point | 1,600-1,660° C 2,912-3,020° F | 1,310° C 2,390° F | 1,330° C 2,430° F | 1,762° C 3,203° F |
| Resistivity | 1.78x10 ⁻⁶ ohm-m | 8.2x10 ⁻⁵ ohm-m | 6x10 ⁻⁶ ohm-m | 5.6x10 ⁻⁸ ohm-m |
| Applications | Implants, prostheses | Stents, wires, implants | Dental implants | Surgical instruments, implants, anticancer drugs |