

Use, Repair and Disposal



YOU CAN'T TELL MUCH ABOUT THE CONDITION OF COLLAPSIBLE FUEL OR WATER TANKS UNLESS YOU **INSPECT** THEM.

IN FACT, A VISUAL INSPECTION IS THE **ONLY** WAY TO BE SURE THAT A FUEL OR WATER TANK IS READY FOR DEPLOYMENT AND USE.

BEFORE YOU INSPECT, THOUGH, CHECK THE SHELF AND SERVICE LIFE OF THE TANKS.

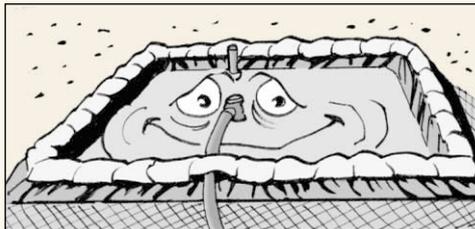


Shelf, Service Life

Fuel tanks from 3,000 to 210,000 gallons have a dry, indoor shelf life of 12 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.

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 often the tank is used.

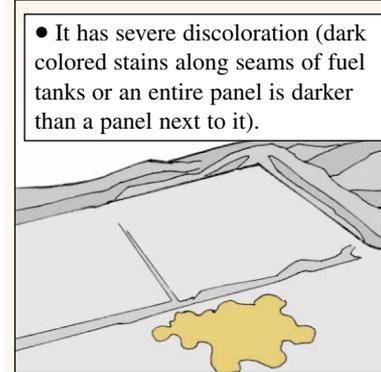
Water tanks from 160 to 50,000 gallons have no shelf or service life restrictions. So use them until they are no longer repairable.



Inspection Criteria

Dispose of a tank if:

- It has holes, tears or cuts through the coated fabric greater than 6 inches long.



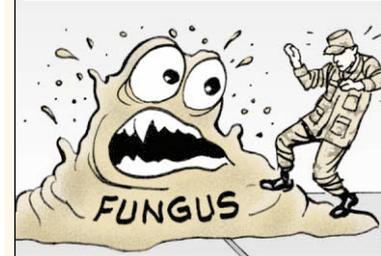
- It has severe discoloration (dark colored stains along seams of fuel tanks or an entire panel is darker than a panel next to it).

- It has seams that show signs of coming apart.



- It has cracks in the exterior coating.

- It has fungus growth.

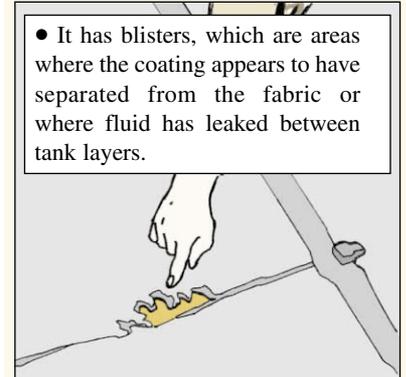


Repair a tank if:

- 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).



- 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, which are areas where the coating appears to have separated from the fabric or where fluid has leaked between tank layers.

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

Re-use of Components



Once a tank's service or shelf life is used up, serviceable components should be removed for re-use before you get rid of the tank.

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

