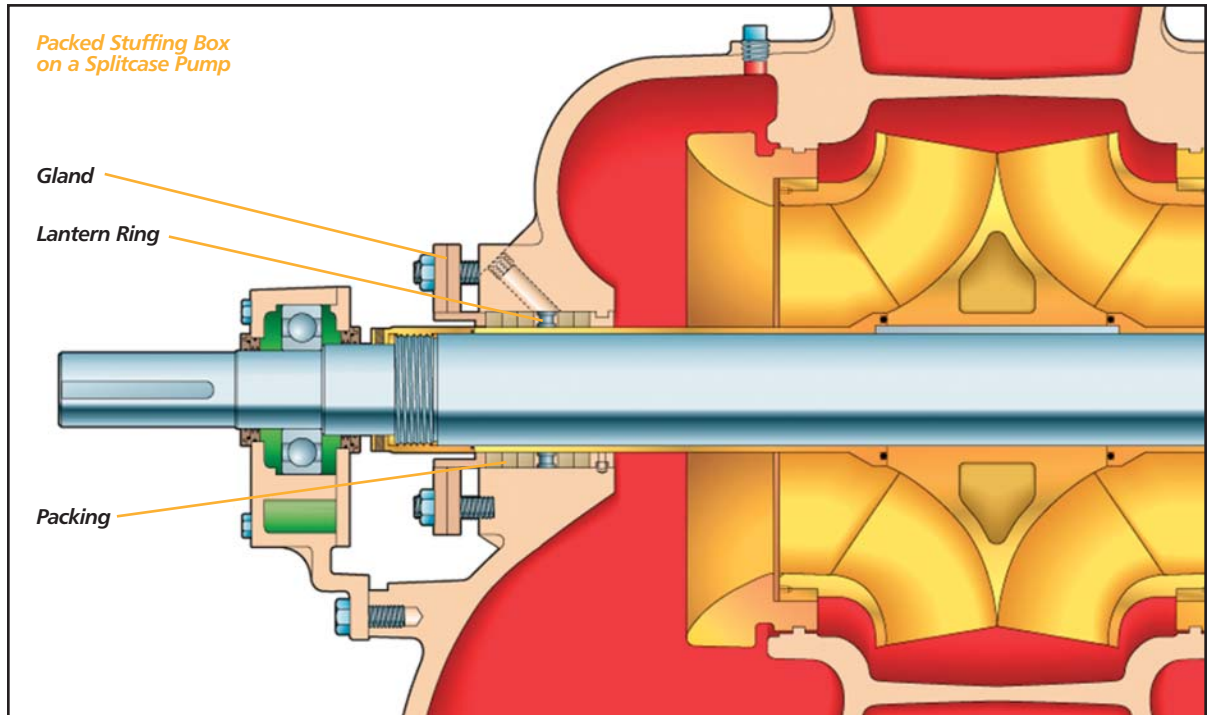


## Service Solutions

### Packing, A Thing of the Past?

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There is no question that today the vast majority of pumps shipped use Mechanical Seals rather than a Packing Arrangement. The reasons are primarily related to apparent leak free operation, reduced maintenance and operational cost over the life of the unit and the relative reliability Seals bring to the table. Does this mean Pump Packing is obsolete, never to be seen again? Not quite.

Many Customers prefer packing over Mechanical Seals and here are just a couple of reasons why:

Initial Cost; a packed Box is significantly lower in initial cost than the least expensive Mechanical Seal. That cost advantage disappears soon once the cost of having to continually adjust the Packing in the first few Days of Operation are counted. But once it is correctly adjusted and "broken in," a properly packed box can give years of trouble free service without requiring nearly any attention.

Cost is still an important part of the overall picture. Take, for example, a large process pump which is not pumping a hazardous or toxic liquid. Large process pumps have large shafts, large shafts require large mechanical seals, large mechanical seals cost large dollars. In addition, replacing the seal calls for the unit to be nearly completely disassembled. In that case a packed pump may be the low cost solution regardless

of how often you have to adjust the packing. And it is certainly the low cost answer if you consider the time and effort to replace a seal. So, how about split seals where they can be replaced with much less disassembly? They too can be a viable solution – but generally they cost much more than a standard seal, are difficult to install and may be limited in the applications they can handle.

Now consider the pump in critical service where, if it goes down for any significant length of time, you will suffer heavy losses in product or productivity. Packing may be the smart choice here as well. Since replacing a seal requires nearly a complete tear down, most often done in a shop, that unit is going to be out of service for quite some time. Packing can rescue the day because you can shut down and lock out the pump, remove the Gland, Packing, Lantern Ring, repack it and get it up and running again in a fraction of the time it would take to replace the seal. Reduced down time equals reduced cost and better productivity.

The questions of short term / long term costs, production demands, availability of sealing liquid, reliability concerns, leakage concerns, etc. all enter into the decision of whether a seal or packing is the correct choice.