

Rubber Shelf Life & Storage Conditions

COMMON NAME	ABBREVIATIONS		STORAGE LIFE
	ASTM D 1418	ASTM D 2000	
Fluoroelastomer	FKM	-	(20 years)
Butyl	IIR	AA, BA	(5 to 10 years)
Polychloroprene (Neoprene)	CR	BC, BE	
Ethylene Propylene Diene	EPDM	BA, CA	
Polychloroprene (Neoprene blends)	-	BC	
Nitrile	NBR	BF, BG, CH	(3 to 5 years)
Styrene-Butadiene	SBR	AA, BA	
Natural	NR	AA	
Synthetic Natural	IR	AA	

Rubber products in storage can be adversely affected by many factors including, but not limited to: temperature, humidity, ozone, sunlight, oils, solvents, corrosive liquids, fumes, insects, rodents, and radiation. Storage areas should be relatively cool, dark, and free from dampness, mold, and mildew. Rubber products should never be kept under prolonged conditions of high or low humidity. Whenever feasible, rubber products should be stored in their original shipping containers or wrappers. This will provide additional protection against the deteriorating effects of oils, solvents, and corrosive liquids. The packaging will provide some added protection against ozone and sunlight. Some rodents and insects are attracted to rubber in storage as nesting areas. Adequately packaging rubber products can reduce infestation.

The ideal storage temperature for rubber products is 50 to 70°F (10 to 21°C) with a maximum limit of 100°F (38°C). If stored below 32°F (0°C), some products may become stiff and should be warmed to room temperature before being placed into service. Rubber products should not be stored near sources of heat, such as radiators and base heaters. Extreme cold or heat can impact the physical properties of rubber negatively to the point that it should not be used. To protect against the adverse effects of ozone, rubber products should not be stored near electrical equipment that may generate ozone and should not be stored for any extended period in geographical areas with high ozone concentrations. Exposure to direct and/or reflected sunlight should also be avoided.

Even in ideal conditions rubber should be carefully monitored to ensure that the first products received are the first to be shipped. Rubber storage time should be kept to a minimum using appropriate inventory management.

Because we continually examine ways to improve our products, we reserve the right to alter specifications or discontinue products without prior notice.