

Changes to Shelf and Service Life

The shelf and service lives of collapsible fabric fuel and water tanks have been changed.

Fuel tanks from 3,000 to 210,000 gallons now have a dry, indoor shelf life of 12 years. That's up from 10 years. Fuel tanks not stored dry and indoors have a 5-year shelf life from date of receipt, or 12 years from the manufacturing date, whichever comes first.

Water tanks from 160 to 50,000 gallons no longer have any shelf or service life restrictions. They're used until they are no longer repairable.

Once fuel is put in a tank for the first time, the tank is good for 3 years, max. Service life may be less than 3 years depending on where and how many times the tank is used.

A visual inspection is the **only** way to be sure that a fuel or water tank is ready for deployment. Here are the criteria as given in an interim maintenance advisory message (MAM) dated 6 Mar 98 for the shelf and service life of the tanks:

Dispose of a tank if:

- * It has holes, tears or cuts through the coated fabric greater than 6 inches long.
- * It has seams that show signs of coming apart.
- * It has severe discoloration (dark rust-colored stains along seams of fuel tanks or an entire panel is darker than a panel right next to it).

- * It has cracks in the exterior coating.
- * It has fungus growth.

Repair a tank if:

- * It has holes, tears or cuts through the coated fabric that are less than 6 inches long. Make temporary repairs using the tank's mechanical repair kit. Permanent repairs can be made with an adhesive repair kit, NSN 5430-01-359-1078 (for both fuel and water tanks) or NSN 5430-01-352-6073 (for fuel tanks only).

- * It has abrasions that have exposed the nylon fabric underneath the outer coating. Re-coat with the adhesive repair kits listed above.

- * It has blisters, areas where the coating appears to have lifted away from the fabric or where fluid has leaked between tank layers.

Fix this damage by puncturing and cutting away the lifted coating. Temporarily repair the defect with the mechanical repair kit. Make permanent repairs with the adhesive kits listed above.

Once a tank's service or shelf life is used up, serviceable components should be removed for reuse before salvage of the tank.

These include berm liners, filter/discharge hose assemblies, drain hoses and control valves, gate valves and some other vent and hose assemblies.

The complete scoop is in TACOM MAM 99-007 (Jun 99) and the interim MAM. Both MAMs are available at:

<http://aeeps.ria.army.mil/>

Just click on the AEPS Maintenance icon and then on Maintenance Advisories.

