

Get those tools out of that bucket

Application Note

Check the trunk of your car or maybe the bucket next to your work bench.

If that's where you store your test equipment – and let's be frank, most of us do – we need to talk.

"On the job, out in the field guys can really treat their equipment badly," says Fluke customer specialist Duane Smith. "If you use testers as your livelihood, if your job depends on test equipment that works, if you want to stay safe, there are better alternatives."

Better alternatives – and solid reasons for taking a few extra minutes to properly care for your test equipment. LCD displays get cracked, glass gets broken, leads break or get lost. Dust seeps into switch mechanisms, shutting them down.

Sometimes equipment poorly cared for is an inconvenience. Occasionally it can be a prelude to injury.

"Test leads will last years – or weeks, depending on how they're treated," says Rosemary Baisch, who works with Fluke's industrial accessories group. "If you think your test equipment is working and it's not, you could be hurt."

The first rule for keeping test equipment functioning at full throttle and in good repair is to protect it from the elements. Common culprits include moisture, dust and ordinary grit found in most industrial or outdoor work environments.

"It's not so much the grime on your hands that causes problems," Baisch says "It's the sand and grit in your environment."



To help you care for your test tools, Fluke has designed a complete line of industrial accessories that make it convenient to protect your investment - while protecting your meter. Vinyl carrying cases with zippers and hard carrying cases made of polypropylene protect equipment and leads from moisture. On the job, holsters and leather carrying cases combine convenience and protection. Rugged tool bags have enough room for that entire bucket of equipment.

It's all part of Fluke's commitment to helping Fluke users get the most from their equipment, Baisch says.

"Almost every Fluke meter, for example, ships with a protector," she says. If you don't like the one that came with your unit, choose another. There are holsters for belts for day in and day out quick-grabs. Bags and cases transport test equipment between job sites. Hanging kits, hook-and-loop straps and industrial-strength magnets keep your meters where they're needed, not underfoot.

In all, Fluke offers more than 100 different accessories to extend the life and usage of your test equipment.

Test leads, in particular, need to be protected, Smith says. "Leads are a high wear-and-tear item. You don't want them to get crunched. To work properly, they need to make a good connection."

Making the move to proper carrying equipment gives you the chance to review your current accessories, Smith and Baisch say. It is more essential than ever to select the correct tool for the job at hand. As always, check the safety category ratings on your equipment, as well as on your accessories. All Fluke's new test leads, for example, are CAT III or IV rated. Some are designed for bench work, some for heavy industrial environments.

"Make sure you think of everything you'll be carrying when you select your tool bag," Baisch advises. That carrying bucket just won't do.

Check out these protective equipment accessories:

Premium leather meter case – oiled leather with stitched and riveted construction, plus a large belt loop and top flap to secure your meter, holds most Fluke DMMs, thermometers and process meters.

Leather tester case – holds Fluke T3 and T5 electrical testers.

Leather accessory case – split leather with top zipper ideal for storing Fluke leads and probes. Large enough to hold a meter plus accessories.

Tool bag – rugged fabric case with metal frame and heavy duty hardware in signature Fluke colors. Features several inside and outside pockets and zippered main compartment. Water resistant, this bag is ideal for carrying all your tools and accessories.

Vinyl and nylon zippered carrying cases feature various combinations of inside and external pockets, belt loops and padding.

This large fabric carrying case offers three compartments, removable handle and shoulder strap.

Hard meter cases – made of heavy duty polypropylene to store test equipment and accessories.

Snap on holsters absorb shocks and protect meters from rough handling. Fluke's Flex-Stand™ allows meter to hang, lean or stand for convenience and best viewing.

Fabric holsters include lead storage and built-in belt loops.

Care and safe storage of your test equipment and accessories pays great dividends on the job for both you and your fellow workers.

For more information on Fluke accessories, visit the Fluke web site at www.fluke.com.

Fluke. *Keeping your world up and running.*

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