

Cleanliness

Threads should be stored in a clean, dust-free atmosphere. Preferably, warehouses used for storing either cotton or synthetic threads should be located in areas where atmospheric pollution – such as smoke, fumes and gases - is at a minimum. It has been shown that the presence of certain gases such as oxides of nitrogen in the atmosphere can induce yellowing of white shades and thread. Threads should therefore be stored in areas where such gases are absent. These gases could originate from gas fires, gas burners or even, exhaust fumes from petrol / diesel engines.



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Ph.: 080-4190 0400 / 500. E-mail: coatsindia@coats.com Website: www.coatsindia.com

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Thread Storage



Light

Sunlight should not be allowed to shine directly into the storage space. Containers should not be left lying around with lids removed, exposing the thread to direct sunlight. If necessary, windows and skylights should have blinds, so the light is diffused. The best kind of lighting is provided by tungsten-filament or fluorescent tubes. It is however, important to remember that even electric lighting (particularly tungsten lamps) can make colours fade and cardboard containers turn yellow. So, it is a good idea to examine packages frequently for signs of damage.



Temperature and humidity

The ideal ambient conditions for thread storage are:

- Temperature - between 15°C and 25°C (50°F and 77°F)
- Humidity - between 40% and 60%

Temperature and humidity should be as constant as possible. Both should remain sufficiently low to prevent the formation of mildew. Excessive storage temperatures can cause lubricant to migrate from the outside to the centre of the thread in a package, leading to high friction, and to reduced strength in the case of cotton threads. Relative humidity is another critical factor.

Under extremely adverse conditions, faults which may occur over a prolonged period include:

- Loss of strength because of over-exposure to ultraviolet light
- High friction, and therefore poor sewing performance, due to lubricant migrating towards the centre of the cone because of storage under high temperatures
- Fading of colour in non-fast shades and potential yellowing of white threads

Having made sure that the thread will not deteriorate while in storage and that stocks are utilised in strict rotation, the thread should not be left lying around the sewing room for long periods. It makes sense to use the thread as soon as it is taken out of storage. Careful attention to these points will ensure the very best sewing performance the thread can offer. After all, the thread is an investment worth protecting.



An investment worth protecting

If the thread is to sew well, it must not only be well manufactured, but properly looked after too. There is often a certain time lapse between delivery of the thread to the thread-user, the moment it is placed on the sewing machine and when it is all used up. This means that the thread must be warehoused with care and conditions monitored regularly, to prevent degradation by soiling, light, heat, damp, dryness and mildew.

