

We commonly get asked the question of how long will powder last, or how do I know my powder is bad.

All smokeless powder will eventually go bad. This is a time heat reaction. Heat greatly accelerates the process. Whether a powder is sealed or not has absolutely no effect on its shelf life. It is common to see Extruded type powders last 30 to 40 years if stored properly. Ball and Spherical powders can possibly last 50-60. When powder goes bad it will appear to have rust in it or a rusty reddish brown dust. It will also have a harsh acidic smell that will burn your nose. Once powder has gone bad it will become highly corrosive and could eventually spontaneously combust.

We recommend checking any powder that is older than 10yrs bi annually by sight and smell. If the powder looks and smells normal it should be fine to use. Powder will have an acetone or alcohol type smell.

Example of powder that has gone bad



