

## O RING STORAGE AND SHELF LIFE

Most vulcanized rubbers change their properties during storage, and can eventually become unuseable, mainly due to excessive hardening or deformation. The following are the recommended initial and extended shelf lives if the guidelines are observed:

Short	Full Name	Initial Storage	Extended Storage after inspection
NR	Natural Rubber	5/7 years	2/3 years
PU	Polyurethane	5/7 years	2/3 years
NBR	Nitrile / Buna	7/9 years	3/4 years
HNBR	Hydrogenated Nitrile	7/9 years	3/4 years
CR	Neoprene	7/9 years	3/4 years
EPDM	Ethylene Propylene	10/12 years	5/6 years
FPM / FKM	Fluorocarbon	10/12 years	5/6 years
VMQ	Silicone	10/12 years	5/6 years
FVMQ	Fluorosilicone	10/12 years	5/6 years

1. Storage should be in closed dry containers to avoid moisture and condensation.
2. The temperature should not exceed 25 C, and excessive low temperatures should be avoided.
3. Containers should be protected from direct sunlight, and as ozone can be particularly harmful, storerooms should not contain electrical appliances which produce ozone.
4. To avoid deformation articles should be stored in a relaxed state, and overcrowding of containers should be avoided.
5. When in transit, seals should be packed in either black or opaque bags.

