

FLEXICRAFT 
PIPELINE STRAINERS
INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

GENERAL

A Y-strainer can be installed in either a horizontal or vertical position with the screen element pointing downward. The strainer screen will then collect material in the strainer at the lowest point of the screen.

Basket strainers are to be installed in horizontal lines only. They are used for liquid service applications.

INSTALLATION

Check all machined surfaces to make sure they are free of defects, and the inside of the strainer is free of foreign objects. All strainers should be installed with the arrow on the strainer body pointing in the direction of flow.

For the installation of flanged strainers, tighten the bolts gradually in a cross-tighten fashion, until all bolts are tight. Use appropriate sealant on the threads of threaded strainers. The system can be slowly pressurized while checking for any leakage around all connections. Depressurize the system and start the installation procedure over if there is any leakage.

MAINTENANCE

A Y-strainer screen can be cleaned by opening the blow-off valve if one is connected. Or cleaning can be achieved by removing the plug in the bushing, cap, or bolted cover allowing the strainer to drain the loose material inside the screen. (See Warning.) The Y-strainer screen can also be cleaned by removing the bushing, cap or cover to access the screen element.

Basket strainers with a closed bottom basket can be cleaned by removing the cap or cover and pulling out the basket screen for service. (See Warning.) If the strainer screen is bottomless, the blow-off plug can be removed allowing it to be drained and cleaned like a Y-strainer.

After carefully removing a screen, it should be soaked in a cleaning solution or cleaned by using a brush. Do not allow trapped material in the screen to harden, as removal will then be difficult. A cleaning schedule is recommended to avoid screens from becoming clogged.

To help in establishing a cleaning schedule for the strainer screen, a pressure gauge installed before and after a strainer to indicate a pressure loss due to clogging. Extra screens can be useful to keep the system operating during cleaning.

WARNING: Before loosening of any bushing, cap, plug or cover on a strainer, extreme caution should be exercised to ensure there is zero pounds pressure in the system. Only after the system has been depressurized, should the strainer be drained for service. **SERVICE ON A PRESSURIZED STRAINER CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE.**

WARNING: Strainers may operate in pipelines carrying fluids at elevated temperatures and pressures, and may transport hazardous materials. Precautions should be taken to protect personnel in the event of leakage or splash. Strainers should not be installed in inaccessible areas where inspection is impossible. Make sure proper drainage is available in the event of leakage when operating personnel are not available.