

TRIBOLOGIK® **NEWSLETTER**

ISO 17025:2005

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Happy Holidays...

May all your wishes come true!

Prevent Contamination Store and Manipulate your Lubricants with Care

Poor storage conditions and careless manipulation are frequent causes of lubricant contamination.

A number of basic precautions are therefore recommended in order to prevent contaminants such as: water, humidity, dust, rust and workplace dirt from finding their way into your oil containers. Mixing together different types of oils must also be avoided or worse, mixing used, contaminated fluids with new, unused lubricants.

Avoid Storing Outside

It is not advised to store lubricants outside. It is indeed impossible to control meteorological conditions. Rain, snow or ice can penetrate the barrels and remove their labels. If temperature is too cold, blended oils are at risk being separated into their components. Oil and grease will thicken and must be warmed up before using. Too hot temperature can be harmful as well, causing oil oxidation and decomposition, grease separation and additive evaporation.

From time to time however, it may not be possible to store your lubricants indoors. In such cases, a few minimal guidelines must be followed:

- Make sure that caps are waterproof and tightly closed;
- Keep barrels horizontal and caps below the level of the lubricant to prevent seals from drying out;
- If they have to be kept in vertical position, tilt them lightly to protect caps against water and dust contamination;
- Cover with a tarpaulin;
- Clean the top of the barrel before dispensing.



Storage Area

As a rule of thumb, lubricants must be stored inside, in their own room. The area should be closed, well identified and restricted to authorized personnel. Avoid storing strong oxidizers in the same room. Oxidizers accelerate combustion in case of fire.

Temperature must be moderate and ventilation adequate. Temperature variations will cause seals to lose their waterproof properties. Containers themselves must be protected from contamination sources. They should be placed on supports with retention trays underneath. This will prevent spillage in case of overflow. Floor drainage must allow quick recuperation of leaks in order to prevent environmental harm. Never forget that one liter of oil can contaminate many thousands liters of water.

Containers

Containers, cans, canisters, pumps and funnels must always be used with the same type of lubricant and remain closed and/or protected when not in use. They must be identified clearly. Labels must be dated and readable at all times in order to avoid cross contamination (ex: mineral vs synthetic oil; used vs new) and prevent misuse e.g.: engine oil not to be confused with hydraulic oil.

Galvanised steel is prohibited because its zinc content may react with additives.

Precautions

Most oils and greases are not controlled under WHMIS. They are neither flammable nor corrosive and not considered hazardous to human health.

For additional information, read the manufacturer's or distributor's safety data sheet. These documents provide basic relevant information on oils and greases and how to handle and store them safely.

