




EMERGENCY SHUTOFF YOU CAN ACTUALLY COUNT ON

Gate Valves vs. Ball Valves: One Works When It Matters

04

GATE VALVE

MANY TURNS PRE-1995 HOMES



BLOCKED

FAILURE RATE WHEN NEEDED


~60%

Corroded stem · Stuck gate · Pitted seat

Cannot guarantee full shutoff

BALL VALVE

MODERN STANDARD



90°

OPEN

SHUTOFF RELIABILITY

100%

Stainless ball · Full-port bore · No corrosion

Quarter-turn close — every time

Gate valves were the industry standard for decades — and they are still found in the majority of homes built before the mid-1990s. The problem is fundamental to their design: a gate valve works by threading a brass wedge across the pipe, taking multiple full rotations to open or close. Over years of sitting in one position, the stem corrodes, the seat pits, and the packing dries out. The result is a valve that **appears operational but will not fully close in an emergency** — or worse, one whose stem snaps off when you finally try to turn it, leaving you with an uncontrollable flow and no way to stop it without calling the utility company.

The quarter-turn difference is everything. A ball valve contains a polished stainless steel ball with a bore through the center. One 90-degree turn aligns or blocks flow completely. There are no threads to corrode, no gate to stick. A homeowner who has never touched it can shut off their water in under two seconds — in the dark, in a panic. That reliability is the whole point.

When a pipe bursts or an appliance fails, **every second the water runs is hundreds of dollars in damage.** Ball valves with their full-port bore also create less turbulence and pressure drop than the restrictive gate design — more reliable *and* hydraulically superior. Replacing gate valves throughout a home is one of the most straightforward, impactful upgrades we offer as a standalone service or alongside any visit.

CHARACTERISTIC	GATE VALVE	BALL VALVE
Operation speed	Multiple rotations — slow	Quarter-turn — instant
Corrosion resistance	Low — brass stem pits over time	High — stainless steel ball & seats
Reliability after disuse	Often stuck or partially open	Reliable — minimal moving parts
Full shutoff guarantee	Not reliable	Positive, complete shutoff