

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR FLUSH FREE



To run packing “flush free” you must accomplish three things:

1. You must seal “completely” at the entrance to the stuffing box. No product can get into the box between the packing and shaft.
2. You must maintain contact between the packing and shaft at all times. This is to keep product from getting in between the shaft and the packing.
3. You must have all of the frictional heat generated by the shaft and packing, transfer through the packing and not build up at the shaft/packing contact point.

There are a few things to watch out for if you are trying to seal “flush free”:

1. Severe abrasives and slurries will “chew” up the packing in a very short time.
2. Excessive vibration or cavitation can open up leak paths and blow through the packing.
3. Severely worn sleeves can “chew up” the packing and cause premature failure.
4. Severely offset shafts will have a natural leak path that can prevent the packing from sealing properly.
5. Liquors and light oils can creep under the packing and drip. Once they coat the shaft, it is very difficult to reseal.
6. You cannot start with flush and then reduce the water to zero.
7. Running “flush free” is not recommended in liquor or acid re-circulating pumps.

To install packing in a “flush free” setup:

Follow the standard pump packing installation guidelines, then turn the gland follower two extra flats. Start the pump. If leakage occurs tighten until it stops. Steam and smoke will usually occur at the box for a short period of time. Allow packing to “settle in”. Do not back off the gland follower. Do not overtighten the gland nuts as this may damage the packing and/or the shaft.

Contact Us

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