

# Good storage and handling practices for nitrogen fertilizers



This leaflet contains instructions on how to handle and store nitrogen fertilizers in a way that ensures your safety and preserves product quality. If you follow these instructions, you will be ensuring that the fertilizers retain their original quality and can be used to best advantage. Adjust the settings on your spreader, including the spreading width, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions ([www.oci-agro.com](http://www.oci-agro.com)) to achieve the correct spreading pattern for the fertilizers.



# Storage recommendations for fertilizers in big bags

## Good storage practices

- Store in a dry, well-ventilated and sheltered place with the bags on pallets.
- Choose a flat surface.
- Stack the bags in staggered tiers to ensure stability, up to a maximum of 3 tiers.



## Do not store outside!

- Do not expose bagged nitrogen-containing fertilizers to wide temperature fluctuations between 25°C and 40°C. This can have an adverse effect on granule quality.
- Water can act as a magnifying glass on fertilizers, which constitutes a fire risk. Moreover, water may enter the spreader when the big bags are emptied.

## Outdoor storage: for short periods only!

If external storage cannot be avoided, follow the instructions below:

- Put big bags on pallets.
- If possible, choose a location in the shade. Cover the stack, preferably with a white tarpaulin, which retains less heat.

## Safety

- Never stand under or close to a big bag when it is being lifted.
- Do not stack pallets or big bags more than 3 tiers high.
- Restack any incorrectly stacked big bags immediately. Always stack them in staggered tiers.
- Do not use damaged pallets.
- Wear protective gloves when handling big bags.
- Use an approved lifting device to move the big bags.



## Lifting and Handling big bags

- Always use appropriate equipment and approved lifting devices!
- Be sure to lift the bags by their lifting loops.
- Use only round forks or forks with rounded edges. Square forks damage the lifting loop, possibly causing the bag to fall.
- Put the forks straight into the lifting loop from the front.



- Do not tear or drop the bag while moving it.
- If the lifting loop does not look strong enough, do not lift the bag.
- To empty big bags, stand to one side and use a blade with a long handle. Make an inverted T-shaped notch at the dotted lines marked for this purpose. This helps to empty the bag gradually.
- After emptying, the big bags should not be re-used. Dispose of them in an approved waste processor. The logo means that OCI Agro contributes to the recycling of empty fertilizer bags. Contact your distributor to have your empty bags collected.



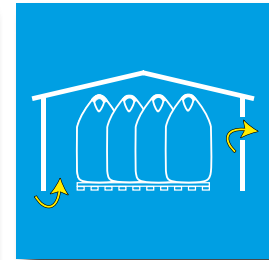
Big bags are easy to recycle



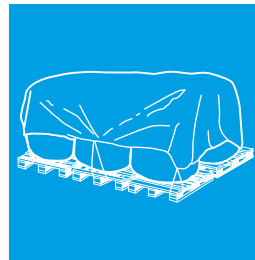
Only use lifting forks with rounded edges



Never stand under or close to a heavy load



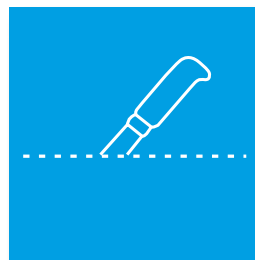
Store fertilizers in a covered, dry and well-ventilated space



Cover the stack, preferably with white canvas as this attracts less heat



Protect fertilizers from moisture and sunlight



Make a notch in the shape of an inverted T on the dotted line marked on the bag

# Storage recommendations for bulk fertilizers

## Storage in shed

- Store away from any potentially flammable product (empty bags, pallets, etc.), agricultural products (grain, straw, hay, feed, etc.) and any source of possible contamination (fuel, pesticides, etc.).
- Avoid contact with hot objects and surfaces (e.g. light bulbs, switches). Do not smoke in storage areas.
- Avoid contact with acids and alkaline substances, such as quicklime or cement.
- In the event of fire, alert the fire service and extinguish with large quantities of water.



- Store fertilizers in a clean and well-ventilated room. Take measures to prevent moisture penetration.
- The ground must be impermeable and safe from moisture.
- Store different fertilizers separately as some types of fertilizer are incompatible.
- Cover the heap with transparent plastic sheeting immediately after arrival.

## Storage in bulk silos

- Make sure that the silo is clean and dry before refilling it.
- Check for cracks and leaks.
- Lock the silo after use so that no-one can remove more product.
- Once the spreading season is over, close the intake line and venting pipe to form an air-tight seal to prevent moisture from entering the silo.



## Handling

- Limit the handling of products to avoid the deterioration of granule quality.
- Avoid rough handling when unloading/loading with shovels and conveyor belts.
- Clean up any spills immediately and make sure that no spilled product ends up in the water or sewage system.

OCI Agro has over 80 years' experience in the manufacture of high-quality nitrogen fertilizers. Our products comply with EU regulations on fertilizers and the provisions of Regulation (EU) No. 2003/2003.

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***This information is brought to you by your supplier of quality fertilizers.***

