

How to Store & Handle Your Gaskets to Prevent Damage

01 STORAGE GUIDELINES



LAY FLAT, FULLY SUPPORTED

Store soft and non-metallic gaskets flat in stacks. Avoid hanging.



KEEP IN ORIGINAL PACKAGING

Leave gaskets packaged until installation; it is the best protection against distortion and dust. Sealed poly bags add protection.



WEAR GLOVES

Spiral-wound metal edges can be sharp.



KEEP FACES CLEAN & UNDAMAGED

Protect sealing faces and edges from impacts and from any build-up of dust or particulate.



COOL, DRY & DARK

Keep away from heat, humidity, water, oil, chemicals and vapours, direct sunlight / UV, and ozone from high-voltage equipment.



FIRST IN, FIRST OUT

Rotate stock by date and track shelf life so nothing is fitted past its useful life.

IDEAL STORAGE CONDITIONS

4-27 °C (40-80 °F) · 40-75% relative humidity · no windows
· low- or non-UV lighting · minimal dust · no chemicals or high-voltage sources nearby.

02 SHELF LIFE BY MATERIAL

SOFT / ELASTOMER

The rubber binder ages: **do not use beyond ~4 years**. Heat, sunlight and ozone speed this up.

GRAPHITE / PTFE

Inert, no binders — **virtually indefinite shelf life** when kept clean and dry.

METALLIC

Little ageing concern, but **moisture causes oxidation**. Usually pre-treated — consult the manufacturer.

03 SPIRAL WOUND & LARGE GASKETS

- Store in **original packaging with spacer clips intact**.
- **Never lift by the outer ring alone** — support the windings and inner ring, or they can dislodge under their own weight.
- Large diameter (>24"): keep on the **mounting board**, in packaging, until seated between the flanges.

RECOMMENDED CREW SIZE FOR LARGE GASKETS

32-40" : 3 people · 40-80" : 4 · over 80" : 6-8

Storage life and handling vary by material. Always follow the manufacturer's guidance, and inspect any gasket before installation. Questions about a specific part? Talk to your A.R. Thomson Group Inc. representative.

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