

ASK ANDY: Extend the Usable Life of Your Hose

QUESTION: How long does the average delivery hose last?

ANSWER:

On average, for a truck in service daily doing around 20 stops per day, you may get a year and a half to 2 years, provided that the hose is rotated, under normal working conditions.

QUESTION: Why should I rotate my delivery hose and how do I do it?

ANSWER:

Just like you rotate your tires to promote even wear, it's a good idea to rotate your hose. Typically, the hose is only pulled partially out and the hose is subject to additional wear at this frequently used portion of the hose. Rotating the hose is a relatively simple procedure and Lin's recommends that this be done every 6 months.

Simply unroll all of the hose off of the reel and uncouple the connection at the reel. Disconnect the hose nozzle. Connect the hose nozzle end - to the reel, and connect the former reel end - to the nozzle. Rotation of an existing hose is not subject to the DOT hose management process that would require a pressure test. A pressure test is required for all repairs and new hoses. However, the hose should be carefully inspected during this procedure to ensure the integrity of the entire hose assembly. Also, all of the hose connections should be double checked for leaks.



QUESTION: Why doesn't delivery hose last like it used to?

ANSWER:

In the past, I blamed the newer lead-free manufacturing process but I think there are other things to consider. When I think about delivery hose replacements years ago, the worn hose was in really poor condition or worse yet, blown out. With the increased emphasis on maintenance, inspection and liability issues, we are all much more aggressive about replacing delivery hoses. Also, since we no longer use reusable hose-end fittings it is more difficult for the average propane marketer to cut back the hose, to eliminate the worn areas. You now have to have a specially equipped shop do this and pressure test the hose, where once you were able to do this yourself.