

# Storing Drums Outside

## Tip of the Week

Often, as a result of space constraints, plant managers store lubricant drums outdoors. Storing drums outside is not ideal because the benefits of this space-saving solution are significantly compromised when drums are left uncovered and exposed to a number of environmental conditions that can have a negative effect on the performance of the oil, even before it begins its service-life.

If outdoor storage is a necessity, one major consideration is the potential for water ingress. Drums stored outside are subject to a range of temperatures, which causes the lubricant within the drum to breathe.

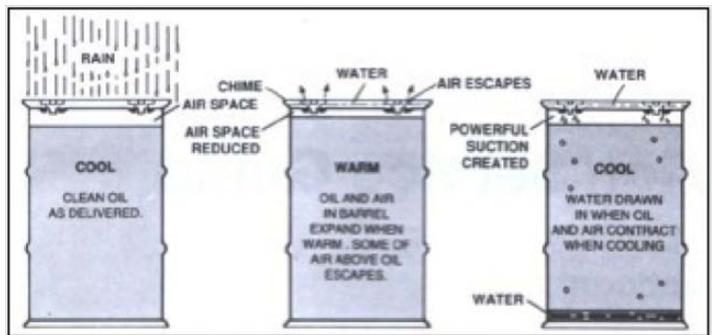
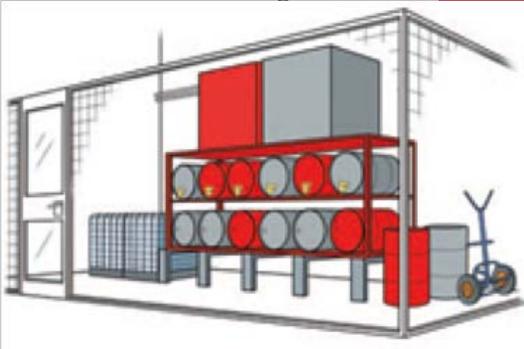
Consider this situation:

An uncovered drum stored outdoors sits in the rain, collecting water on the drum lid. While raining, the outdoor temperature drops, causing the lubricant within the drum to cool and contract. The next day, the sun warms the drum and the lubricant expands, releasing air from the tap on the lid of the drum. Later that evening, the outdoor temperature cools and the oil in the drum - again- contracts, causing the tap on the lid to “breathe” in air to fill the space within the drum. With the air comes some of the water that has pooled on the drum from the previous night’s rain, contaminating the oil.

To avoid this and other potential issues consider the following tips for outdoor lubricant drum storage.

- Consider a drum desiccant breather set up- see picture below.
- When possible, store barrels on their sides to avoid pooling of moisture.
- Employ drum covers to protect the barrels from environmental elements, such as moisture or sunlight.
- If vertical storage is required, place one edge of the drum on a brick or block, elevating one side of the drum and allowing water to run off the lid away from the bung.
- Alternatively, when storing drums vertically, place them upside down in containment tanks large enough to collect leakage when it occurs.

To see a video of a breathing drum visit : [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ag5FORv1\\_GM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ag5FORv1_GM)



Desiccant Drum  
Breather Adapter Kit

**For More information: Contact your Lard Oil Territory Manager or visit <http://www.lardoil.com/contact-us.aspx>**