

TOOLS TO FIGHT TOOL CORROSION



UH-OH, I SHOULD HAVE BEEN CHECKING THIS TOOL VAN FOR MOISTURE BUILDUP!

I'M AFRAID TO OPEN THE DOOR 'CAUSE I THINK I HAVE A REAL CORROSION PROBLEM ON MY HANDS!



Dear Editor,

High humidity can quickly cause moisture to build up in the vans where some of the larger tool sets are kept. Often you may not use those tools for several weeks. Then when you open up the van after all that time, you find moisture has started to corrode some of the tools, especially those with worn finishes. Sockets are a good example.

If the corrosion is too bad, you must go through the hassle and expense of replacing the tools. These PM tools can help you fight corrosion:

- The vapor capsules that hang in the van help absorb moisture, but they need to be changed at least yearly—more often in humid areas. If you're operating in humid areas, it's a good idea to add extra vapor capsules, too. NSN 6850-01-590-1676 gets four capsules.

- Make sure tools are wiped completely clean of dirt, grease and moisture before they're stored in the drawers. If tools are clean and dry, they are less likely to corrode during storage.



Corrosion can quickly ruin tools like sockets



Wipe tools clean and dry before storing

- Keep the van inside a temperature-controlled part of the motor pool complex if possible. That will avoid the temperature extremes that make the moisture buildup worse.
- At least weekly (more often in really humid areas like Louisiana), open up the van and turn on the AC. If the van doesn't have AC, open up the door and vents and run a fan. That will help push moisture out of the van.
 - Open up every drawer and check for wet tools. Wipe them dry if necessary.
 - If you run into minor corrosion, it can usually be removed with a wire brush.



Open van at least weekly

Run AC or fan and open each drawer to check for moisture

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Editor's note: Just a weekly check of your tool vans can help you avoid a collision with corrosion. Thanks, Specialist.