A.Y. McDonald
CONNECTION

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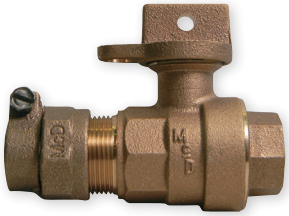
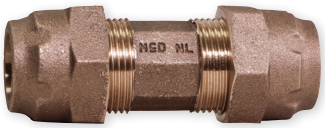
It's Only Forever

by Scott Knapp

In the water works industry, standards are in place to provide consistency and to ensure a great quality product. For water works manufacturers, we look to the American Water Works Association (AWWA) to indicate approved alloys for underground brass parts. The AWWA C800 Standard specifically applies to Underground Service Valves and Fittings from the water main to the water meter. Previously, this standard ensured consistency and uniformity among manufacturers, guaranteeing the use of materials that endured the test of time when buried underground. However, a recent update to the standard has altered this landscape, resulting in a departure from the previous uniformity among manufacturers.





The most recent update (C800-21) to the AWWA materials standard C800 introduces a new lead-free alloy, C87850. This alloy, compared to others mentioned in the C800 standard, has a higher zinc content and a lower copper content. Additionally, the update includes a new section (4.1.2.2.1) that enables utilities to specify the maximum zinc content, providing the option to exclude the C87850 alloy if desired. Consequently, utilities now need to assess the alloys utilized by different manufacturers and determine whether the properties of each alloy are suitable for their specific applications.

Manufacturer's reactions to this new alloy appear mixed. Mueller has published a fifteen page white paper touting the benefits of this new alloy and have disclosed that they will be transitioning their new foundry to the newly approved C87850. A.Y. McDonald, in contrast, has published a document which calls out the fact that there have not been enough trials of this material in the United States, citing that the changes in the material's properties are significant enough to warrant extensive field trials before adopting it for broader use. Ford Meter Box has recently released a video which touts using a "proven and trusted alloy" and that you don't "take risks with what you are made of," letting those statements speak for themselves. Hyperlinks to all these support materials are available by clicking on the blue links in this paragraph.

It takes a great amount of study and research to decide on an alloy to trust for underground water works brass. The choices we all make will have a lasting impact beyond all our working careers. That's why I encourage you to do your own independent homework.

To be fully transparent, as a member of the A.Y. McDonald Family and one who has devoted his whole career to this company, I admit I am extremely biased in my opinion on this matter. C87850 is unproven being buried in North America, with its wide variety of soil conditions, and that's reason enough for me to question allowing it in the ditch it without extensive research trials.

The decisions we make in this industry have long lasting consequences. Our family business will be supporting this industry for generations to come. In time, after lengthy field trials, we may consider using C87850. For now, we will continue to pour an alloy that has stood the test of time.

Newsletter Satisfaction Survey

In 2016, we reached out to customers for their feedback on what they want to read about in an A.Y. McDonald customer newsletter. From there, the 'Connection Newsletter' was born. In the past 7 years, a lot has changed in the industry. To keep our newsletter relevant and full of valuable content, we want to gauge your satisfaction of the Connection Newsletter once again. Please participate by July 31 by going to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ConnectionNewsletterSatisfaction.

Come See Us in Person at an Upcoming Show!

A.Y. McDonald may be coming to a town near you. Below is a list of upcoming conferences our experts will be attending from all over the country. Visit the trade shows section of our website to view a frequently updated list of events. https://aymcdonald.com/post/ay-mcdonald-tradeshows

Louisiana Rural Water Expo - Lakes Charles, LA	7/16 - 7/18
WV Rural Water - Oglebay Resort Near Wheeling, WV	7/14 - 7/16
South Atlantic Well Drillers - Myrtle Beach, SC	7/29 - 7/31
Tennessee Associations of Utility Districts - Gatlinburg, TN	11/8
Louisiana Gas Association 2023 Pipeline Safety Conference - New Orleans, LA	8/14 - 8/17
Michigan Rural Water Association Outdoor Expo - Brooklyn, MI	17/8
MEA Gas Operations Technical and Leadership Summit - Cincinnati, OH	8/16 - 8/18
Ohio One Water (AWA + WEA) - Columbus, OH	8/21 - 8/24
Ohio One Water Joint Conference (WEA/AWWA) – Columbus, OH	8/22 - 8/24
Oklahoma Gas Association Annual Conference - Norman, OK	8/28 - 8/30
Kentucky Rural Water Show - Louisville, KY	8/28 - 8/30
Tricon - Ocean City, MD	8/29 -8/31
MN Rural Water 14th Annual Operator Expo - Waconia, MN	31/8
New Mexico Oil & Gas Association 2023 Annual Meeting - Santa Fe, NM	9/8 - 9/10
Arkansas Rural Water Expo – Hot Springs, AR	9/10 - 9/14
VA AWWA Water Jam - Virginia Beach, VA	9/11 - 9/14
Idaho Rural Water Association - 2023 Fall Conference - Moscow, ID	9/13 - 9/14
ORWA (Oklahoma Rural Water) Conference - Hulbert, OK	9/13 - 9/15
NC Rural Water Association Leadership Summit - Cherokee, NC	9/14 - 9/15
MEA Natural Gas Rodeo - Springfield, MO	9/14 - 9/19
Texas Water Utilities (TWUA) – Corpus Christi, TX	9/18 - 9/21
Georgia Association of Groundwater Professionals - Savannah, GA	9/22 - 9/23
National Rural Water Association WATERPRO Conference - Aurora, CO	9/24 - 9/26
VA AWWA Distribution Seminar and Rodeo - Roanoke, VA	10/10 - 10/12
ILRWA Illinois Rural Water Association Northern Conference - Rockford, IL	10/11 - 10/12
WUA TTT (Wisconsin Utility Association Train the Trainer) Conference - Marshfield, WI	10/17 - 10/18
Dubuque Fall Conference - Dubuque, IA	10/17 - 10/18
Alliance of Indiana Rural Water Fall Conference - Fort Wayne, IN	10/17 - 10/18
ASPE Show - Oaks, PA	19/9
MRWA (Missouri Rural Water) Conference - Osage Beach, MO	10/24 - 10/27
Virginia Water Well Association Fall Field Day - Zion Crossroads, VA	27/9
NC One Water Annual Conference - Raleigh, NC	10/29 - 11/1
SC Rural Water Association Annual Conference - Myrtle Beach, SC	11/13 - 11/15
Florida AWWA - Orlando, FL	11/26 - 11/30
Indiana section AWWA Water Institute - French Lick, IN	12/5 - 12/6
NGWA (National Groundwater Association) 2023 Groundwater Week - Las Vegas, NV	12/5 - 12/6

Innovation News

Idea QR Codes Making a Splash

You may start seeing QR codes popping up on social media, on flyers, at tradeshows, and other locations. A.Y. McDonald knows great ideas can come from anywhere and we are working to make it easy to submit an idea to the Innovation team. Just scan the code and fill out a few questions about your idea! Every idea will be considered and reviewed by our team. Ideas can be for new products or services, improvements to existing products, or a challenge in the field you would like help solving. We can't wait to read what you share! https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M6RQKTF

The Innovation Center Turns Seven

Hard to believe it has been seven years since the Innovation Center opened its doors. It takes the contributions of so many people to create change and positive impact in Innovation. The Innovation team would like to thank our co-workers, customers, and individuals in the field who have given us their ideas, expertise, and time. This teamwork is the magic ingredient, and we are so grateful for the support all around us! We are committed to staying true to our WHY, which is the people of this industry who we care about and serve. Keep your eyes out for future products from the Innovation Center and as always, don't hesitate to send your ideas to innovations@aymcdonald.com!

Industry News

EPA Announces Billions in Water Infrastructure Upgrade Funding

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced over $6.5 billion for states, Tribes, and territories for essential drinking water infrastructure upgrades across the nation through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. These allotments are based on the results of EPA's 7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment. https://www.mswmag.com/online_exclusives/2023/04/epa-announces-billions-in-water-infrastructure-upgrade-funding

Utilities See New Costs in Proposed PFAS Water Rule

In March, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act that would set enforceable rules for six per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) compounds. Under this, utilities would be required to monitor for the six PFAS chemicals and treat water if concentrations exceed the maximum contaminant level. https://rollcall.com/2023/03/22/utilities-see-new-costs-in-proposed-pfas-water-rule

New Products

NEW 6133CTS 2" Stainless-Steel Insert Stiffeners

The new A.Y. McDonald 6133CTS 2" insert stiffener is made from 304 stainless-steel material and manufactured using a deep-drawn press process, compared to our rolled stiffener with interlocking puzzle design. The drawn stiffener design is in addition to our existing line and the 6133T and 6136 stiffeners will still be available. https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=6133CTS&amex=

Blog

A Deep Dive into Corporation Stops

The sole purpose of a corporation stop is to allow for the installation of a new water service line without interrupting the water main pressure. As a special stop valve that is installed into the water main, the corporation stop is usually used only once. However, it may be utilized again in the instance that water needs to be shut off deep below the ground for one reason or another. https://aymcdonald.com/post/a-deep-dive-into-corporation-stops

A Deep Dive Into Corporation Stops

Posted on Feb 16, 2023 in Water Works

The water service lateral is the city's way of bringing water access to buildings or homes. In fact, it takes a lot of parts to successfully get this resource to travel all the way from point A to point B.

Industry News

Industry a Resource for Water Systems, Broader Water Issues

Today, scientist estimate that less than 20 years of groundwater remains. Since around 15% of the U.S. population relies directly on a private water well, the water well industry advocates for more protection of groundwater and private water wells, starting with the 'Healthy H20 Act'. https://www.thedriller.com/articles/92704-advocating-for-private-water-wells-safe-groundwater

New Product

NEW Thermoplastic High Head Effluent Pumps

A.Y. McDonald's new Thermoplastic High Head Effluent Pumps contain a reinforced thermoplastic motor bracket and discharge. Sizes range from 1/2 HP to 1 1/2 HP and are assembled with our signature A.Y. McDonald motors. The two wire single phase motors include pump, motor, and 10' lead, 25', 50', and 100' available. The pump also includes a stainless-steel shell and pump shaft, a 1 1/4" FNPT discharge, and reinforced Thermoplastic diffusers and impellers. https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=2505&amex=

Blog

The Starting Point to Properly Sizing a Sump Pump

The installation of a sump pump to a home or building can lead to many benefits – but only if it's properly sized for the application. An incorrectly sized sump pump, or a pump that is not installed properly, will most likely lead to inefficiencies. Learn the information required to properly size a sump pump that can then be applied to find the manufacturer's performance curve that matches best. https://aymcdonald.com/post/the-starting-point-to-properly-sizing-a-sump-pump

Get a Handle on the History of Pumps

Hand pumps are one of the most ancient water-lifting devices that have been used for thousands of years. While A.Y. McDonald has been in service since 1856, our company began manufacturing hand pumps in the late 1800's. Over the years, customers, end users, homeowners, and antique enthusiasts come across our older hand pumps, sometimes still in working condition, and want to learn more information about their vintage find. https://aymcdonald.com/post/get-a-handle-on-the-history-of-hand-pumps

Industry News

Saving for a Sunny Day

Extreme weather cost the U.S. an estimated $165 billion in 2022, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Due to climate change, situations such as scorched landscapes, empty reservoirs, flooding, and landslides occur as the result. In the plumbing industry, the ability to funnel stormwater out to sea in coastal areas would have the ability to solve some of these. https://www.mswmag.com/editorial/2023/03/saving-for-a-sunny-day

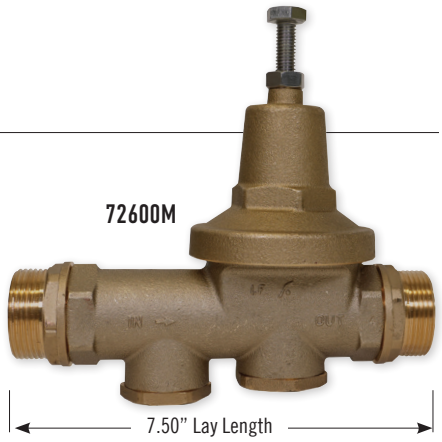
Trends Shaping the Plumbing Industry in 2023

Plumbing businesses are looking for trends and new technologies in plumbing. Most of these will revolve around water management, conditioning, treatment systems, and providing helpful customer experiences. Read about the top seven trends in the plumbing industry. https://www.ucfs.net/trends-shaping-the-plumbing-industry/

New Products

NEW 72600M 1" x 7.50" No-Lead Pressure Reducing Valves

A.Y. McDonald has expanded our already extensive line of Pressure Reducing Valves to include the 72600M 1" x 7.50". These valves are designed for new or existing tandem meter setter, pit, or box installations. They protect the water supply system and its components by reducing water pressure to a reasonable and safe level. https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=72600M&amex=



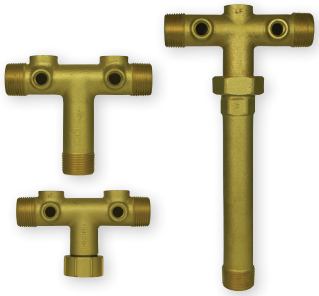
Blog

The ABCs of PEX Tubing

PEX tubing is classified under three categories: A, B, and C. These letters aren't grades as they are used to identify the manufacturing process and have nothing to do with quality or performance. Many features influence the applications of each PEX type, such as bending radius, pressure drop, and wall thickness. In addition, PEX tubing sizes are signified by CTS, not OD or ID. https://aymcdonald.com/post/the-abcs-of-pex-tubing

Taking a Deep Dive into the Workings of a Tank Tee

A tank tee is a multi-port fitting that is designed to connect a pressure tank to the water system. Tank tees help organize all the components surrounding pressure tanks while allowing all parts to be easily accessible. While a simple configuration, the tank tee contains multiple connections and accessory ports, along with a variety of different material options. https://aymcdonald.com/post/taking-a-deep-dive-into-the-workings-of-a-tank-tee



Industry News

Court Overturns Berkeley, California Gas Ban

In 2020, the city of Berkley, CA set a first-in-the-nation ban on natural gas in new construction as a way to reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses that contribute to global warming. In April, this law was overturned as restaurant owners argued the city bypassed federal regulations when it approved the ordinance. Berkley is just one example of areas that were/are attempting to ban gas stoves. https://www.cbsnews.com/news/court-overturns-berkeley-californias-gas-ban/

Featured Product(s):

Portable Bypass Kit

Experience safety and convenience when bypassing a meter for inspection, maintenance, or meter change outs with A.Y. McDonald's new Portable Bypass Kit. Staying true to its name, this durable and lightweight kit can be used with our angled body valves and also our bypass bars, allowing continuous service to the customer. https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=Portable+Bypass+Kit+-+Kits-PBK

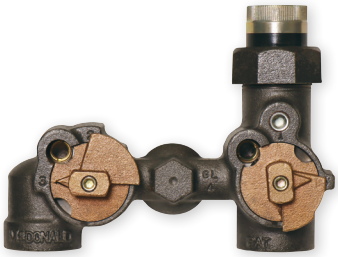
Regulated Hose Kit

The innovative Regulated Hose Kit is designed to provide technicians with a safe and easy way to bypass at the job site. The kit comes without the need for an external tank to be transported in order to perform a meter set inspection, maintenance, meter change out, regulator, riser valve, or sample testing. https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=Regulated+Hose+Kit+-+Kits-RHK

Featured Video(s):

How to Use the 6312 Bypass Meter Bar

A.Y. McDonald's 6312 bypass meter bar was created with an attractive and compact design. With no loss of pilot lights, no interruption of gas flow, and no follow up service calls, this makes the exchange of multiple meters at apartment buildings, stores, and commercial complexes easier to service. Throughout this video, we break down the benefits of the 6312 bypass meter bar and showcase exactly how the product functions. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TscMnkOh7A



6312 Bypass Meter Bar

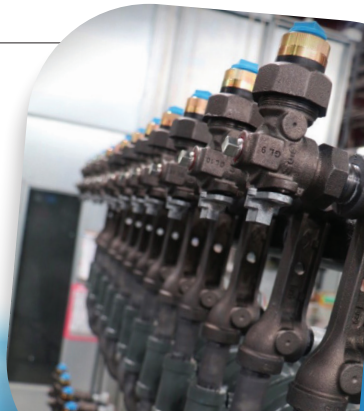
How to Use the 6410 Bypass Meter Bar

Eliminate service calls and re-lights while having the ability to perform a meter change-out any time of year with A.Y. McDonald's 6410 meter bar. This unique solution takes away the need for any additional hoses, regulators, or special tools. Consider the 6410 bypass meter bar if you're looking to completely simplify the meter change-out process. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fh6xAauZ4kE

6410 Bypass Meter Bar

Blog

Bypass Your Troubles

From bypass meter bars to bypass valves, A.Y. McDonald is proud to be the only manufacturer to provide a one-stop shop for bypass options. Overall, bypass provides an added security and flexibility to the gas application that wasn't previously offered in the industry. Reschedules, loss of pilot lights, and interruptions of service are in the past. https://aymcdonald.com/post/bypass-your-troubles

Bypass Your Troubles