



INTRODUCTION

CEREX Advanced Fabrics, Inc.'s (CEREX's) high quality spunbond nylon nonwoven products are tough and durable fabrics that are packaged to withstand the normal wear and tear of shipping and handling at a typical manufacturing site. To ensure that the fabric quality and physical properties required for your application are maintained, the fabric rolls should be handled with care and stored properly. In general, CEREX recommends that Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) be utilized when handling and storing nonwoven rolls. The following storage and handling recommendations should ensure that you get the best performance possible from our products. When these recommendations are followed, there is no shelf life limit to CEREX products.

DELIVERY AND UNLOADING

All CEREX nonwovens are delivered in a protective plastic wrap or within a corrugated box. Large rolls are packaged without a pallet and should be handled with a forklift or front end loader fitted with a 2.75 inch (70 mm) outer diameter tapered pole that is inserted into the roll core. The pole should be long enough to extend at least 2/3 of the way into the roll to avoid the possibility of the roll buckling or breaking at the core. Smaller rolls are normally packaged on pallets or in pallet boxes and should be handled with normal, safe forklift practices. The rolls should be lifted off of the ground when being moved. Dragging rolls is not recommended and can damage and/or contaminate the outside fabric layers on the roll.

HANDLING AND STORAGE

Care should be taken to prevent contamination from oil, grease, dirt, and water. We recommend that CEREX rolls be stored indoors, under proper cover to protect from the weather, and in a climate controlled environment where possible. The protective roll wrapping should not be removed until the nonwoven is ready to be staged in the processing area. Although rolls are sometimes shipped in the vertical or "stand-up" position for maximum shipping efficiency, we do not recommend keeping the rolls in a vertical position for long term storage. Rolls should be laid horizontally on a solid flooring or storage rack and can be stacked in a pyramid fashion to a reasonable height as long as the outside rolls on the bottom layer are secured with chocks or some other safe method that will prevent the rolls from rolling. We do not recommend long term storage of rolls in direct sunlight as this can lead to discoloration (yellowing) and the possibility of physical property degradation over time.

STAGING ROLLS FOR PROCESSING

It is recommended that CEREX fabric rolls be unpackaged and staged in the production area at least 24 hours prior to processing to allow the nonwoven media to acclimate to the process area temperature and humidity conditions.

PROTECTING ROLLS FROM MOISTURE

Nylon (Polyamide) based nonwovens are hydrophilic and readily absorb up to 6% moisture regain by weight. Changes in moisture content can cause dimensional changes in both the machine and cross direction of the fabric. High humidity conditions (like during warmer summer months) can cause the fabric to increase in length and width causing roll tension to become loose. Low humidity conditions (like during cold winter months) tend to shrink the fabric and tighten the roll winding. Storing the rolls in a conditioned environment, keeping the protective wrapping on the rolls until ready for production staging, and providing the rolls time to acclimate to the process room environment prior to processing normally eliminates any problems caused by the natural moisture gain and loss associated with nylon fabrics.