

Lock Depot Inc

Stanley Ball Bearing vs Plain Hinges

Hinge Bearing Type Comparison

Hinge selection between ball bearing and plain bearing depends on application, traffic volume, and door weight.

Ball Bearing Hinges

- **Operation:** Smooth, nearly frictionless door swing regardless of weight
- **Best For:** Commercial buildings, heavy doors (150+ lbs), high-traffic areas
- **Durability:** Withstand 250,000+ open/close cycles without degradation
- **Cost:** Premium price point, 2-3x cost of plain bearing
- **Maintenance:** Virtually maintenance-free, no lubrication required

Plain Bearing Hinges

- **Operation:** Develops resistance over time, particularly with heavy doors
- **Best For:** Residential, light commercial, interior partitions under 100 lbs
- **Durability:** Adequate for typical commercial 2-5 year lifespan
- **Cost:** Budget-friendly, standard commercial choice
- **NRP Required:** NRP pins only available on ball bearing hinges for security

When NRP Required

Non-removable pin hinges prevent pin removal from outside. Required for security doors, external applications, and high-risk environments. NRP hinges are only available as ball bearing construction.