

Our standard valves will give hundreds of thousands of cycles and years of service in most applications, however there are some industrial vacuum processes that are so dirty that the valves may need special features to provide long life and trouble free operation. Processes such as investment casting, tire reclamation and steel degassing often produce dust and particulate that can lead to frequent valve seal maintenance. Plasma systems may also need special care to protect the valve seals. The high temperature and corrosive nature of the plasma can cause the seals to quickly become dry and brittle and subsequently leak.

In these situations one of the most popular options is to apply a rough vacuum of approximately 0.1 Torr between the stages of the seal on the valve actuator shaft. Keeping a low pressure differential between seal stages can greatly extend the useful life of the seal.

Other customers prefer to lubricate the shaft and seals with high quality oil from a continuous gravity oiler. In this case the valve hub may be provided with both an inlet and outlet port so that a continuous drip of lubricant can be supplied.

In certain situations high viscosity grease is preferred and an appropriate fitting can be provided.

In all such situations a compliant dust seal is installed around the shaft at the vacuum interface to keep dust and particulate away from the vacuum seals and shaft roller bearings.

These inexpensive features are available on any size of our standard or water cooled gate or poppet valves. We recommend them on any application wherever dust and dirt from your process may contribute to increased maintenance and downtime.

Ordering Information

Although these options are not expensive they are always built to match the exact needs of each customer (for example, the pump out port may be pipe thread or ‘NW’ style flanges of various sizes). Because there are so many variables a firm price quotation will be provided after your discussion with our customer service people.

