

Bag storage

It is relatively easy to store bags on pallets and to fumigate a stack of bags covered with plastic sheets.

Fumigation under sheets. Sheets should overlap by 1 metre and should be held down with chains or sandsnakes (a tube of polythene packed with sand).

What are the conditions which lead to improved gastightness?

- Stacks must be built on impermeable floors, preferably with a underlying sheet.
- Proper fumigation sheets, preferably reinforced PVC or coated woven polythene 200–250 μm thick, must be used.
- Standard stack sizes should match the sheet size.
- There must be complete and easy access to the sides and tops of stacks, with at least 1 metre between stacks.
- Sheets must be inspected and holes repaired.
- Overlapping sheets must be sealed with rolled joints and clip.
- Sheets must give a metre overlap on the ground.
- The stack must be checked for leaks after the fumigant is put in.
- The commodity must be dry enough to be sealed without sweating.

- An adequate dose of phosphine must be used.

For bags held in a warehouse, it may be possible to keep the stacks under polythene film, but only if the commodity is cool and very dry. Bags may also be kept in cooled, air-conditioned warehouses, or in sealed rooms.

We now turn to Grain handling equipment. Make your choice from the sidebar.