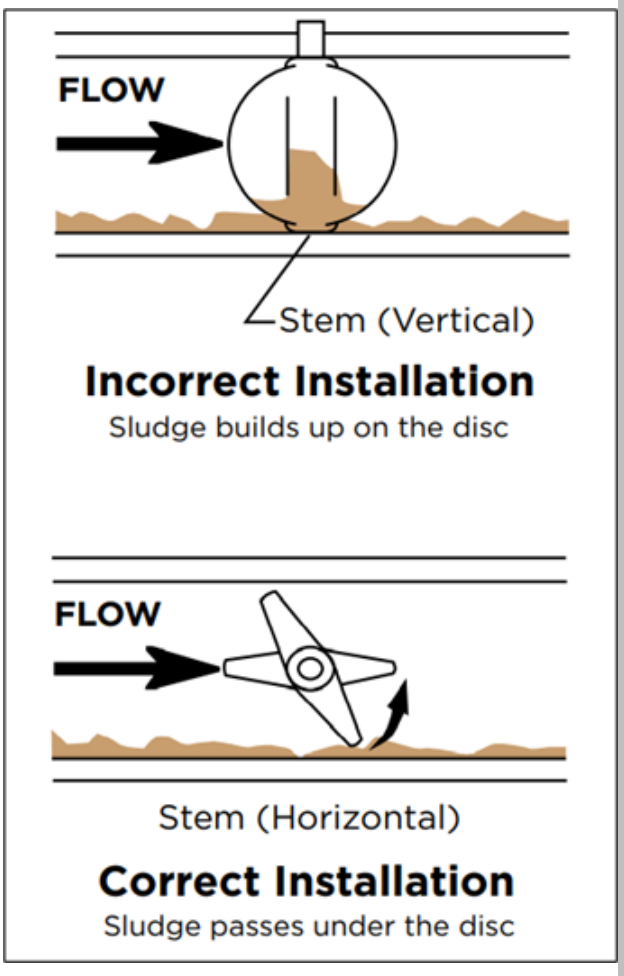
Butterfly Stem Orientation… What's In The Flow?

With butterfly valves, the question is often brought up as to what is the correct (or preferred) shaft or stem orientation. Whether resilient-seated or high-performance or triple offset, or some other variation, there are various schools of thought, and it really depends on the application.

First off, butterfly valves can be installed with the shaft in any quadrant. The shaft can run from 12 o'clock to 6 o'clock, 3 to 9, or anywhere in between. But, many applications contain suspended solids or some other build-up of scale (like the example shown here).

For those applications, position the shaft horizontally and parallel to the pipe. Doing so will prevent any suspended solids or other build-up from settling or accumulating around the shaft area or bottom of the disc. This should provide the longest life for your valve.



In many installations, the shaft is often installed straight up, and these configurations will perform just fine for many years.

But, for longest life, the preferred position for a service like this is with the shaft positioned horizontally (parallel

to the pipe).

On the other hand, note this installation with a 36” resilient-seated valve. When using such large valves, it’s recommended that the stem be installed vertically. Having the valve upright minimizes any side-loading of the bearings and liner, due to the weight of the disc. This is only important in the larger diameter sizes.

Also, this photo shows a clean water service - so there are no concerns over the presence of solids or sludge in the line. Different orientations have merit and are valid.

Just keep in mind that orientation that can affect the lifespan of your valve, based on the specifics of the application.

For questions relating to stem orientation or anything about butterfly valves, contact your **Milwaukee Valve regional manager or sales representative** today. Get complete specs and features for all Milwaukee Valve butterfly valve products at **www.MilwaukeeValve.com**.

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