

# How to Maintain a Dewatering Container

Routine maintenance on a roll-off container is very important for the longevity of a container. Minor tasks like greasing moving components and keeping the container clean will ensure that the container will last and continue making money for the company. For older containers, larger maintenance may need to be performed like replacement parts, repainting, or a complete refurbishment. With specialty containers, more maintenance may be required as they have additional components that will need taken care of.

One of those specialty containers is a dewatering container. A dewatering style roll-off container, sometimes referred to as filtering containers, creates an efficient one-step process to separate solids and liquids. Ideal for several unique applications, such as water filtration, wastewater treatment plants, oil & gas, and environmental remediation, a dewatering container is built differently than a rectangular roll-off container to complete the separation process. With the removable basket and apertures, more maintenance will be needed. It is the user's job to keep up with the following maintenance and inspections.



## ***Grease Moving Components***

Routine maintenance should be performed on all moving components, such as wheels, hinges, and nose rollers. It is recommended to grease every month to every quarter, depending on the amount of use. This will ensure that the container is running smoothly.

## ***Tailgate***

The tailgate of a container has a big role to play in the container – keeping contents inside. If a tailgate were to come loose at any point during the loading, transporting, or unloading process, it could cause damage and/or injury. A dewatering container features a sealed style tailgate with additional apertures. Because of this, the tailgate has additional steps that will need to be taken during inspection and maintenance.

First, the tailgate needs to be properly aligned to the rear of the container. The latch post should be fully functioning and completely intact without any holes or major shape issues. The sealed latch ears should secure the tailgate to the container and be “locked in” with the latch handle bracket. A sealed tailgate has ratchet binders, located on both the latch and hinge side of the container and sometimes on the bottom of the gate. Be sure all parts of the ratchet binders are intact and working correctly so they can tighten the gate to the container. Although they are not grease zerks, it is recommended to grease the threads on the ratchet binders to keep them easy to operate. There should be no issue of overexertion or interference with other parts when closing the gate to the container.

Then, the seal on the tailgate will need to be checked thoroughly, making sure that the seal is properly in the seal track and that there are no holes or sections missing that may cause leakage.

Finally, it is important to clean out the apertures that are commonly located on the tailgate of the container. Simply take a hose to the pipe and caps and inspect the clean fitting to ensure that there are no holes and that the cap properly screws on.

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## Hookup

On a cable style container, the parts that receive the most wear are the nose rollers and brackets, as well as the cable hook. When checking these parts, make sure they are securely in their place and that the nose rollers are fully functioning. The cable hook should not appear rusty or worn down. On a hooklift style container, check the hooklift pin often to ensure that it is safe to be lifted when the container is full. Be sure to replace these parts at any time they are appearing damaged or distorted.



## Container

The rest of the container has a variety of parts that also need to be inspected. The side posts are often used in severe weather conditions and experience many years of use, causing them to slowly bend and rust. Depending on how far up the post is damaged, a repair cap may work, or an entirely new side post will need ordered. The crossmembers can also bend and begin to weaken over time requiring replacement. Wheels are used to roll the container safely and smoothly on and off the truck, as well as moving around on site. When wheels become misshapen and damaged, it can cause damage to property like driveways as they begin to drag rather than roll. If the container has ladder rungs, they need to be safe to climb. If they have become unattached to the container or broken, they should be replaced before the next use. On hooklift style containers, it is important to look underneath at the stops. Stops provide extra security to secure hooklift style containers to the truck. Replacement stops can be purchased by providing the stop measurements for the specific hooklift model number to a roll-off parts dealer.



## Basket

Unique to a dewatering container, the basket will also need to be cleaned and inspected. Once separated from the container, take a hose to spray it down and ensure that all hard to handle materials are removed and draining to a safe and approved location. When it is clean, inspect the basket for any large holes or severe rust.

## Lid/Tarp System

Some dewatering containers will have an added lid or tarp system for greater securement of the materials. To prevent them from failing, they will need to be inspected for holes. The tarp system should be working properly.

Completing these simple inspections will lead to a longer working life of a dewatering roll-off container. If any parts are experiencing excess wear or have any damage, it is important to replace them as soon as possible to make sure the container is in working order to keep the business in motion.

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