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Stem Casters: Complete Sizing, Thread & Spec Guide

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Quick answer. Stem casters mount into a tube, socket, or threaded hole instead of bolting through a plate. Six stem types exist: threaded, expanding adapter, grip ring, friction ring, round, and square. Common UNC threads are 3/8-16, 1/2-13, and 5/8-11, with load ratings of 75 to 500 lb per caster. Confirm stem diameter, length, thread pitch, and socket ID before ordering.

Stem Diameters: The Nine Common Sizes

Stem Diameter	Typical Stem Type	Typical Application	Load Range
1/4" (.250)	Threaded, friction	Office chairs, light fixtures	75 to 150 lbs
5/16" (.313)	Threaded	Light carts, display racks	100 to 200 lbs
3/8" (.375)	Threaded	Retail, food service, light industrial	150 to 300 lbs
7/16" (.437)	Grip ring	Office chairs, medical carts	75 to 250 lbs
1/2" (.500)	Threaded, round	Industrial carts, work benches	250 to 500 lbs
5/8" (.625)	Threaded	Heavy industrial, shop carts	400 to 800 lbs
3/4" (.750)	Threaded, expanding	Heavy-duty carts, pallet handlers	500 to 1,200 lbs
7/8" (.875)	Expanding, plain	Furniture, light tubular frames	200 to 400 lbs



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