



How should bearings be stored and handled?

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It is important that bearings are stored and handled properly. Regardless of manufacturing quality, bearings that are stored or handled improperly run the risk of performing poorly when used.

Ideally, bearings should be stored in a cool and dry environment. If bearings are stored in an environment that is too hot or cold, the lubricant's physical characteristic may be adversely affected and the lubricant may not effectively lubricate the bearing during operation. If the environment is not dry, then the moisture in the air can cause the bearing steel to corrode. Often during packaging, the bearings are covered with a light rust preventative oil to prevent this corrosion from occurring. As with many precision components, it is critical that bearings are not exposed to any sort of dust or water.

Careful consideration must be made as to how the bearings are stored. It is advised that the bearing cartons should not be stacked too high in order to avoid damaging the protective packaging or the bearings within.

Often overlooked, the mishandling of bearings can adversely affect bearing life and performance. Bearings should only be removed from the packaging when they are ready for mounting into the application. This limits the risk of contamination of the bearing. Because skin contains moisture, oil, acids, and salts, bearings should not come in direct contact with bare hands. In order to avoid internal damage, bearings should not be dropped or exposed to excessive vibration during shipping.

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