

# How to Select the Proper Caster

The following are important considerations when selecting the proper caster:

**LOAD WEIGHT.** The heavier the load, the larger the wheel required for the caster. The weight of the load also influences the mobility of the wheel. Roller or ball bearings are recommended for loads over 400 pounds.

**FLOOR CONDITIONS.** Make sure the wheel you select is large enough to pass over cracks in the floor, tracks, moldings and other obstructions. For linoleum, tile, carpet, etc., use polyurethane or rubber wheels.

**ROLLING EASE.** The larger the wheel diameter, the easier it rolls. Roller bearings carry heavier loads. Ball bearings roll easier but carry lesser loads. When possible, use the largest ball bearing wheel for best results.

**EXTREME CLIMATES.** Room temperatures are no problem for most casters. But extreme cold or heat can be a problem. Please contact ALCO for help in selecting the proper caster.

**WHEEL CHOICES.** As a general rule, hard tread wheels perform better on soft or smooth floors and soft treads wheels roll better on hard or rough floors including outdoor surfaces.

**WHEEL BEARINGS.** Dependent on your application the following bearings are available:



**Plain (Sleeve)**



**Delrin**



**Ball**



**Roller**



**Precision Ball**

**Plain & Sleeve Bearing** provides a metal sleeve inserted in a wheel to rest directly on the wheel. Recommended when rolling ease is less critical.

**Delrin Bearing** is a DuPont engineered plastic which is extremely durable under a wide range of temperature and humidity conditions and is corrosion resistant.

**Ball Bearing** is recommended for lighter loads where maximum rolling ease is required.

**Roller Bearing** is capable of carrying a greater load than the same size diameter ball bearing.

**Precision Sealed Bearing** is recommended for maximum rolling ease with no maintenance lubrication required.

## How to Measure A Caster



**Top Plate-Length**



**Top Plate-Width**



**Bolt Hole-Length**



**Bolt Hole-Width**

**Top Plate.** Measure outside to outside of the plate (length) and then the opposite direction (width).

**Bolt Hole.** Measure center of the hole to center of the other hole (length) and then opposite direction (width)



**Swivel Radius**

Lay the caster on its side and put a straight edge up against the face of the wheel. The straight edge should be long enough to make contact with your measuring device. The swivel radius measurement is where the straight edge comes in contact with the measuring device.



**Wheel Diameter**



**Wheel Width**



**Overall Height**

With the caster laying on its side measure from the top plate to the bottom of the wheel.

**Wheel Size**  
**Diameter.** With the caster laying on its side measure from one side of the wheel to the other.

**Width.** Stand the wheel upright and measure from one side to the other.

80