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Elastomer Seal Storage Guide - APR5316D

Temperature Seals made from polymers should be stored at temperatures below 100°F (38°C). Temporary climate changes resulting in higher temperatures are acceptable. Store polymers away from direct heat sources (i.e., radiators, boilers, direct sunlight).

Be careful when handling stored polymer products at temperatures below 59°F (15°C). The polymers may have become rigid and may be prone to distortion if handled incorrectly. Any polymer products stored below 59°F (15°C) must be raised to a core temperature of 68°F (20°C) before installation.

Humidity The relative humidity of the storage area should be at a level that given temperature fluctuations, condensation doesn't occur. If seals are being stored exposed, not in sealed air-tight, moisture proof bags, the storage area should have, for elastomers, less than 75% relative humidity, and for polyurethane seals, less than 65% relative humidity.

Light All polymer products should be shielded from light sources, especially direct sunlight and intense artificial light which includes ultraviolet wavelengths. Opaque storage bags are best, for protection from light.

Ozone Ozone is particularly harmful to elastomers. Store seals made from elastomers in rooms without sources of ozone production, such as, mercury vapor lamps, and high-voltage electrical equipment with electrical discharge. Combustible gases and organic vapors can also attribute to ozone production through a photochemical process and should not be present in the storage area.

Deformation Seals should be stored in a manner that does not put any undue stress or pressure on the seals that could cause distortion immediately or over time. Do not store seals hanging from a hook as gravity will distort the seal over time. Do not place heavy objects on top of any stored seals. Always store seals in our original packaging in a stress-free manner. Larger diameter rings without rigid components can be turned into two or three smaller diameter loose loops (avoid creasing or twisting) to accommodate smaller storage areas.

Liquid Contact Seals made from elastomers should not come into contact with any liquid or semi-solids, or vapors, of gasoline, greases, acids, cleaning, or similar fluids unless such fluids are part of the seals' design or manufacturer's packaging. Seals received in manufacturer's packaging, coated in such fluid or grease, should be stored as received by the manufacturer.

Metal Contact Seals made from elastomers can be affected by contact with metals and alloys, such as, copper, manganese, and iron. These seals should not be stored where there can be contact with any of these metals (except in cases where the metal is part of the seal or component's design), and in such cases should be individually packaged.

Elastomer Contact Seals made from dissimilar compounds should not be stored or packaged together, unless done so by the seal manufacturer. Contact between seals made from dissimilar compounds should be avoided.

Stock Rotation Seal stock should be used in a First-In, First-Out manner (FIFO), older stock before newer. This ensures that the next seal used in the rotation will be well within its intended shelf life.

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