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Sierra issues this bulletin for informational purposes. This bulletin provides some basic guidelines on proper handling and storage of lubricant drums.

NOTE: ALL STORED DRUMS WHETHER STORED INSIDE OR OUTSIDE SHOULD BE STORED IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GUIDELINES.

The preferred method of storing drums of lubricants is to store them inside, once again following all local, state and federal guidelines. Drums stored outside need to have special measures taken to prevent contamination from dirt, water and weather. As the ambient air temperature changes the drums will “breathe” and cause moisture from the air to enter the container. Prolonged storage of the container can then cause the water to separate and accumulate in the drum causing possible contamination issues when the drum is eventually opened. Sierra recommends the following guidelines be used for storing lubricant drums outside:

1. Be sure bung openings are tightly secured and if the drum is stored in an upright position, a drum cover should be used to prevent contamination from entering the bung opening.
2. Preferably drums will be stored in an approved storage rack system. Drums should be stored on their sides with the bung closures parallel to the ground.
3. Never store drums in a low area that will allow for accumulated water to sit around the base of the drums.
4. Drums stored in an upright manner should be tilted safely to an angle that allows water to drain from the top of the drum.
5. Proper and adequate drum handling equipment should be made available to insure no damage or puncture of the drum can occur.
6. Store drums away from open flames, areas where sparks may occur and out of extreme heat.
7. Clearly mark drums with the type of lubricant inside and date received to aid in identification if factory labels are worn or faded from weather or handling. Use oldest dated drums of lubricant first to minimize possible contamination risks.

Finally, check with your local and state authorities to ensure proper drum handling and storage procedures are being followed.