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June, 2004

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### Gearbox Sampling Tip

On gearboxes close to the floor where it is nearly impossible to draw an oil sample or even drain the unit except into a half-inch deep pan, I've started using compressed air to make the job easier. A plastic tube is attached to the drain or sample valve, the gearbox is pressurized by air regulated to 5 psi maximum from the vent or fill level port, viola! In areas where compressed air isn't available a five-gallon portable tank with hose is good for several gearboxes. Ensure the air is filtered and the pressure is regulated to avoid popping seals or blowing out tanks.

(Submitted by Bill Fleming, Maintenance Manager, Montana State University. Thanks Bill!)  
Each tip published will earn the sender \$75. [Submit your tip.](#)

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### How to Pack New Bearings With Grease

From the "Rolling Bearings Handbook and Troubleshooting Guide"

When greasing a new unsealed bearing at installation, pack the grease in from both sides until all of the cavity is filled. If a split pillow block is used, fill the bottom half of the housing half full.

A sealed bearing is generally packed 1/3 to 1/2 full of grease. Any more grease will cause the bearing to run somewhat hot, and the excess grease will be purged out of the seal contact area. When greasing bearings, always make sure to wipe off the grease fitting prior to injecting grease.

[More information about the "Rolling Bearings Handbook and Troubleshooting Guide"](#)

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## Lube-Trivia: What's a Reclassifier?

Test your knowledge and prepare for ICML lubrication and oil analysis certification.

**QUESTION:** Reclassifiers are used with what type of lubrication system?

Get the answer.

## Q & A: Advice for Measuring Filter Life

**"We have a filter that appears to have been in service for nearly two years without any indication of blocking, is this normal?"**

While contaminant ingress varies according to environmental and production/maintenance activity, some filter manufacturers specify a life of six months. It is generally a good strategy to take an upstream and downstream particle count to ascertain if the filter is still working properly; if not, replace the element.

Consider the maintenance history and try to establish an average life for previous elements as this will give some indication if two years is abnormal.

However, there are a number of ways in which the filter may fail without tripping the indicator, and this may lead the unwary to believe the filter is good value. Without a particle count program, it is almost impossible to determine a failed filter. Such failures as a collapsed element, split pleat, poor adhesion on the seam, a sticking by-pass valve or even a faulty indicator are typically not detectable without a particle count program to monitor changing contaminant levels.

[Submit a question](#)

### Resources



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