

The More You Know



June 14, 2023

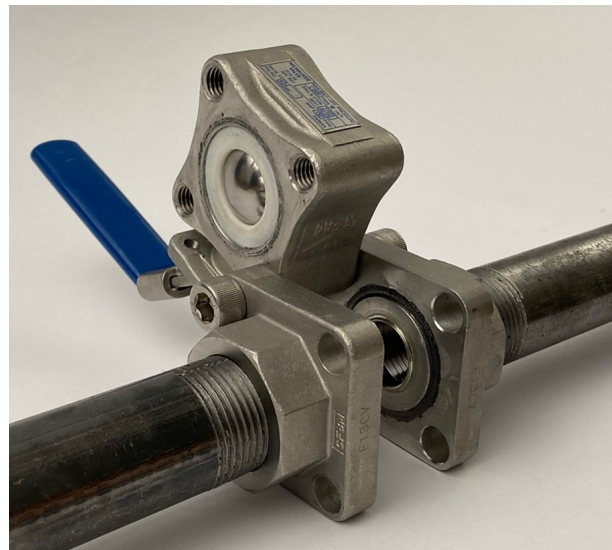
3-Piece Ball Valves... Problems Solved.



Most commercial ball valves are either 2- or 3-piece valves. Two-piece valves are constructed with two separate pieces, with the connection between them being either threaded together or a bolt-and-flange assembly. Once installed, 2-piece valves usually cannot be repaired

unless removed from service. As the name suggests, 3-piece ball valves consist of three pieces – two end caps and a body. The three pieces are usually connected by some version of a bolt-fastening system. The end caps are threaded, soldered/brazed, welded or pressed to connect the valve to the pipe on either side.

If the valve needs to be welded or soldered in place, the 3-piece configuration provides the added benefit of isolating the body (with all of the trim and packing) away from the heat source during welding, ensuring the internals stay intact.



The choice between 2-piece and 3-piece is often based on the service. Some processes put heavy demands on valves, making a 3-piece valve more convenient for maintenance issues. If seats and seals need to be replaced, the 3-piece version allows for easy and routine disassembly, service and reassembly, without having to cut the valve out of the system. Three-piece ball valves also allow for elastomers to be changed to accommodate different process conditions, temperatures, pressures and flows.

While the purchase price of 3-piece valves is initially higher than its 2-piece counterpart, the 3-piece can generate substantial savings in terms of the ability to change seats and seals vs. replacing the valve in its entirety each time.

For more information, contact your Milwaukee Valve sales representative, your regional manager or one of our application engineers today. Or visit the 3-piece ball valve section on our website by clicking [HERE](#).



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