

7 WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR LUBRICANTS DURING STORAGE

Dirt, debris and water are threats to your lubricants. Even the best lubricants you can buy aren't immune to poor storage conditions or management. Good storage habits can protect your lubricants' service life.

Put these tips to use, and your lubricants will take great care of your equipment!



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CREATE A LUBRICANT STORAGE ROOM

Designate a lubricant room to store your products that's away from the working area. Anything you process or debris from your worksite can collect on lubricant containers. Make sure the room is climate controlled because lubricants can chemically degrade when exposed to extreme temperatures.



DEVELOP A FIRST IN, FIRST OUT ROUTINE

Rotate your lubricant inventory each time you receive more stock. This practice keeps older products from getting lost in the mix, so your lubricants stay fresh. Some products have shorter shelf lives (like fuel additives) than others. Writing the received date on your barrels and pails will help you track shelf life. Also, keeping containers clearly labeled will help you know what's on hand in your storage room.



DON'T STORE BARRELS STANDING UPRIGHT

Water and dust can collect on barrels and get in through loose bungs when barrels are stored upright. Barrels should be stored on their sides with the bungs at 9 and 3 positions, and lids securely on. Don't leave a siphon in the drum unless it has a cover on it, and don't leave the pump in the drum unless it's made to be left in the drum with a tight seal.



BE CAREFUL WHEN OPENING CONTAINERS

Watch out for dust, debris and greasy, oily residue on your bottles, pails and barrels. Simply opening the lubricant's lid creates a way for contaminants to taint your fluids. Dust or clean lubricant containers when their lids are securely closed. Contaminants can enter your system each time more fluid is added. Changing how you refill fluids (i.e., opening and filling one system at a time), will reduce the amount of time the system is open. Longer drain intervals that are possible with high-quality fluids like Schaeffer's synthetic lubricants make a difference.



KEEP CAPS AND LIDS SECURELY ON CONTAINERS AT ALL TIMES

Shoving a dirty rag in the bung hole is only asking for trouble, and using a makeshift lid on an oil bottle may not fit properly. Makeshift lids may not keep dirt out. Barrels will expand and contract in different temperatures and make a popping sound. If the barrel isn't sealed properly, the drum popping can pull in any dirt and/or moisture that may be on the container.



DON'T LET DISPENSING EQUIPMENT GET DIRTY

Any dispensing equipment you use creates an additional entry way for debris. Contaminants and lubricant residue can stick to hoses or carts as you use them. Hoses, valves and transfer containers should be thoroughly cleaned after each use. Avoid using dirty dip sticks to test the oil level.



TAKE EXTRA CARE WITH STORING GREASE

Keep grease tubes closed, and keep them upright in a cool, dry place. Store the tips of grease guns upright so gravity doesn't force your oils to separate from the thickener. Depressurize each grease gun before storing them. Don't toss grease tubes in the back of a pickup bed where they can roll around and be exposed to the elements.