



Hamilton Kent representatives are sometimes asked about how best to store gaskets and flexible connectors at the precast concrete or concrete pipe plant. Below are some general recommendations for most gasket and rubber types; however, we still suggest discussing your particular arrangement with a Hamilton Kent representative to ensure you get the longest life and best performance from your gaskets and connectors.

Storage

Gaskets and connectors should be stored in a dry location away from prolonged sunlight exposure. If indoor storage is not feasible, then placement under another type of shelter would be acceptable. If no covered storage area is available, gaskets and connectors should at a minimum be covered with a heavy-duty tarp. This will prevent deterioration of the boxes in which the gaskets or connectors were shipped and maintain protection from unwanted exposure to sunlight. Gaskets and connectors must not be stored near any electrical equipment that produces ozone. They also need to be protected from extreme heat in the summer and extreme cold, snow and ice in the winter.

In addition, Hamilton Kent strongly cautions you against hanging Tylox SuperSeal (TSS) gaskets on a wall in your plant. If a TSS gasket is hung vertically for a long duration, the lubricant contained within the rolling tube is likely to consolidate in the lowest point of the gasket, leaving the tube section of the gasket closest to the hook nearly or completely free of any lubricant. When these gaskets are eventually installed in the field, contractors may have difficulty homing the pipe or manhole because the rolling tube is unable to roll properly in those dry locations of the tube. If contractors try to force the concrete pieces together in this situation, there is a possibility of damaging the bell or leaving the joint compromised. It is definitely better to leave TSS gaskets in their original packaging for a longer service life.

Proper care of your gaskets and connectors prior to the installation will ensure maximum ease of installation and ideal performance in the field. All rubber products must be protected from harmful substance such as dust and grit, solvent and petroleum-based greases and oils.

Inventory Control

Gaskets and connectors should be stored and utilized with a First-In, First-Out (FIFO) inventory control. Simply, this means that the gaskets or connectors shipped to your plant first should be the ones taken out of inventory first for shipment to the jobsite or installation in/on your structure. This ensures that the oldest gaskets are used right away while newer ones are set aside for future use. FIFO may require a little more time and care by your plant personnel as they will likely need to pull existing inventory off shelves or out of storage containers to allow room to put newly delivered gaskets to be set in the back or on the bottom.

We also suggest creation of a routine or practice that requires personnel pulling gaskets and connectors from inventory to also monitor inventory levels and notify the appropriate company representative when an “order level” has been reached. There are many ways to set this up and Hamilton Kent would be happy to assist your company in developing a system that is best for you.

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