

# A.Y. McDonald

# CONNECTION



Volume 1, No. 8 | Winter 2022



## Work Harder and Smarter

by Scott Knapp

If anyone had predicted a year like 2021, they certainly didn't share it with anyone. Skyrocketing demand mixed with supply chain challenges and a pandemic-induced people shortage has led nearly every industry and business to cast their business plans aside and focus on one thing: getting product out the door. At A.Y. McDonald, we call that "WMS", which stands for "Where's my Stuff?". You can certainly insert another "S" word, and many do. Others add colorful adjectives between "my" and "stuff". Regardless of how you state it, when you live by the core value of, "The Customer is the Boss," and the boss is demanding more than anyone ever predicted, you have to step up and respond.

For our company, addressing "WMS" has meant recruiting hundreds of new co-workers to join the A.Y. McDonald family and we are recruiting in very unconventional ways. This 166-year-old family business has a very compelling story to tell, and we are constantly finding ways to separate ourselves from other potential employers. We are also being creative with our throughput, finding ways to get more from the resources we have as well as investing in capital to support our growing needs. We are investing in our supply chain wherever possible so that we minimize supply chain disruption. Finally, we are striving to offer greater transparency to our customers. The more information you have, the better we can both plan ahead. In short, everyone is working harder, but we are also working smarter because, frankly, we have to in everything we do. In fact, this edition of The A.Y. McDonald Connection Newsletter is even focused on products to make the installer's life easier.



A.Y. McDonald has no silver bullet to the challenges that lie ahead for us all. If there was an easy fix, we'd all have fixed it by now. 2022 will be a challenge for us all and together we will outperform the competition. With a lot of toil and sweat, we may even surprise ourselves and take it to a level the other guys can't even understand. Happy New Year to all!

## The Meaning Behind This Newsletter Issue's Featured Products

Some of your best workers may be retiring, you are short-staffed due to the economy, and the new members of your crew need to learn the job quicker than ever. If your operations are suffering from any or all of these scenarios, this means that you need easy-to-use parts that allow you do more with less. Because of this, all the products featured in this newsletter issue were hand selected by our experts as some of the most user friendly, innovative, and time savings solutions located within our own product lines. Whether you're familiar with these products or not, we hope you enjoy learning how they can make your job easier!

## Come See Us in Person at an Upcoming Show!

A.Y. McDonald may be coming to a town near you. Below is a list of upcoming conferences our experts will be attending from all over the country. Visit the trade shows section of our website to view a frequently updated list of events. <https://aymcdonald.com/post/ay-mcdonald-tradeshows>


North Dakota Water Expo – Fargo, ND	February 2 - 3, 2022	Michigan Ground Water Association (MGWA) – Frankenmuth, MI	February 16 - 17, 2022
Montana Water Well Drillers Association – Missoula, MT	February 3, 2022	Iowa Rural Water Association Annual Conference – Des Moines, IA	February 21 - 23, 2022
Iowa Utility Board Pipeline Conference – West Des Moines, IA	February 7 - 9, 2022	Utah Rural Water Association (RWAU) – St. George, UT	March 1 - 3, 2022
2022 Joint Expo, Michigan Section AWWA – Lansing, MI	February 8 - 9, 2022	Oregon Association of Water Utilities – Independence, OR	March 1 - 4, 2022
Illinois Association of Groundwater – East Peoria, IL	February 10 - 11, 2022	Colorado Rural Water – Denver, CO	March 8, 2022
Mountain States Ground Water EXPO – Laughlin, NV	February 10 - 11, 2022	Idaho Rural Water (IRWA) – Boise, ID	March 8 - 10, 2022
Nebraska Well Drillers Association 87th Annual Conference – Kearney, NE	February 15 - 17, 2022	Southern Gas Association Spring Expo – Columbia, SC	March 13 - 16, 2022

# Innovation

**E-SERIES DuraMAC BOOSTER PUMP**  
LAUNCHED  
**NOVEMBER 2017**  
E-Series  
INNOVATION CENTER  
EST. 1956  
McDonald




**TELESCOPING METER FLANGE**  
LAUNCHED  
**NOVEMBER 2017**  
Patent Pending  
INNOVATION CENTER  
EST. 1956  
McDonald



**A.Y. McDONALD WEBSITE**  
LAUNCHED  
**NOVEMBER 2017**  
With online ordering capabilities  
aymcdonald.com  
INNOVATION CENTER  
EST. 1956  
McDonald



**ADJUSTABLE METER PIT**  
LAUNCHED  
**JUNE 2018**  
INNOVATION CENTER  
EST. 1956  
McDonald



**INTEGRAL CORP./SADDLE**  
LAUNCHED  
**JUNE 2018**  
INNOVATION CENTER  
EST. 1956  
McDonald



**NO-LEAD SADDLE**  
LAUNCHED  
**JULY 2018**  
INNOVATION CENTER  
EST. 1956  
McDonald



**RANGER FITTINGS**  
LAUNCHED  
**APRIL 2019**  
INNOVATION CENTER  
EST. 1956  
McDonald



**METER SET ASSEMBLIES**  
LAUNCHED  
**APRIL 2019**  
INNOVATION CENTER  
EST. 1956  
McDonald



**MAGNETIC LIDS**  
LAUNCHED  
**APRIL 2019**  
INNOVATION CENTER  
EST. 1956  
McDonald



## Innovation News

### What is an Innovation Summit?

It is time for our Innovation team to spend listening and learning. It is sharing ideas and brainstorming solutions. Recently, we brought together a group of individuals from across the U.S. in the Water Works industry. This time was used to better understand the work they do and the challenges they face. By understanding the experiences and perspectives of a person, we can start to innovate solutions that bring true value to the work they do. In addition to us learning from them, they in turn learned from each other. With varied levels of experience and different regions represented, so many great lessons were shared amongst participants. We can't wait to bring some of these ideas to life!



### Making the Final Four Feels Fantastic!



PDMA (Product Development and Management Association) is a global community of thousands of members whose skills, expertise, and experience power the most recognized and respected innovative companies in the world. For 34 years, PDMA's exclusive Outstanding Corporate Innovator (OCI) Award has become the premier honor for industry innovators. The selection process identifies companies that create and capture long-term value through product and service innovation. As a global award, companies around the world are eligible. Past winners include The Gorilla Glue, Lennox, BMW, Starbucks, Dow Chemical, Marriott, and UnitedHealth Group.



In August 2021, A.Y. McDonald was honored to be named one of the four finalists for this award! Five years ago, A.Y. McDonald opened our Innovation Center in Dubuque and it hit the ground running. Our company was selected as a finalist based on success in developing an Innovation program that supports long term sustainable growth for A.Y. McDonald. This recognition helps validate all the hard work and great things that have already come from the Innovation Center – and what's yet to come!



## Industry News

### 39 Water Utilities Recognized for Innovation

The Utility of the Future was launched in 2016 as a way to promote water systems around the world that are transforming operations through innovation and technology. The program recently announced its recognition of 39 water utilities that meet their criteria of transforming from a traditional wastewater treatment system to a resource recovery center and leader in the overall sustainability and resilience of the communities they serve. <https://www.waterworld.com/water-utility-management/smart-water-utility/press-release/14208303/water-utilities-recognized-for-innovation-in-operations-and-communities>

## Featured Products



### Telescoping Meter Flange

A.Y. McDonald is proud to offer the patent pending Telescoping Meter Flange. Thanks to a movable meter flange, an extra 1/4" of space becomes available, making meter installation and replacement easier than ever! This solution contains two internal EPDM O-rings that seal the telescoping flange to the body and four 304 stainless steel shoulder bolts that retain the flange at full extension, which also guides the telescoping action and contributes to the robust design. <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=telescoping+meter+flange>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0JSx4Vljj5>

### Adjustable Coil Meter Pit Assembly

With the ability to be adjusted at the top after the pit has been installed, A.Y. McDonald's patent pending 795 Series Top Adjustable Coil Meter Pit Assembly is unlike any other product on the market today. Experience innovation at play with a product designed to provide up to 18" of adjustability on 15" and 18" diameter PVC due to the addition of a molded poly top onto the PVC pipe. <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=adjustable+coil+pit>

Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qx\\_5mb2FVrA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qx_5mb2FVrA)

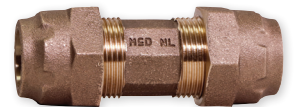


795 Series

### RANGER Fitting

In 2019, A.Y. McDonald introduced the innovative RANGER fitting, which not only saves time but also reduces inventory by replacing up to 99 compression connections. To date, many additional size and product options have been added to our RANGER offering, allowing customers to get even more from this solution. Currently, the fitting comes in sizes 3/4", 1", 1 1/4", and 1 1/2". <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=ranger+fitting>

Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ruwml\\_MkNk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ruwml_MkNk)



### TECK™ Stainless-Steel Repair Clamps

Experience long lasting results and a custom solution with A.Y. McDonald's stainless-steel TECK™ repair clamps. This product includes many desirable features such as a fully welded bar, roll plate, anti-gall nuts, and an NBR taper grid pattern gasket. Customers also have the option for a conductivity patch, along with AWWA or FNPT outlets. <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=TECK+repair+clamp&amex=>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMnXVxSp5k0>

## Blog

### A.Y. McDonald Stainless-Steel Repair Clamps to the Rescue

There are an estimated 1,180,000 miles of water main pipes located in the United States. With so many components to maintain, chances are that, at any given moment, a water main or service line could leak, split, break, or crack. In such situation, a stainless-steel repair clamp provides a quick, easy, and long-lasting solution. <https://aymcdonald.com/post/ay-mcdonald-stainless-steel-repair-clamps-to-the-rescue>





## Industry News

### Comparison of Continental Hydrological Models Helps Improve Water Management

The act of forecasting floods and predicting groundwater levels is an ability that the industry has spent a lot of time trying to bring into fruition – and it’s finally possible. Researchers recently published the results of the first phase of the Continental Hydrologic Intercomparison Project, which gives more insight to the hydrologic processes within the United States. [https://www.mswmag.com/online\\_exclusives/2021/07/comparison-of-continental-hydrological-models-helps-improve-water-management?alert\\_1381](https://www.mswmag.com/online_exclusives/2021/07/comparison-of-continental-hydrological-models-helps-improve-water-management?alert_1381)

## New Products

### AutoDRIVE

The new AutoDRIVE is a variable frequency drive (VFD) that does it all. This innovative solution allows the submersible pump and motor to provide constant pressure in well applications. The drive also provides energy savings and allows for use of a smaller pressure tank. An additional benefit is the protection of the well pumping system. The drive itself is lightweight, consists of a rugged steel construction, is field serviceable, and contains a backlit screen and intuitive interface. <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=autodrive&amex=>



## Featured Products

### Guardian Pump

While installed in addition to the sump pump, the Guardian pump performs as an emergency water powered back up that helps when the main sump pump either fails or cannot keep up. This means that when the power goes out, the Guardian takes over. This pump is designed for groundwater and the sump crocks in homes, motels, hotels, hospitals, industrial buildings, computer rooms, and record storage rooms. In addition, the Guardian pump is made in the USA, designed for intermittent or continuous use, and supplied with a single check valve for your convenience. <https://aymcdonald.com/products/pump-systems/sumpsewageeffluent-pumps?Subcategory=Water+Backup+-+Sump+Pump>

AYU course: <https://aymcdonald.com/#/online-courses/44c268a7-f63b-48a9-a340-d97d623f4816>



## Featured Product Knowledge Resource:

### A.Y. McDonald University (AYU)

How do I size a jet pump? What are booster pump troubleshooting tips? What are the parts of a water well? A.Y. McDonald is here to answer all those questions you had when you first entered the industry, and even decades on the job. Currently, there are over 30 pump related e-learning courses that are ready to be viewed, clicked through, and read by you. Use your desktop, iPad, or smartphone – it all works the same. Whether you’re in the field or at the office, AYU is knowledge available 24/7 right at your fingertips. <https://www.aymcdonald.com>



## Blog

### Sump Pumps: Allowing You to Look Forward to the Rainy Season

Depending on the location, there are certain weather conditions that can cause excess water outside to seep into the foundation of the home. This can accompany rainstorms and the melting of large quantities of snow. To protect the basement from housing all this water, a sump pump is often installed, as its purpose is to transfer this water away from the area. Learn the possible scenarios where the installation of a sump pump may be a good fit: <https://aymcdonald.com/post/sump-pumps-allowing-you-to-look-forward-to-the-rainy-season>





## Industry News

### Debunking Water Damage Myths Homeowners Believe

For plumbing companies, water damage education for the homeowner will set you aside from other plumbers in the industry. A number of topics that should be shared include how to react to leaks, the dos and don'ts of homeowner's insurance, and more. At the end of the day, an educated customer is a happy one. <https://www.plumbermag.com/how-to-articles/detection-rwc-streamlabs-customer/debunking-water-damage-myths-homeowners-believe>

## Featured Product

### Push-Fit Fittings

Push-Fit Fittings create a permanent connection that is established in seconds but also an easy disassemble due to its sleek disconnect clip. As a relatively new design for connecting fittings to copper, CPVC, or PEX piping, the plumbing industry got an upgrade when this product was introduced. A.Y. McDonald Push-Fit fittings are produced with low-lead forged brass and are ideal for use on plumbing, water, and hydronic heating systems. <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=push-fit+fittings>  
 AYU course: <https://aymcdonald.com/#/online-courses/30bec32e-b102-45b9-aa07-0b7c9e885a33>



### Straight and Angle Quarter Turn Supply Stops – Push-Fit

As a necessity to any plumbing system, supply stops control the water flow to household plumbing fixtures. Experience quick access to the water shut off for a fixture with A.Y. McDonald's Straight and Angle Quarter Turn Supply Stops – Push-Fit. This solution was created with high quality material, long lasting results, and many options to choose from. <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=supply+stop&styles%5B%5D=Push+Fit+x+Comp>

### Push-Fit Stainless-Steel Water Heater Connectors

No-Lead Push-Fit Valves and Fittings are a 21st century design for use on copper, PEX or CPVC pipe while eliminating the need for soldering, crimping, or solvent welding. A.Y. McDonald's Stainless-Steel Push-Fit Water Heater Connectors are a desirable solution for connecting hot and cold water supply lines to the water heater! <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=Push-Fit+Water+Heater+Connect+-+CTS+x+FNPT>



## Blog

### An Overview of Common Supply Stop Types



True to its name, a supply stop completely stops the flow of fluid through a pipe, allowing for routine maintenance or replacement of an appliance/fixture. A supply stop is often necessary as a safety feature that may be manually operated or incorporated into an automated system. While all supply stops serve the same function, there are a variety of options to choose from. However, a good place to start is the type. Learn the common supply stop types for toilet, faucet, ice maker, and washing machine applications. <https://aymcdonald.com/post/an-overview-of-common-supply-stop-types>





## Featured Solution:

### Bypass Technology

Gas utilities are always looking for new ways to simplify the necessary services performed on a meter while also making the process even safer. As a tough challenge to conquer, natural gas product manufacturers understand that not just any solution will suffice...until bypass technology came along. Since 2006, A.Y. McDonald has been providing products that contain a bypass option and we're not slowing down anytime soon. This solution comes with no loss of pilot lights, no interruption of service or loss in flow capacity, and the gas supply is always ready and regulated to the correct pressure. Below are some of our current bypass product options:



#### • Regulated Hose Kit

- The innovative kit is designed to provide technicians with a safe and easy way to bypass at the job site and comes without the need for an external tank to be transported in order to perform a meter set inspection, maintenance, meter change out, regulator, riser valve, or sample testing. <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=Regulated+Hose+Kit+--+Kits-RHK>
- AYU course: <https://aymcdonald.com/#/online-courses/c82a7d4d-df8a-4c6a-b5be-ef77ca6dedb4>

#### • Portable Bypass Kit

- Experience safety and convenience when bypassing a meter for inspection, maintenance, or meter change outs with A.Y. McDonald's new Portable Bypass Kit. Staying true to its name, this durable and lightweight kit can be used with our angled body valves and also our bypass bars, allowing continuous service to the customer. <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=Portable+Bypass+Kit+--+Kits-PBK>
- AYU course: <https://aymcdonald.com/#/online-courses/73eaa9d4-69c2-4668-ac77-3b931a13d98d>

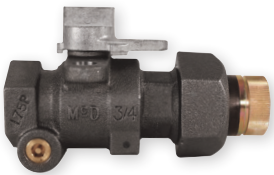


#### • Residential Bypass Meter Bar

- While there are multiple natural gas distribution meter bars, A.Y. McDonald is the only one to create a patented, self-contained residential bypass meter bar, recognized as our 6410 series. This means there is no need for additional hoses, regulators, bottles, or any special tools. <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=6410>
- AYU course: <https://aymcdonald.com/#/online-courses/01b9add8-3c92-43d8-9ba1-592b7cd93cbb>

#### • MSAs

- In 2019, A.Y. McDonald's natural gas product line introduced meter set assemblies (MSAs), which allow us to provide our manufactured components that make up a gas meter set assembled into one unit. The MSA comes with bypass technology when ordered with an inline bypass ball valve on the inlet and an inline or angle bypass ball valve on the outlet.
- AYU course: <https://aymcdonald.com/#/online-courses/8a4997ea-bed0-4891-8d8a-b64698b9d2ef>



#### • Bypass Angle and Inline Ball Valves

- Experience a precision machined product and bubble tight leak protection both open and closed with A.Y. McDonald's Bypass Angle Ball Valve. Ball valves offer the added feature of lower and more closely controlled operating torques for the life of the valve. The brass ball rides between two PTFE port seals that require no lubrication while the stem has a double O-ring seal and cannot be removed from the valve. <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=angle+ball+valve&categories%5B%5D=Natural+Gas+Valves&amex=>
- The Bypass Angle Ball Valve also comes with an inline option: <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=Inline+Bypass+Vlv+Insul&amex=>

## Blog

### The Safety Aspect of Bypass Technology

While COVID-19 has impacted our personal lives, it has also affected jobs and the way in which they are performed – but, with bypass technology, it doesn't necessarily have to. One of the selling points to bypass is that it eliminates the need to enter a customer's premises, which means the elimination of the spread of germs. Learn additional safety benefits to bypass technology for gas utility workers. <https://aymcdonald.com/post/the-safety-aspect-of-bypass-technology>