

# STORAGE AND SHELF-LIFE GUIDELINES LUBRICANTS



## STORAGE CONDITIONS

The storage environment greatly affects the shelf life of lubricants. The conditions to monitor are:

### 1. TEMPERATURE

Extremes of heat and cold can affect lubricant stability. Heat increases the rate of oxidation, which can lead to deposit formation and viscosity increase. Cold temperatures can cause wax and possible sediment formation. Alternating exposure to heat and cold may draw air and moisture into containers.

### 2. SUNLIGHT

Exposure to sunlight may lead to a change in appearance of lubricants stored in clear IBCs and solar gain may increase the rate of oxidation regardless of container type.

### 3. WATER & PARTICULATE CONTAMINATION

Contamination by water or airborne particulates can shorten the lifetime of the oil and its suitability for service. Moisture on the walls of a storage tank can lead to microbial growth at the oil/water interface.

## STORAGE

- Where possible, store lubricants sealed in their original container in a dry, ambient, indoor area where airborne particles are at a minimum. Check the container fill date and use the oldest container first. Use clean tools and equipment when pumping or handling lubricants.
- Environmentally Friendly Lubricants should not be transferred to storage tanks as this may expose them unduly to moisture and other contaminants.
- Food grade lubricants should be stored separately away from non-food grade lubricants.

If drums must be stored outside, ensure they are out of direct sunlight and apply one of the following options:

- Where possible, store drums on their side or “blocked” into a tilted position, with drum bungs at the three and nine o’clock positions, to allow water to run off.
- Keep containers tightly covered or closed to avoid contamination. Wipe off the tops and edges of containers before opening them to avoid contamination.

## SHELF-LIFE GUIDELINES

Please refer to the product data sheet.

## NOTES

Additional instructions for use are provided for some of our marine product range. Please contact us for further information on a specific product.

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