

Tech Tip 5

What > Shelf Life

Why > A product can be used for certain applications after the date of expiration has passed.



Using an EPO-TEK Product After the Shelf Life has Expired

Note: Epoxy Technology, Inc.[®] does not make any guarantees as to the performance of any EPO-TEK[®] materials used after the shelf life has expired. This document was created to demonstrate how a product can be used for certain applications after the date of expiration has passed.

Many EPO-TEK products will commonly have a shelf life of one year at room temperature. Several single component materials and some UV cure systems have a six month shelf life or shorter due to the chemical nature of that particular product. Please refer to the shelf life section on each product datasheet for the material's specific shelf life.

Customers will commonly call and ask if they can still use product that is past its shelf life. Here are some comments and suggestions on how to proceed with using the material in this situation if desired:

1. Epoxy Technology, Inc. does not guarantee materials after the shelf life has expired. Epoxy Technology, Inc. will not re-certify materials and will not express in writing the viability of using any expired materials.

2. If the user decides to evaluate the expired material, here are a couple quick tests to see if the material is performing as it should:

- a. For unfilled epoxies, mix part A & B separately in their containers before weighing and mixing together. Apply a small drop of product onto a glass slide and cure according to the recommended cure schedule on data sheet.
- b. For filled epoxies, stir part A & B separately and thoroughly before mixing together. If electrically conductive, set up a conductance test on a glass slide (call Epoxy Technology if unfamiliar with this test). If thermally conductive, test as described above for an unfilled product.

3. If the material appears to be working properly, it can be used for a variety of purposes besides end line manufacturing such as R&D, reliability testing, samples or rapid prototyping.

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