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Q: How much grease is enough grease?



Brian Mitchell
Shell Turbine Expert

Well, that depends on what you're greasing. Okay, seriously, the general industry theory is that the proper amount of grease is approximately one-third of the open volume of the unit being serviced. That said, there are a large number of variables to consider when determining how much grease to use. First and foremost, I would advise consulting the appropriate Aircraft Maintenance Manual or Aircraft Service

Bulletins for specific advice on not only the correct grade of grease to use, but also on the proper method of application.

Many aircraft components specify the purge method of grease application. Purging is the process of injecting grease into the grease fitting until all of the old grease has been pumped out and replaced by the new grease. This method is often utilized in cases where it is necessary to expel contaminants such as wear debris, dirt, and water on a periodic basis. When using the purge method, it is important that excess grease be removed after servicing as it will attract dirt and hold debris, making future service intervals more difficult to accomplish.

Care should be taken in applications where open venting of excess grease is not one of the design characteristics of the unit being greased. In these cases, adherence to the recommended amount of grease to use per the maintenance manual is critical. Another thing to watch out for is over-greasing of some closed systems. This can have a negative impact on seal longevity and may cause the unit to operate at a slightly elevated temperature initially after servicing.

Visit AeroShell.com or call the Shell Technical Assistance Center at 1-800-231-6950 if you'd like more information on greases or any other AeroShell products.

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