



THE METER SETTER

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FATE OF FREEZING

Many of us have seen what happens when a soda is left in the freezer too long: the liquid expands, the container bulges or bursts, and a frozen mess results. In water distribution systems, the effects of ice and the powerful expansion forces it creates are far more costly than a ruined soft drink.

Crumbling pavement and ruptured water lines are common and expensive consequences of cold weather. Municipalities, homeowners, and businesses all invest heavily in ice prevention and in damage repair when prevention falls short. Protecting waterworks components from harsh elements requires planning to avoid unnecessary and costly expenses.

Brass valves are no exception. Ford Meter Box occasionally inspects valves damaged by frozen water. In both key-style and ball-style valves, internal parts can swell, bodies can crack, and joints can become compromised. Once thawed, these distortions can lead to valve leakage. Attempting to operate a ball valve packed with ice can further damage internal components, leading to valves that no longer fully open or close.

Freezing can occur quickly, and sometimes in locations we don't associate with cold weather. A valve left exposed during installation can freeze before backfill provides insulation. In regions unaccustomed to colder temperatures, valves assembled above ground may be vulnerable after just an hour of exposure. Short and repeated icy events can also cumulatively weaken valve performance.

For proper care and installation, please follow the instructions provided with all Ford products. Instructions may be attached to the part or included in the box, but they can also be found at: www.fordmeterbox.com/resources.



Images above capture the impact of freezing water inside a brass valve.
From left to right: cracked valve body, oblong ball, and expanded plug valve key.

For more information on recognizing environmental, application, or installation conditions that affect product performance, contact your Ford representative or local distributor.



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