

Lubrication Guidelines for Greasing Roller Bearings and Sliding Parts

It cannot be stated strongly enough that when re-lubricating a bearing it is essential to choose a clean lubricant compatible with the grease already in the bearing. Whether or not different kinds of grease may be mixed depends on the thickening agents used in making the grease. **Mixing different types of grease can affect key properties and the grease's performance. If these key properties are diminished, the grease can become ineffective, leading to premature bearing failure.**

Before using a grease gun pump the grease gun once prior to connecting it to the grease fitting to purge the nozzle of any contaminants that may have accumulated and wipe it off with a clean towel. The grease fitting also requires inspection and cleaning to remove contaminants with a towel before greasing.

Using these guidelines along with the correct grease will help ensure the proper operation of the bearing and performance to and beyond the rated life of the bearing. Applying the correct quantity of grease at the right intervals is of equal importance. Over or under greasing as well as inadequate lubrication methods can impact bearing service life.

Re-lubrication intervals:

Choosing the right bearing grease for a certain application is critical to bearing performance. Applying the correct quantity of grease at the right intervals is of equal importance. Over or under greasing as well as inadequate lubrication methods can shorten the bearing's service life. For determining the right amount of grease and the correct re-lubrication intervals for a specific application, some grease suppliers have made this very easy. They have self contained grease cartridges pre-loaded and self feeding. These types of greasing systems have a continuous automatic grease supply for single and multiple grease points. Grease systems also reduce the risk of over or under greasing and positively contribute to optimizing the bearings service life. Additionally, automatic re-lubrication system reduces the risk of contamination.

Multi-purpose grease:

Multi-purpose greases combine the properties of two or more specialized greases. This permits the use of single type of grease for a variety of applications. It is possible to replace as many as six specialized greases with single multi-purpose grease and get better results all at the same time. Most of the multi-purpose greases have a soap base of barium, lithium, or calcium complex. For example, the lithium-soap greases are not only water-resistant and corrosion inhibiting, but they have very good mechanical and oxidation stability as well.

By reducing the number of lubricants, which a company keeps in stock, the lubricator's job becomes much easier. Another advantage is that it helps reduce the chance of error in application.

Good multi-purpose lubricating grease has to perform well in a number of applications. It should have a high melting point, and operate well at continuous temperatures of 250F or more. Such grease should also have good resistance to wear, and exceptional stability.