



Preventative Maintenance

Preventative Maintenance. Those two words alone point to the benefit of staying on top of the health of your equipment. Many in the industry however, will abide by the saying, “if it isn’t broken, why fix it?” But in today’s marketplace, that adage simply does not make sense. By definition, “Preventative Maintenance” is any and all maintenance that is designed to keep your equipment healthy, and prevent failure or breakage. It could be as simple as a quick check every so often, or an oil change on a motor. Researchers conclude that this type of “maintenance” is the most effective way to maintain equipment, extend the life and reduce the number of considerable mechanical failures that occur.

Outlined below, some simple yet important reasons why this type of maintenance makes sense.

■ Plant Safety

In order to prevent machine related injuries to your equipment operators, it is imperative that all equipment used is maintained to the highest possible standards. Scheduled preventative maintenance can verify that the machines are in the best possible working order and can help to bypass instances and malfunctions, which in the context of safety concerns, can be too late.

■ Productivity

Preventative Maintenance can help to reassure the full capability and speed of a plant’s equipment. Over use and time, normal amounts of wear and tear result and leads to diminished life and efficiency. By planning ahead with scheduled times for maintenance of equipment and motors, the energy and the life expectancy of one’s equipment is preserved. In addition, any type of maintenance will result in motors and equipment having less “strain” on their parts.

■ Initial Savings

Money can be saved today, by organizing preventative, not emergency maintenance. Preventative Maintenance costs far less to employ and expedite in a facility than a major repair or replacement does. Additionally, having a scheduled “shut-down” allows for an organization to staff accordingly.

■ Future and Long-Term Savings

In the case of an emergency shut-down situation, the urgency required for a repair can result in both parts and labor priced higher than normal. Preventative Maintenance allows motors and equipment to run for longer periods of time, usually at higher capacities, which in turn, allows an organization to get the most “bang for their buck.”

■ Saving Time

Employing Preventative Maintenance usually takes less time to complete than emergency replacements of parts and repairs. Planning for equipment outages during these scheduled times of maintenance can help an organization avoid an “outage” when a machine is needed the most. Preventative maintenance procedures, for the most part, take less time to complete than emergency repairs and replacements. Also, because you can plan for equipment outages during maintenance, you can avoid an outage when you need the machine the most.

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