



**YOUR CONNECTION IS  
ONLY AS GOOD AS  
ITS O-RING**



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## YOUR CONNECTION IS ONLY AS GOOD AS ITS O-RING

CASE IN POINT: A hydraulic fitting with a Buna-N O-ring has been stored in the back of the bin for an unknown period of time. Let's say it's been there for years. As is often the case, it's no longer sealed in the original plastic bag. Now what if that storage bin is in an outdoor tool shed, or a facility that does not have air-conditioning... in Tallahassee, Florida, where the average daily humidity is 80% in July. Under the proper conditions a Buna-N O-ring has a shelf life of 15 years. That's "under proper conditions". One of those conditions is the humidity must be less than 75%. You can pretty much bet the fitting in question has been exposed to frequent humidity. Pull it out of the bin, put it into service and chances are there will be problems. Leaks, damage to equipment, or worse.

### NOT ALL O-RINGS ARE CREATED EQUAL

Not all O-rings are created equal. Too often they are just an afterthought, when they are actually essential components that the system depends on. A lot rides on each O-ring you purchase and put into service. It can be very costly if even one O-ring fails, the entire system can shut down, equipment could be damaged or even cause personal injury.

### THE SHELF LIFE OF A FITTING IS ONLY AS LONG ITS O-RING

O-ring or elastomeric seal shelf life begins with the manufactured date and is dependent on being properly packaged and stored under specific conditions, even when in the body of a fitting. The shelf life of rubber is not an exact science since it is significantly impacted by storage and handling. A common misconception is that fittings made of metal last forever in the box, as long as they are not stored in corrosive environments. And that is true, to a point. However, if an unused fitting has an O-ring, its shelf life is only as long as the life of the O-ring.

The rubber industry uses older US military specifications and current SAE Aerospace recommendations to calculate O-ring shelf life in quarter year units. So the manufacturing cure date can occur anytime within 3 months and the shelf life expiration time does not begin until after the first full quarter thereafter. For instance, if an O-ring is cured on January 1, 2019 it would have a cure date established as 1Q19 and be considered to begin aging for the purposes of measuring expired shelf life on April 1, 2019. Therefore, an O-ring with a 3 year shelf life would expire on April 1, 2022 and so would the fitting, unless a new O-ring is properly installed in the fitting.

The conditions of shelf life of O-rings and or elastomeric seals are governed by SAE International Standard ARP5316D.

**ARP5316D STANDARDS INCLUDE:**

- **HUMIDITY:** The relative humidity is considered that fluctuations in ambient temperature do not result in condensation. An O-ring, or fitting with an O-ring, should be sealed in a moisture proof bag where the ambient relative humidity is less than 75%, or 65% for polyurethanes.
- **LIGHT:** O-rings and elastomers must be protected from direct ultraviolet or sunlight.
- **OZONE:** Even during storage, O-rings should be protected against contact with ozone, ozone generating equipment or combustible gases and vapors.
- **RADIATION:** O-ring elastomers must not come into contact with ionizing radiation.
- **TEMPERATURE:** They must be stored at temperatures below 100°F (38°C), except in cases where higher temperatures are caused by temporary climate changes. They should be stored away from direct sources of heat such as direct sunlight, boilers or radiators.

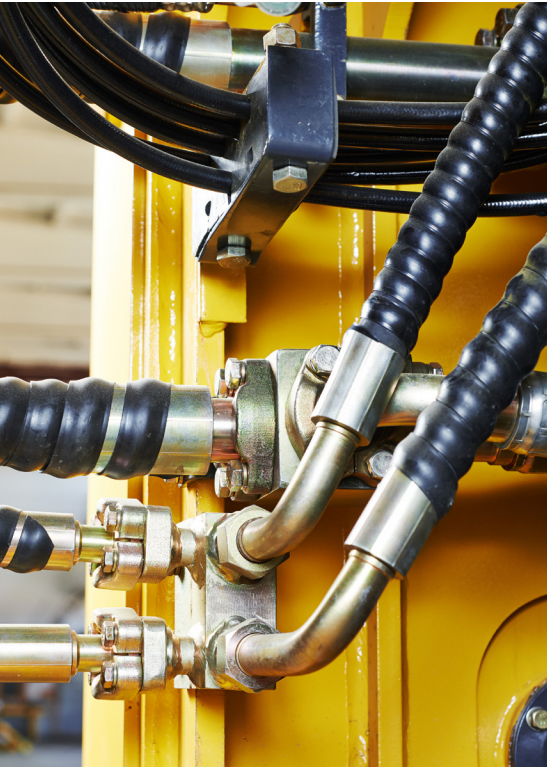
According to SAE-ARP5316D and general industry standards, common O-ring material shelf life recommendations are:

- 5 years: Polyurethane (milleable), SBR, Natural Rubber, Polybutadine, Polyisoprene
- 15 years: Nitrile, Neoprene, HNBR, Polyacrylate, Butyl
- Unlimited: Ethylene Propylene, Fluorocarbon, Perfluorinated Elastomer, Silicone, Tetrafluoroethylene Propylene (Aflas®), Fluorosilicone.

O-RING MATERIAL	ASTM	SHELF LIFE
BUTYL RUBBER, ISOBUTYLENE ISOPRENE	IIR	15 YEARS
CHLOROPRENE (NEOPRENE®)	CR	15 YEARS
ETHYLENE ACRYLIC (VAMAC®)	AEM	15 YEARS
ETHYLENE PROPYLENE, EPDM OR EP	EP	UNLIMITED
FLOUROCARBON (VITON®)	FKM	UNLIMITED
FLOUROSILICONE	FVMQ	UNLIMITED
HYDROGENATED NITRILE, HNBR OR HSN	HNBR	15 YEARS
NITRILE (BUNA-N OR NBR)	NBR	15 YEARS
POLYACRYLATE	ACM	15 YEARS
POLYURETHANE (POYESTER OR POLYETHER)	AU/EU	5 YEARS
SILICONE	VMQ	UNLIMITED
STYRENE BUTADIENE (BUNA-S)	SBR	5 YEARS

## HOW O-RINGS WORK

O-rings are used in most fluid power connections, preventing leaks in fittings, valves, pumps and cylinders of all types. They are used in pneumatic and hydraulic applications, in both static and dynamic systems.



O-rings are more than just a rubber seal, there are many different types of material for many types of applications. There are also many considerations when selecting material, most importantly the combinations of fitting material and the media being transferred. Most are made of elastomers, yet there are some metal O-rings as well. Material selection is based on chemical compatibility, application temperature, sealing pressure, durometer and size.

THE MOST COMMON O-RING STYLES, MATERIAL OPTIONS AND APPLICATIONS INCLUDE:

- **O-RING BOSS (ORB)** seals join two fluid-carrying pipes, hoses, or tubing. In an O-ring boss system a male-threaded part is inserted into a female-threaded part, providing a mechanical seal. In an ORB seal an additional nut is tightened over the O-ring into a chamfered area, creating a fluid-tight seal. The AS568-901 through 932 O-ring sizes are used for sealing straight thread tube fittings in a boss. O-ring boss systems are most commonly used in hydraulics, compressed air systems and vacuum pumps.
- **FLANGE SEALS** create front-face static sealing in flange connections. Flange seals are used for either internal or external pressure applications. These types of seals are available in a wide range of materials. Flange connections are typically used with tubing applications that have an OD greater than 7/8" or for extremely high pressures.

Typical flange applications use the O-ring to seal the joint to contain pressurized fluid in split-flange fittings. Split-flange assemblies contain four components; a permanent flanged head connected to the tube, an O-ring and two mating clamp halves with four bolts to connect the split-flange. The elastomeric O-ring sits in a groove on a flange and mates with a flat surface on the port. The O-ring flange is attached to the port using the mounting bolts to tighten down the O-ring flange onto the flange clamps.

- **FLARE-O O-RINGS** are typically made of Buna-N or Viton. They are used in hydraulic fittings to provide one of the tightest seals available. The elastomeric seal provides a leak-proof, drop-in replacement for SAE 37° flared tube fittings, literally eliminating hydraulic leaks when used properly.
- **BUNA-N (GENERAL PURPOSE/NSF/FOOD GRADE)** is the most common material in quick couplings. They are solvent, oil and water resistant and used in applications with temperatures ranging from -40°F to 250°F (-40°C to 121°C). They are the simplest type of O-ring material and provide excellent sealing properties and durability. Buna-N (Nitrile) is commonly used with crude oil, gasoline, propane, petroleum oils and water. O-rings made of this material are frequently found in engines, gearboxes and many other applications ranging from shower heads and garden hoses to pumps in aircrafts. Buna-N O-Rings are frequently used as face to face gasket style seals or as a shaft seals, and easily allow both rotary and linear movement. These O-Rings often serve as a packing or toric joint, which is simply a mechanical gasket creating a seal at the interface.

- **PEROXIDE CURED EPDM (ETHYLENE-PROPYLENE-DIENE RUBBER) O-RING** material is standard for Medical Grade Polypropylene Couplings and are resistant to most chemicals. They are frequently used in medical devices, automotive manufacturing, water and wastewater systems and other challenging applications. Yet they are often used in common household appliances where chemical resistance is important.
- **VITON O-RINGS** are used in many applications where resistance to extreme temperatures and chemicals is important. They provide outstanding resistance to ozone, oxygen, mineral oil, synthetic hydraulic fluids, fuels, aromatics and many organic solvents and chemicals. Viton O-rings provide excellent permeability and compression set resistance and have low gas permeability. They are ideal as gaskets in fuel line system sealing applications. Other fluorocarbon compounds can also offer improved resistance to acids, fuels, water and steam.
- **SILICONE O-RING** material is ideal in dry heat applications, is odorless and non-toxic. They are safely used in temperatures ranging from -70°F to 400°F (-57°C to 204°C) and are commonly used in medical devices, food storage products, electronics, automotive manufacturing, and even home repair and hardware products.
- **KALREZ® O-RINGS** are highly resistant to chemicals and high temperatures. Kalrez perfluoroelastomer (FFKM) O-Rings are some of the strongest and most dependable in most industry applications. They exhibit extremely long service life and are highly resistant to many elements. Kalrez is one of the few materials that can withstand extreme temperature, pressure, and provide excellent chemical resistance all in the same application, making it a perfect material in the most demanding of environments.
- **BONDED SEAL O-RINGS** are frequently used as bolt seals in hydraulic equipment. Bonded seals, also known as Dowty Seals or Dowty Washers, are ideal for a wide variety of other applications as well. The bonded seal consists of a metal outside ring and an inner ring of rubber elastomer that acts as a gasket to provide the sealing action. The basic concept of bonded seals can also be used to produce customized shapes for specific applications where combinations of rubber to metal or plastic bonding are applicable.
- **O-RING SEALS FOR FLARED FITTINGS** come in two primary types that use O-ring face seals (ORFS):
  1. An ORFS fitting has a replaceable elastomeric O-ring held in a groove in the face of the fitting. An SEA J1452 ORFS is used in applications to reduce or eliminate leakage problems in hydraulic systems while under high pressures. An ORFS connection uses a Buna-N, 90 Durometer O-ring that seats into a groove in the face of the fitting. When the connection is tightened the O-ring compresses against the flat face sleeve that is brazed onto the end of a tube and makes a metal-to-metal seal, with a cavity that supports the O-ring. The flat face sleeve also eliminates twisting of the tube and provides support during assembly.
  2. Flare AN Seals (also known as Flare-O O-Rings, see above) are for 37° flare fittings (sometimes referred to as JIC fittings) meet SAE J514 and ISO 8434-2 and can be used with inch or metric tube and are most commonly made of Buna-N or Viton material. The 37° flare AN seal is used for tubing end connections where a nut is slipped on the end of the tube and the tube is then flared out using a special tool. The nut is threaded into a flare fitting which seals the flared tube in between the nut and fitting. Flare-O seals for 37° flare fittings are principally used in aerospace and marine applications, or older applications that have not upgraded to flareless tube fittings.





- **CONICAL SEALS (AS4824)** specification are available in aluminum, copper, nickel, & stainless steel. They are used as a seal on the end of a 37 degree flared fitting of similar dash number and are designed to be used when small nicks or defects in the fitting do not allow for proper sealing. These soft annealed 37° conical seals perform as a crush washer on a male AN flare. They help to ensure reliable, leak-free seals while preventing damage to the tubing or the AN fitting.

## THE O-RINGS YOU NEED, WHEN YOU NEED THEM

At Brennan Industries we have a wide variety of O-ring and seal options available, along with custom stocked O-ring replacement kits. We stock most sizes of materials and styles, including:

BUNA O-RINGS	BRITISH BONDED SEALS	FACE SEAL VITON O-RINGS
VITON O-RINGS	FLARE-O BUNA-N O -RINGS	CONICAL SEALS
FLANGE O-RINGS	FLARE-O VITON O -RINGS	
METRIC BONDED SEALS	FACE SEAL BUNA O-RINGS	

### ABOUT BRENNAN

*In business for over 65 years, Brennan supplies customers worldwide with more than 50,000 standard and special hydraulic fittings, adapters and O-rings in sizes ranging from 1/16 to 3 inches. These include a wide choice of fitting and adapter types such as tube, O-ring face seal, instrumentation, metric bite type, push-to-connect, conversion and flareless bite type, as well as valves, clamps and swivels. Brennan products are stocked at strategically located, full-service distribution centers across North America, Europe and Asia.*

*The information in this paper is believed to be accurate and reliable. However, Brennan Industries makes no warranty, expressed or implied, that information provided in this material will ensure satisfactory performance in each specific applications. It is the customer's responsibility to evaluate the material and application prior to use.*

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