

*Proud of Our Heritage*  
*Ford Meter Box*



**The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc.** is a leading manufacturer in the waterworks industry. Ford Meter Box products are sold throughout the United States and in over 70 countries worldwide. With corporate headquarters located in Wabash, Indiana, Ford manufactures brass valves and fittings, indoor and outdoor meter setting devices, service saddles, iron meter boxes, covers, and water meter testing equipment.

The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc. maintains one of the most efficient brass foundries in the United States. Castings from our Wabash, Indiana foundry are machined using the most modern, computerized equipment available. From our foundry through machining and assembly to our shipping docks, Ford's dedication to quality is a part of our culture.

Ford also manufactures waterworks products in Pell City, Alabama. Located 30 miles east of Birmingham, the Pell City plant manufactures pipe repair products, pipe couplings, tapping sleeves, and the Uni-Flange® line of pipe restraint products.

All Ford Meter Box products are manufactured to the most exacting quality standards. The Ford Meter Box Company is certified by Underwriters Laboratories Inc. as meeting the ISO 9001 worldwide quality

standard. The ISO 9001 registration represents many years of effort by all Ford Meter Box employees and is maintained today with frequent audits and reviews by Ford Meter Box and UL.

Ford products are marketed and sold through a network of stocking distributors. The Ford Meter Box direct factory sales staff supports these distributors by calling on engineers, municipalities, and utility contractors to demonstrate the superior design, quality and value of Ford Meter Box products. With a strong international sales force, Ford professionals travel the globe to promote and market Ford products all over the world. Customer service representatives also support Ford distributors by providing technical information and order follow-through, and by keeping our distributors informed on their orders.

We maintain a large finished goods inventory of nearly 5,000 different items at Ford Meter Box. Combining the pipe products manufactured in Pell City with the brass and iron products manufactured in Wabash, Ford Meter Box offers a complete product line and maintains our position as a leader in the waterworks industry.

The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc.  
Wabash, Indiana Plant



The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc.  
Pell City, Alabama Plant





## From Humble Beginnings to a Bright Future

From a basement shop in Hartford City, Indiana in 1898 to an industry leader, the story of The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc. continues to unfold today. When Edwin H. Ford was Hartford City's Superintendent of Waterworks, he faced shortages caused by excessive and unmetered water usage by customers. Meters were available, but an outside location for a meter was thought to be impractical in Indiana's cold winters until Mr. Ford solved the problem by designing a suitable housing for in-ground settings.

Superintendent Ford dug test pits in the backyard of his home and carefully recorded the temperature at various depths throughout the winter. His successful solution was a buried tile pipe with a lid to contain the water meter. Later he invented a double lid that created a dead air space as an insulator to reduce heat loss.

Within a few months, Mr. Ford was filling orders for "meter boxes" from water utilities in neighboring towns and thus The Ford Meter Box Company was born. The small company grew steadily through the years, and in 1911 The Ford Meter Box Company was incorporated and settled in Wabash, Indiana.

Since that time, the company has outgrown two locations and has expanded its present facilities multiple times. The innovations which Mr. Ford brought to the water utility business are the forerunners of the soundly engineered products we produce today.



*Edwin H. Ford*

## Attention to Detail and the Ability to Solve Customers' Problems are Traditions at Ford

Edwin H. Ford's attention to detail and his willingness to design products to meet customers' needs were important factors in the early growth of The Ford Meter Box Company. Mr. Ford sometimes called on water utilities only to find he had nothing to offer to meet local conditions and requirements. What discouraged most men was a challenge to him, so Mr. Ford would design a product to solve a utility's particular problem. He would create a sample, return to the prospect, and usually return home with an order. Dozens of the company's oldest and best customers were established this way, and The Ford Meter Box Company still takes pride in designing new products that solve the customers' needs.

## Water Meter Setting and Testing Equipment - The Cornerstones of the Ford Product Line

From the time of inception until the mid-1960s, The Ford Meter Box Company was known primarily as a specialty manufacturer of water setting and testing equipment. Ford pioneered most of the improvements in the way meters are set in homes and businesses.

The original meter box designed by Edwin Ford evolved into the Ford Iron Meter Yoke Box which utilized an innovative Expansion Connection to aid in meter installation and removal. The Yoke, in turn, led to the development of the Crescent Box, Yokebox, and Gulfbox. These compact cast iron meter boxes are built around the Expansion Connection idea and are supplied complete with valves, locking lids, and inlet and outlet connections. The Ford Copper Meter Setter line is a testimony to the inventiveness of Edwin Ford and his sons. Recognizing the need for devices to properly support and position meters in indoor plumbing or outdoor pits, these pioneers created machines and manufacturing techniques to bend and solder copper tubing for attachment to brass support bars making possible an almost infinite variety of Copperhorns and Coppersetters. Ford Meter Box remains the primary producer of Copper Meter Setters, with the broadest line in the waterworks industry.





## Ford Brass Valves and Fittings - The Industry Standard

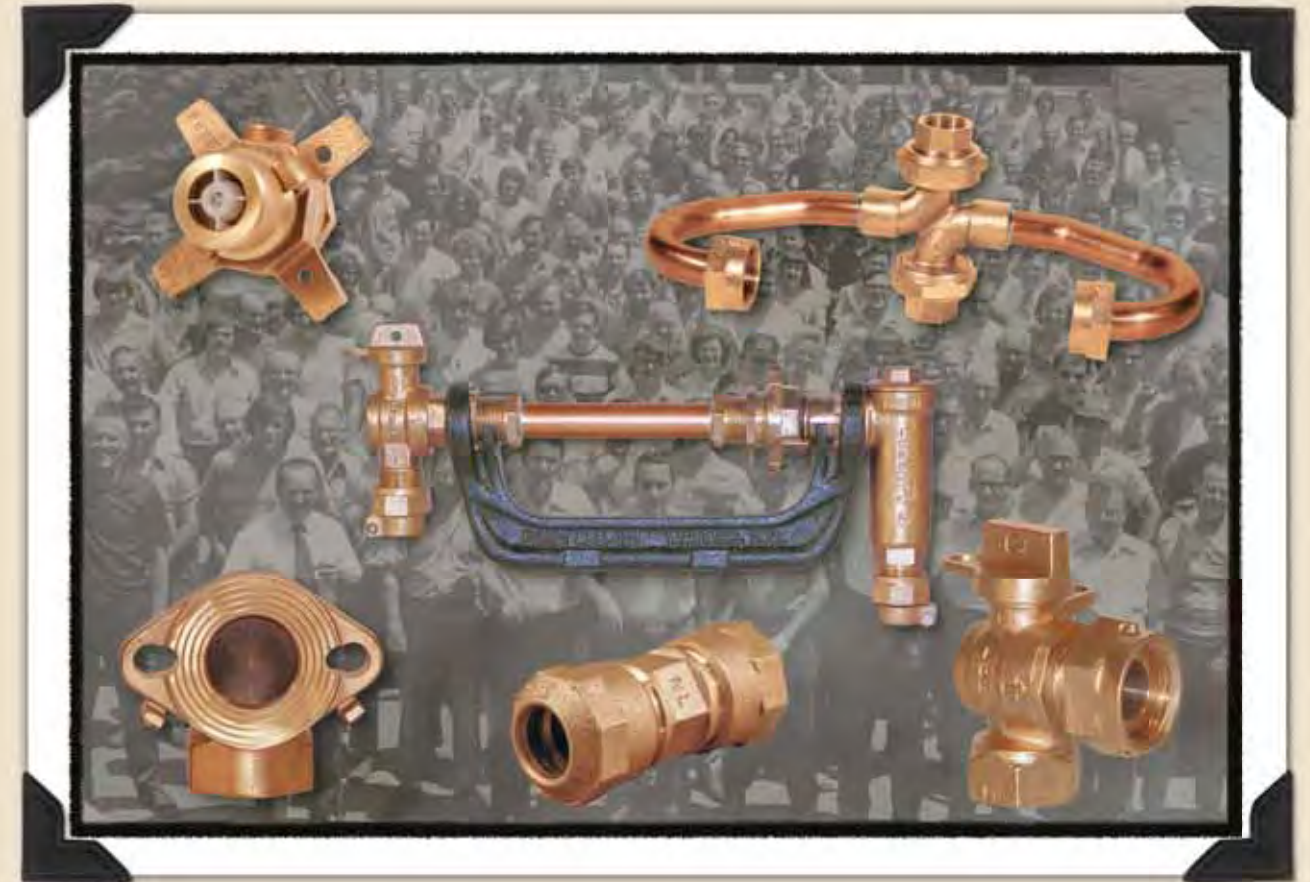
It was quite a jump from a small specialty company to the premier manufacturer of waterworks brass valves and fittings, but Ford made this transition. High quality and innovative products helped form the broadest line in the industry and were the primary factors behind Ford's growth to a leadership position.

In the mid-1950s Ford introduced the Pack Joint compression coupling as a way to connect service line piping without flaring and threading the pipe. Today, the Pack Joint is found on every style of valve, meter setting, or coupling that Ford offers. Although others have copied the Pack Joint idea, nobody has the variety of sizes and types of compression couplings that are available from Ford.

The early 1960s brought the introduction of the ball valve to the waterworks brass market. Easy to turn, and able to withstand very high working and test pressures, the ball valve represented a major improvement over the key valve. Available in straight and angle styles, ball valves meet every conceivable valving need.

The 1970s and 1980s brought continued innovation to the Ford product line. The development of the Ballcorp Corporation Stop was a logical extension of the ball valve idea incorporated into the practice of water main tapping. Ford also obtained approval from the American Society of Sanitary Engineers for a new line of dual check valves. Check valves were designed to be a part of the meter setting and offered maximum convenience to the utility concerned with protecting water quality.

Ford Meter Box is one of the most inventive companies in the waterworks business with hundreds of products invented or improved at Ford. The example established by Edwin Ford in 1898 for solving problems continues to this day.



## Ford Water Meter Testing Equipment

When water utilities think of meter testing, they think of Ford Meter Box. Standard, Indianapolis, and Akron Test Benches are designed to match the testing needs of any sized utility. Ford's innovative and flexible designs were so successful that for years Ford was the only manufacturer of testing equipment in the United States. Handcrafted Ford Test Benches have become the standard in the industry. Today, Ford continues to supply the majority of the meter testing equipment sold in this country.





## Ford Pipe Products

The 1970s saw the addition of pipe products to the Ford product family. Viewed as a logical "next step," pipe products offered the traditional Ford values of quality, quick service, and a complete range of products to meet any pipe repair need. Ford Repair Clamps provided the choice of all stainless steel construction or the traditional ductile iron lug design. Cast couplings, either straight or transitional, were offered in a wide variety of sizes and options including epoxy coated and stainless steel hardware. Additionally, Ford Meter Box has a full line of service saddles available in brass and ductile iron. Ductile iron saddles are manufactured with silicon bronze straps or stainless steel bands. Ford Saddles can be ordered with optional taps of AWWA tapered or straight iron pipe threads. Traditional Ford innovation is also a part of the pipe product picture. Ford manufactures a variety of tapping

sleeves with various outlet options such as Class D, E or F flanges, a carbon steel flange or a mechanical joint adapter outlet. Fabricated steel products, from tapping sleeves to large diameter couplings, can be made to customer specification.



FTSS Tapping Sleeve



## Uni-Flange® - The Latest Addition to the Ford Family

The latest addition to Ford Meter Box was a complete line of Uni-Flange® pipe restraint products. Uni-Flange® brought to Ford a line of products that complemented the pipe products already manufactured by Ford. Restraints for PVC and ductile iron pipe along with a wide variety of flange adapters for ductile iron, steel and PVC pipe round out the product line. Whether you

need to install bends, tees, valves, hydrants, reducers, or restrain water main pipe, Ford has the restraint product for the job. With Uni-Flange® restraint products from Ford, concrete thrust blocks have become a thing of the past. Utilities can install water mains complete with all valves and fittings in less time than ever before, but the Ford Meter Box story is not finished. Ford is still committed to developing new and innovative products for the water distribution industry.



RFAP  
Restrained Flange  
Adapter



## The Ford Meter Box Story is Not Finished

Ford Meter Box is one of the most inventive companies in the waterworks business. Hundreds of products have found their start or were improved at Ford. Many of the products that Ford manufactures had their start with our customers. Today, a customer's request for a new product is initiated with a Customer Inquiry Data Sheet (CIDS) through our Customer Service Department. This request is reviewed by our Customer Service Department, Engineering Department and Product Manager to determine marketability, design development, and feasibility before the product can be implemented as a new Ford product. At Ford, we want to be sure every product idea will meet or exceed the expectations of our customers.

Since the company's start in Hartford City, Indiana, to the acquisition of its Pell City, Alabama plant, Ford Meter Box is committed to remaining a North American manufacturer. Ford's great products and world-renowned reputation have been achieved by hard-working people taking pride in what they do. Our dedicated employees strive to provide the finest quality products for our customers, making Ford Meter Box the leader in the waterworks industry.

Ford's well-designed and thoroughly

tested products are manufactured with the finest raw materials available. Supported by an excellent and professional group of manufacturing employees and customer service representatives, Ford Meter Box is a company you can count on now and in the future. For up-to-date information on the complete Ford line, visit our website at [www.fordmeterbox.com](http://www.fordmeterbox.com) or contact your Ford full-line distributor.



## Factory Expansion History



1925



1974



2004





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