



271 Ballardvale Street
Wilmington, MA 01887-1081
p:978-658-8200 f:978-658-2307
www.dowindustries.com

Pressure Sensitive Label Storage Conditions

Over the years our customers have asked us if there should be special storage conditions for pressure sensitive labels. Since many of our customers are applying labels in conditions that are not air conditioned or see variations in temperature, especially during the summer, then some care is recommend.

Below are some helpful hints:

Shelf life storage or handling requirements for the pressure sensitive label materials you use:

Storage Stability: Two years when stored at 70 degrees F (21 degrees C) and 50% relative humidity

Minimum Application Temperature: 50 degrees F (10 degrees C)

Service Temperature Range: -20 degrees F to 176 degrees F (-29 degrees C to 80 degrees C)

Indoor Use Only

How long does a label have to be in less than ideal temperature/humidity conditions before they will start to have failures? For example, if labels are on a truck for 2 days when it was 100+ degrees in the trailer, what effect will this have on the labels? This would not be a problem for two days and would not have any effect on the material or adhesive. This happens all the time on transit of material during the summer months. Longer transit time or long storage at high temperature will affect some adhesives as they "flow" more than others and environmental conditions should be reviewed and procedures should be established.

Proper Storage is the key and following the rules listed below will reduce potential problems with your label products.

- Labels should be stored in a cool dry climate-controlled area.
- If labels are stored where they may be exposed to moisture, have them plastic wrapped or store them in fiber cartons to protect them. Bring them into a moisture-controlled area 24 to 48 hours before using.
- Do not open individual packages until ready to use.
- Do not stack cartons of labels more than four high. Stacking less than four high will prevent cartons from being crushed and causing damage to the labels.
- Do not double stack skids containing cartons of labels.
- If banded on skids, break bands to relieve pressure on labels.

You should look at designing your protocol based on your customer requirements, your process, package design and your environmental conditions, including storage, application and operating temperature and preconditioning of labels for proper temperature and humidity requirements.