



Belt Storage and Shelf Life

Normal Shelf Life of Belts

According to the Association for Rubber Products Manufacturers (ARPM) bulletin IP3-4, the quality of a belt is not considered to change significantly within seven (7) years when stored properly under normal conditions. Normal conditions can be defined as a temperature below 85°F and relative humidity of 70% or less with no exposure to direct sunlight or ozone. If the storage temperature is higher than 85° F, the storage life is reduced by one half for each 15°F increase in temperature. Belts should never be stored above 115°F.

Belts will begin to degrade after 7 years even when stored properly. Beyond seven years, assuming normal storage, a decrease in service life of approximately 10% per year can be expected. For belts not stored under “normal” conditions, the actual reduction in shelf life is difficult to measure due to lack of precise data and an infinite number of variables involved. When belts are stored under abnormal conditions, conservatism is recommended in estimating shelf life.

Factory Date Code

All Ultimax® belts by Timken have a 4-digit number printed on the belt to identify when they were manufactured. The first 2 numbers indicate the week the belt was produced and the last 2 numbers identify the year. For example, 2721 means the belt was manufactured during the 27th week of 2021.

Proper Storage of Belts

Under favorable storage conditions, quality belts retain their initial serviceability and dimensions. Conversely, unfavorable conditions can adversely affect performance and cause dimensional change. Belts should be stored in a cool, dry environment with no direct sunlight. When stacked on shelves, the stacks should be small enough to avoid excess weight on the bottom belts which may cause distortion. When stored in containers, the container size and contents should be sufficiently limited to avoid distortion, particularly to those belts at the bottom of the container.

We recommend that belts be kept in boxes on shelves until they are needed. The boxes should not be stacked so high as to damage cartons on the bottom of the stack.

If belts must be stored on pegs, the pegs should be crescent shaped and be large enough to prevent sharp bends in the belt. Longer belts stored this way should use sufficiently large pins or crescent-shaped “saddles” to prevent their weight from causing distortion. Short lengths of PVC pipe can be cut and slid over pegs to create this crescent shape.

Avoid the storage of belts:

- On floors unless a suitable container is provided. Belts may be susceptible to moisture or otherwise damaged due to traffic.
- Near windows which may permit exposure to sunlight or moisture.
- Near radiators, heaters or in the air flow from heating devices. Heat from these sources will dry out the oils in a belt, reducing service life.
- In the vicinity of transformers, electric motors or other electrical devices which may generate ozone.
- Near areas where evaporating solvents or other chemicals are present in the atmosphere.

Timken Belts is a proud member of the Association for Rubber Products Manufacturers. ARPM produces various useful publications unique to the rubber industry that discuss research, statistics, and other rubber product information.



TIMKEN BELTS

Timken Belts is part of The Timken Company's growing portfolio of engineered bearings and industrial motion products. A manufacturer of premium performance power transmission belts, Timken Belts' associates and products help keep industry in motion and the world more productive.

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