



## Breaking the Mold: Introducing the Easy Grip™ Pail

New pail allows for a safe, secure pour of packaged lubricants

Martin Lubricants is excited to release its new five gallon Easy Grip™ Pail featuring a rigid, integrated handle that is molded into the bottom of the pail. The new design will be used exclusively on all pails manufactured for Xtreme™ Tractor Hydraulic Fluid and for all SynGard™ products.

The versatile Easy Grip Pail features an integrated molded handle allowing the user to safely and easily pour lubricants into their proper application. "Anytime the lubricants are dispersed from their original container, a safe and accurate pour is always at the front of the user's mind,"

said Doug Towns, Vice President of Martin Lubricants. "The Easy Grip Pail allows the user to have a solid grip on the top and the bottom of the pail during a pour reducing the risk of injury and spills on the job and in the field."

Even with the addition of the integrated molded handle at the bottom of the pail, the Easy Grip Pail still stacks like a traditional pail, holds 4.8 gallons, and is fully customizable. Pails are 100% American made and built in Martin Lubricants' plastics facility located in Smackover, Arkansas. The facility uses four Husky® injection



molding machines to meet internal and external pail demands.

The transition to using the Easy Grip Pail for Xtreme Tractor Hydraulic Fluid and SynGard products will begin in late September as inventories allow.

## Martin Lubricants Achieves ISO 9001:2008 Certification

Building on its existing commitment to excellence, Martin Lubricants is proud to announce it has received ISO 9001:2008 certification as a manufacturer of finished lubricants.

To obtain an ISO 9001:2008 certification, an accredited third party auditing organization reviews the company's internal quality

management system processes, ensuring the company is capable of consistently delivering a service that meets customers' needs and expectations.

"We pride ourselves on delivering a consistent finished lubricant that meets our customers' expectations for quality and performance," said



Doug Towns, Vice President of Martin Lubricants. "The ISO 9001:2008  
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>>> Technical Services

## Safety First: Best Practices for Storing Packaged Lubricants

Liquid lubricants typically have a shelf life of more than one year if stored in the proper conditions. Exposure to extreme temperature changes and moisture will reduce the shelf life (i.e. don't leave an opened bottle of lubricants in the direct sun). Best practice is to keep them sealed.

A general example of shelf life for oils is as follows:

Product	Shelf Life
Base, Oils, Process Oils	3 years
Hydraulic Oils, Compressor Oils, General Purpose Lubricating Oils	2 years
Engine Oils and Transmission Oils	3 years
Industrial and Automotive Gear Oils	2 years
Metal Working and Cutting Oils	1 year

### Storage Conditions Affecting All Lubricants

The storage environment greatly affects the estimated shelf life of lubricants and greases. Conditions which may affect oil life are as follows:

**Temperature:** Both high heat (greater than 110°F) and extreme cold (less than 0°F) can affect lubricant stability. Heat will increase the rate of oil oxidation. Cold can result in wax and possible sediment formation. In addition, alternating exposure to heat and cold may result in breathing of drums and



possible moisture contamination. A temperature range of 0°F and 110°F is acceptable for storage of most lubricants and greases. Ideally, the storage temperature range should be 32°F to 77°F.

**Light:** Light may impact color and appearance of the lubricants. Lubricants should be kept in the original metal or plastic opaque containers they were packaged in.

**Water:** Water will react with some lubricant additives. It can also promote microbial growth. Lubricants should be stored in a dry location.

**Particulate Contamination:** Lubricant drums and pails should not be stored in areas where there is a high level of

airborne particles. This is especially important when a partially used container is stored for later use.

**Atmospheric Contamination:** Oxygen and carbon dioxide can react with lubricants and affect their viscosity and consistency. Keeping lubricant containers sealed until the product is needed is best practice.

\*If your unopened containers of lubricant are more than three years old, read the labels to ensure they meet the latest industry standards.

### Additional Storage Condition Affecting Greases

Greases have additional properties that can be affected by improper

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## >>> Technical Services (Continued)

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storage; depending on the thickener type and concentration, the base fluids and additives used.

One additional condition that commonly affects grease is:

*Oil Separation:* Oil will naturally separate from most grease. Temperatures in excess of 110°F can accelerate this separation. If grease is removed from a drum or pail, the grease surface should be smoothed to prevent oil separation into the cavity.

The following are signs of storage instability in a lubricant:

- Settling out of the additives as a gel or sticky liquids
- Floc or haze
- Precipitates/solid material
- Color change or haziness

Water contamination in a lubricant can be detected by a "milky" appearance of the product.

### Recommended Storage Conditions and Practices for Lubricating Oils and Greases

1. Store lubricating oils and greases in a cool dry indoor area where airborne particles are at a minimum. Indoor storage also prevents label and container deterioration from exposure to weather. The ideal storage temperature range is from 32°F to 77°F.
2. If drums must be stored outside, use plastic covers or tip oil drums to direct water and contamination away from the bungs. Always store greases upright to prevent oil separation.
3. When necessary, bring grease to a satisfactory dispensing temperature just prior to use.
4. Rotate inventory. Check the container fill date and use the oldest container first.
5. Keep containers tightly covered or closed to avoid contamination.
6. Wipe off the tops and edges of containers before opening to avoid contamination.

7. Use clean tools and equipment when pumping or handling lubricants and greases.

### Products Exceeding the Estimated Shelf Life

If you have unopened containers with a product that is beyond the estimated shelf life, it may still be suitable for use. The product should be tested and evaluated against the original product specifications. Thoroughly mix the container to ensure a uniform, representative sample is taken for testing. If the product's test results fall within the original specifications, it should be suitable for service. Following testing, if the product is not consumed within a year, the product should be earmarked for reclamation.

Always validate the product's performance claims against the equipment manufacturer's current specifications. Equipment designs and specifications can change over time making an old product obsolete for new equipment.

## Standards Incorporated Into Internal Quality Management Processes

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certification requires a real commitment to our internal quality management processes and customer service. The ISO 9001:2008 standards have been incorporated into our daily operations so we can consistently deliver quality products and services

to our customers. Receiving the official ISO certification was a natural move for our company as we continue to grow."

The ISO 9001:2008 quality management standard was developed and published by the International

Organization for Standardization (ISO) and establishes an effective quality management program for manufacturing companies. Important components of ISO 9001:2008 include customer satisfaction and establishing processes for continuous improvement.



## Packaging Updates Continue for Grease Cartridges

Last fall, Martin Lubricants began updating labels and packaging during its brand transition. The first grease cartridges to receive a redesigned label and packaging were the Xtreme Hi-Temp Grease and Xtreme Moly Grease — both of which were well-received by customers.

During the next few months as inventory continues to transition, you will see new designs arrive for our SynGard Calcium Sulfonate Grease, Gard Multi-Purpose EP Lithium #2 Grease, and Gard General Purpose #2 Grease.



### >>> Product Spotlight

The LubeBox™ is designed to efficiently store and distribute oil in quick lubes or fleet operations. The space-saving design of the LubeBox allows customers to quickly dispense oil and fluids using a smaller footprint compared to traditional quarts.

The LubeBox is available in the follow brands and viscosities:

- SynGard Full Synthetic 0W-20
- SynGard Full Synthetic 5W-20 dexos®
- SynGard Full Synthetic 5W-30 dexos®
- SynGard Full Synthetic 5W-40
- SynGard FS DEX VI/MERC LV
- SynGard HD ATF
- SynGard ATF +4
- Xtreme Fleet Syn Blend 15W-40
- Xtreme Fleet Syn Blend 10W-30
- Xtreme 20W-50
- Unimark Syn-Blend 5W-20
- Unimark Syn-Blend 5W-30
- Unimark High Mileage 10W-30
- Unimark Global ATF
- Unimark HD 30

Ask your salesman about  
our corresponding  
Lube Rack!

