

# Fastener Selection: Anchor Bolts vs Stainless Steel Lag Bolts with Mungo Plugs



By Matthew Tombs and Neil Thorslund

*"We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided."*

— **J.K. Rowling**

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At Ottawa Deck and Rail, 90% of the railing we install are on front steps made of concrete or stone. In order to get a durable design, we use Mungo plugs with stainless steel fasteners. We finish the work with powder-coated heads to match the color of the railing. However, concrete wedge anchor bolts are also available.

## Which is better, anchor bolts or stainless steel fasteners with Mungo plugs?

### Anchor Bolts

Anchor bolts are typically used in commercial applications where there is high foot traffic and heavy loads applied to the railing. Sometimes they are required by engineering specification. Stainless steel anchor bolts are used in areas where corrosion is a high risk, including areas with heavy rain or salt water.

Advantages:

- More durable than mungo plugs with stainless steel bolts

Disadvantages

- More expensive than Mungo Plugs
- Do not come powder-coated to match the colour of the rail system
- More difficult to install



### Mungo Plugs with Stainless Steel Fasteners

Mungo is the leading manufacturer of fasteners, and has provided an easy alternative for anchoring residential railings.

Advantages:

- Less expensive than anchor bolts
- Come powder-coated to match the colour of the rail system
- Easy installation

Disadvantages

- Not suitable for commercial application strength requirements



## More about stainless steel fasteners and Mungo Plugs

Whether you decide to go with anchor bolts or mungo plugs, there are many benefits to using stainless steel fasteners:

- It won't crack at low temperatures
- It can be applied to a wide range of base materials
- Internal screw prevents expansion happening prematurely
- Can be used with porous or brittle materials
- Can be used for heavy-duty and light-weight applications
- Works well where nails, other fasteners, or adhesives don't work

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- Corrosion resistance gives a nicer look and lasts longer
- Stainless steel holds up to very high or low temperatures
- They are low maintenance because of their resistance to scratches and corrosion
- Stainless steel fasteners last longer than other fasteners
- They are easy and effective to weld
- Stainless steel is non-magnetic



## Apart from style, what can the powder-coated head provide?

Powder-coating can have many advantages in areas of manufacturing, the environment and product quality.

- Long lasting coating that resists corrosion
- More environmentally friendly than liquid finishes that contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Does not release as many harmful chemicals into the air as other finishes
- Reduces health hazards to operators such as mouth, throat, and nose irritation caused by liquid coatings
- Less processing time than wet paints

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- Maintenance and cleaning is easier than with other finishes



*If you have any questions, give us a call or request a quote on our website.*

### **Ottawa Deck and Rail**

613-225-6782

199 Colonnade Road S Unit 3

<https://www.ottawadeckandrail.com/free-price-quote>

### **Winnipeg Deck and Rail**

204-415-4422

1149 St Matthews Ave

<http://www.winnipegdeckandrail.com/deck-railing-quote-winnipeg.php>