

"What *is* packing anyhow?"

Our salesmen frequently comment on how often their friends, outside the business, ask the question—"What is Packing?"

Some of the ideas as to the meaning of the word are very amusing in their vagueness and it is very seldom that the average man realizes just what a big part this product plays in the efficiency and economy of the industrial machinery that is making the world better for us all.

So for all its seeming insignificance the story of what packing is would seem to be well worth telling and well worth reading by anyone.

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AS a starter, consider Packing as something like the "washer" in your kitchen faucet. It prevents leakage—or ought to.

Now whenever steam is put to work—or water, gas, brine, or ammonia—packing is needed. It is needed to prevent leakage where gleaming rods slide smoothly in and out of cylinders, for leakage here means not only loss of steam or water, but actual waste of power.

And inside the cylinders of pumps, packing again saves power. With perhaps two hundred pounds pressure on one side of the piston, and a vacuum on the other, piston packing prevents leakage past the piston.

And sheet packing, cut or molded into gaskets, prevents leakage at joints of surfaces or piping.

So, fundamentally, packing guards against leakage.

But when it works against moving surfaces, packing is subject to wear—or it goes "dead," and loses its elasticity. This means replacement, shut down machinery and expense. So the buyer of packing must ask not only "Will it prevent leakage," but also "How long will it last"—which of course depends on the material and workmanship put into it.

And there's a third question, which the engineer will ask if you don't, "How much friction does it cause?" For some packings prevent leakage merely by filling up the packing space as solidly as possible. Naturally such packing binds the moving rod—sometimes even scores it—and acts more or less as a brake. It is such serious faults as these that Johns-Manville has overcome through intelligent packing design.

So packing is not a thing to be bought at random—the right choice will save money by preventing leakage, by conserving power, and by its longer life.

As the pioneers in packing development we have placed packing design on a scientific basis, and out of experience, observation and facts have established a complete and standardized line that meets every plant requirement from among the minimum number of packings. Only in this way can packing be made to give a maximum of service for a minimum of cost.

Here is a partial list of Johns-Manville Packings: Sea Rings for outside packed Rods; Service Sheet, an all-around-the-plant sheet packing; Universal Piston for inside packed pumps; Kearsarge boiler, man and hand hole gaskets; Mogul Coil Packing for valve stems and small rods; Siegelite Sheet for packing oils, gasoline and naphtha.

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Serves in Conservation

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