



General O-Ring Care and Maintenance

Please read the following instructions carefully prior to deploying your YSI Sonde. Following the recommended procedure will assure that no problems will occur with regard to water entering the compartments of your sonde.

Potential Problem: If the o-rings and sealing surfaces on the sondes are not maintained properly, it is possible that water can enter the sonde. If water enters the sonde, it can severely damage the sonde's internal parts such as the battery terminals or probe ports causing loss of battery power during a deployment, false readings and corrosion to the probes.

Preventive Action

When the battery compartment lid is removed or replaced on a YSI sonde, the two o-rings that provide the seal (one ring below the threads and one on the communication port stem) should be carefully inspected for contamination (e.g. hair, grit, etc.) and cleaned if necessary using the following instructions. Also, if the o-rings associated with the probe port plugs or field cable connectors are removed, the following instructions must be followed. If problems are evident, replace the o-ring as described in Care, Maintenance and Storage section of your 6-Series Sonde, found in the Operations Manual that came with your sonde.

O-ring Removal

Use a small, flat-bladed screwdriver or similar blunt-tipped tool to remove the o-ring from its groove. Check the o-ring and the groove for any excess grease or contamination. If contamination is evident, clean the o-ring and nearby plastic parts with lens cleaning tissue or equivalent lint-free cloth. Alcohol can be used to clean the plastic parts, but use only water and mild detergent on the o-ring itself. Also, inspect the o-rings for nicks and imperfections.

- Using alcohol on o-rings may cause a loss of elasticity and may promote cracking.
- Do not use a sharp object to remove the o-rings. Damage to the o-ring or the groove itself may result.

Before re-installing the o-rings, make sure that you are using a clean workspace and clean hands and are avoiding contact with anything that may leave fibers on the o-ring or grooves. Even a very small bit of contamination (hair, grit, etc.) may cause a catastrophic leak.

O-ring Re-installation

1. Place a small amount of Teflon stopcock grease between your thumb and index finger. (More grease is ***not*** better!)
2. Draw the o-ring through the grease while pressing the fingers together. Use this action to place a very light covering of grease to all sides of the o-ring. Place the o-ring into its groove making sure that it does not twist or roll.
3. Use the previously grease-coated finger to once again lightly go over the mating surface of the o-ring. ***Do not*** use excess grease on the o-ring or the o-ring groove.
4. Carefully mate the two surfaces together being careful to not pinch the o-rings or any wires.

CAUTION: Do not over-grease the o-rings. The excess grease may collect grit particles that can compromise the seal. Excess grease can also cause the waterproofing capabilities of the o-ring to diminish, causing leaks into the compartment. If excess grease is present, remove it using lens cloth or lint-free cloth.

For additional information please contact

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