

Steel

Steel is a strong, heavy metal sometimes used in FRC for high-strength or wear-resistant applications. While aluminum is more common, steel is chosen when extra strength or durability is required.

Why FRC Teams Use Steel

Steel is used because it:

- Has very high strength
 - Resists bending and deformation
 - Handles high loads and impacts well
 - Works well for shafts and fasteners
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Common Types of Steel in FRC

Mild Steel

- Easy to machine and cut
- Used for simple brackets or mounts
- Heavier than aluminum

Hardened Steel

- Very strong and wear-resistant
 - Used for shafts, axles, and gears
 - Difficult to machine without proper tools
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Common Applications

- Drive shafts and axles
 - Bearings and wear surfaces
 - High-load mounting hardware
 - Gearboxes and transmission components
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Limitations

- Much heavier than aluminum
 - Harder to machine and drill
 - Can slow down robot performance if overused
 - Requires stronger tools and more effort to modify
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Key Idea

Steel is used in FRC when strength and durability matter more than weight. It is most commonly found in shafts, fasteners, and high-load components rather than full structural frames.

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