How to Measure a Flat-Head Screw

jandesupply.com/guide-measure-flathead.php

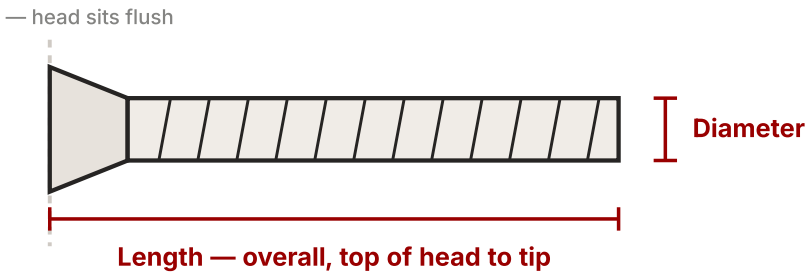
J & E Supply & FASTENER CO.

Flat-head (countersunk) screws break the usual rule — because the head sinks *into* the material instead of sitting on top.

A **flat-head** (countersunk) screw is built to sit **flush** — the cone-shaped head drops into a matching recess so the top ends up level with the surface. Because the head is buried in the work, it **counts** toward the length. This is the opposite of a hex bolt, and it's the most common length mistake we see.

The length rule

Measure the **overall length — from the top of the head to the tip.** The head sinks flush into the material, so it's part of the length.



The head is counted: length is the whole screw, top of the head to the tip.

Bolt vs. flat-head — the difference at a glance

Hex bolt / cap screw

Head sits **on top** of the surface → measure **under the head to the tip**. Head not counted.

Flat-head (countersunk)

Head sits **flush in** the surface → measure **overall, top of head to tip**. Head counted.

> **The test that always works:** measure whatever ends up *buried* in the material. For a flat head that's the head *and* the shank — so it's the whole screw.

What about oval heads?

An **oval (raised countersunk)** head's dome stays above the surface, so it's **not** counted. Measure from the **rim** — where the dome meets the cone — to the tip.

Diameter and thread are measured the same as always — see the measuring basics.