A valve is a flow-control device. Valves are used to regulate the flow of fluids in piping systems and machinery. There are many different types of valves in operation - each designed to perform a specific function. Four particular valve types are commonly used in piping systems. Some of the most common structural features of pipe valves are: outside stem and yoke, packless construction; angle, as opposed to straightway flow; power instead of manual operation; and combined non-return and stop-valve arrangements. These valves may also be made from a variety of materials, depending upon their particular function and the stress they undergo during operation. Brass and bronze are usual in valves for general service. Cast iron may be used where there are low steam pressures (less than 250 psi) and temperatures, or hydraulic pressures, below 800 psi. However, steel and alloy steels are required for the highest operating pressures such as 5000 psi and 1200 F steam. Where there are chemical and process applications, special metals must be used.