

Storage life varies with resistance of each synthetic elastomer to normal storage conditions. Use this reference chart as a guideline as to how long an O-ring can be stored.

MINIMUM (3 TO 5 YEARS)	AVERAGE (5 TO 10 YEARS)	MAXIMUM (UP TO 20 YEARS)
(1) Butadiene / acrylonitrile Nitrile, Buna-N NBR	Chlorosulfonated polyethylene Hypalon CSM	Fluorosilicone Silastic LS FVMQ
Butadiene / styrene Buna-S SBR	Ethylene / propylene / diene Ethylene propylene terpolymer EPDM	Polyacrylate Acrylic ACM, ANM
Cis polybutadiene Butadiene BR	Ethylene / propylene Ethylene propylene copolymer EPM	Polysulfide Thiokol T
Cis 1, 4, polyisoprene Natural, Pale crepe, NR, IR	Isobutylene / isoprene Butyl IIR	Silicone Silastic Silicone VMQ
Polyester urethane Urethane (millable) AU	Polychloroprene Neoprene, Chloroprene CR	Fluorocarbon Fluorel, Viton® FKM
	Polyether urethane Urethane (cast) EU	Perfluorocarbon Kalrez® FFKM
	Epichlorohydrin Hydrin CO, ECO	
	Polypropylene oxide Propylene oxide GPO	

Where non-age sensitive elastomers mentioned in 10 or 20 year categories are involved, considerable storage life without detectable damage is common even under adverse conditions. For materials mentioned in the 3 to 5 year category, which are subject to deterioration, the following conditions are suggested for maximum life:

1. Ambient temperature not exceeding 120°F (49°C)
2. Exclusion of air (oxygen)
3. Exclusion of contamination
4. Exclusion of light (particularly sunlight)
5. Exclusion of ozone generating electrical devices
6. Exclusion of radiation

Generally, polyethylene bags stored in larger cardboard containers or polyethylene lined craft paper bags insure optimal storage life. However, in normal warehousing conditions, life of even the relatively age-sensitive elastomers is considerable.

(1) NBR, when compounded for O-ring seals, may have a shelf life as high as 10 years when aging resistance requirements are included in the specification.