

CORRECT WAYS TO USE AND STORE PRESSURE SENSITIVE TAPES

Pressure sensitive tapes like machines have a mechanical function thus proper care and handling is essential in order for them to perform at an optimal level. Pressure sensitive tapes are very sensitive to environmental and atmospheric conditions, and because of this, their performance life can be easily affected on how they are kept and used.

Both distributor and end user should pay close attention to avoid over-stocking; never keep more than it is necessary to sell or use. The storage life of a tape is greatly affected by the conditions of the warehouse. The optimum temperature is 21 °C or 70 °F. If possible, air conditioning is best in keeping the stock fresh and free from humidity attacks. If an air cooling system is not available, tape stock should be placed as close to the ceiling fan as possible for best possible air flow around the products. Five inches of ground clearance should be maintained between the stock and the ground in order to prevent damage from condensation. **The best condition for storing tape is in a cool, dry place.**

Rotation of stock is also important to make sure the old stocks are sold or used before replenishing for new ones. **First in first out** - Keep the old stocks in the front and the new ones in the back of your shelves.

When it comes to using pressure sensitive tapes, the common elements in weakening the tape adhesion are: oil, dust, moisture and temperature. In order to prevent failure in the adhesive system, the following are recommended:

- 1) Make sure the surface you wish to place the tape on is cleaned, dried and free from oil and dust. If the surface temperature is below 4 °C or 40 °F, prior warming of the surface and tape would be recommended; if possible, try to avoid applying tape under cold weather temperatures.
- 2) Do not use tape where it will encounter variable temperatures or temperatures above 60 °C or 140 °F, unless the tape is specifically designed for high temperature functions.
- 3) When applying the tape, even “pressure” should be given along the whole tape to achieve a flush contact between the surface and the adhesive.
- 4) Always use a sufficient width of tape to adequately cover the surface. It is more effective to apply just one single strip than two narrow strips.
- 5) Do not use tape as a structural member unless it was designed for such purpose.

If the above recommendations are properly applied, you will be able to get the best out of your pressure sensitive tapes.

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