McWANE DUCTILE | IRON STRONG

PROPER GASKET STORAGE & CARE TIP SHEET

GASKETS are critical components in your ductile iron piping system. Gaskets are made of compound rubber materials that can gradually weather, dry out, and deteriorate. Gaskets that are not properly stored may experience external elongation, compression, shrinkage, or other types of deformation, eventually leading to cracking or permanent change of shape.

As with most rubber products, there is no established maximum shelf life for pipe gaskets. To fully benefit from your gaskets, store them properly to minimize deterioration. *

DON'Ts
FOR GASKET STORAGE

- Do not expose gaskets to greases, oils, solvents in liquid or vapor form, strong acids, alkalis, or anything corrosive to rubber.
- Do not store gaskets in freezing conditions.
- Do not lay gaskets on equipment, truck beds, warehouse floors, or any land that might contain pesticides.
- Do not expose gaskets to ultra-violet (UV) light, direct sunlight, or strong fluorescent lights.
- Do not expose gaskets to ozone generating equipment such as electric motors, mercury vapor lamps, and high voltage electrical equipment.
- Do not hang gaskets on sharp edges as this can create cuts in the gaskets.

DO's
FOR GASKET STORAGE

- Store in a cool, dry area and minimize exposure to dust.
- Optimum storage temperature range is between 40°F (5°C) and 80°F (27°C).
- During freezing conditions, keep gaskets stored in a heated storage place. Gaskets should be allowed to warm prior to being placed into service.
- During extreme heat outdoors, avoid storing gaskets inside pipe. This is the same principle as with the inside of a parked car in the summer. It's always hotter inside the vehicle than it is outside.
- Avoid leaving gaskets out in the elements, in the rain, or on the ground where they can collect unwanted debris, or even pesticides.
- Storing gaskets in polyethylene containers, cardboard containers, or polyethylene-lined craft bags offer good protection against light.
- Following extended storage, carefully inspect gaskets for damage.

* Rubber product failure is a progressive failure that increases with time. The typical mode of failure is surface hardening and cracking. McWane Ductile offers these guidelines but makes no guarantee that gaskets will be usable for any specific period of time.

GASKET QUESTIONS?

Contact your local McWane Ductile Representative when in doubt of your gasket's condition and be sure to check out our Iron Strong blogs for water professionals at McWaneDuctile.com/Blog.