## **EXAMPLES OF SEAL FAILURES AND THEIR CAUSES**

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TYPE OF FAILURE	VISIBLE CONDITION		PROBABLE CAUSE	POSSIBLE CURE	
HARDENING	Hardening of the dynamic face causing glazing and cracks		Heat generated by high speed	Slow stroke speed Use alternative seal device	
	Hardening of the whole seal. Loss of elasticity.		High fluid temperature.  Deterioration of fluid.  Compatibility of seal to fluid	Lower oil temperature. Renew Fluid Change to different seal compound	
WEAR	Dynamic face is worn to glossy mirror-like finish		Insufficient lubrication	Check oil viscosity Use alternative seal device	
	Wear on dynamic lip is egg-shaped		Rod or piston bore not concentric	Hone to within seal specs Replace worn rod or cylinder tube	
	Abnormal wear on one side of the dynamic lip		Worn bearing or wear ring. Excessive lateral load	Replace bearings Increase bearing area	
SCARRING	Cut or dent on the lip		Storage on a nail or peg. Improper installation tool	Store flat in a plastic bag in a closed cardboard box Installation tools should not have sharp edges	
	Scratches on the dynamic side		Scars on the rod or bore. Foreign material in fluid	Hone, polish, and de-burr metal parts Flush system	
SWELLING	Material soft and misshaped		Absorption of fluid. Fluid and seal are incompatible. Water in system	Change seal compound or system fluid Flush system	
DETERIORATION	Cracks and loss of elasticity. Material easily crumbles		High fluid temperature. Exposure to ozone or sunlight	Lower oil temperature Store seals away from sunlight and arc welding area.	
GROOVING	Axial cuts on the dynamic side		Metal chips or other foreign material in system. Im- ploded air bubbles	Flush system Bleed air from system	
EXTRUSION	Extruded material on dynamic side of heel	William .	Gap between mating surfaces too wide. Worn bearings. Pressure extreme	Employ back-up ring. Replace bearings. Use alternative seal	
	Extruded material on static side of seal		Uneven support surface. Undersize back-up ring	Machine surface. Correct back-up size	

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TYPE OF FAILURE	VISIBLE CONDITION	PROBABLE CAUSE	POSSIBLE CURE			
FRACTURING	Chunks of material torn from dynamic side	Excessive back pressure	Check relief valves			
	Pressure side of seal burned and broken	Explosion of residual air at high pressure. "Dieseling"	Check maximum pressure. Bleed air from system			
	Long cracks in the "V" portion of the seal	Frequent high pressure shocks or spikes. Low temperature start-up	Use alternative style seal. Warm system before applying pressure			
	Breaking off of entire dynamic side	Deterioration of material and/or fluid	Use alternative material or seal. Flush system			

For a professional analysis of seal failure, send your damaged seals to our Engineering Department.