

Air compressor maintenance

Proper air compressor maintenance is vital to having your system operate at efficient levels. When basic maintenance is bypassed, compressor systems become less efficient and can eventually break down. To avoid inefficiencies and higher power bills establish routine maintenance on all air compressor and process vacuum systems.

Remember to check the following for proper **air compressor maintenance**.

Ambient - The surrounding atmosphere, or ambient, should always be kept clean and free of debris. The area needs to be well ventilated for proper cooling. When the machine cannot ventilate properly it will overheat and strain the compressor system.

Inlet Filter - The inlet filter functions to pre-clean the air and require regular inspection to make sure it is properly cleaned. When the inlet filter gets dirty it can increase the wear on components via oil contamination and increase power consumption because the compressor has to work harder to draw air from a loaded inlet filter.

Cooling Water - A proper supply of uncontaminated cooling with regulated temperature and pressure control provides an ideal condition for the operation of water cooled equipment.

Gauges and Controls - To make sure your equipment is running at highest capacity make sure all gauges and instruments are working and properly calibrated. Moisture and other contaminants can effect the readings the instruments may put out.

Motor and Compressor - These are some of the most important **air compressor parts** of the machine, and must not go overlooked. If any unusual noises or vibrations are acknowledged immediately locate the cause and fix. Don't ignore these issues!

Lubrication - If an air compressor is not thoroughly lubricated parts will begin to break down and these repairs can be costly. Make sure to always use the proper weight and grade of oil specified by the manufacturer. To reduce varnish and sludge buildup remember to keep the oil reservoir and component parts clean. This can be done with regular oil changes. When oil breaks down it thins out, lessening lubrication and increasing wear.

Maintenance - Setup a routine inspection checklist that will help everyone remember to check these items. If any issues are discovered take immediate action and replace, repair, or clean if necessary.

Losses - When the air compressor motor is off take the time to check the connections, valves, and lines. Leaks make the system work harder, which increases the electrical output of the machine.

Worn Parts - When parts become worn out they can cause imbalances, vibrations, and noises. Often the friction and loose components may be inaudible, so it is important to do periodic micrometer and seal tests. These test can help prolong the life of the machine.

Safety - Remember safety first! Working with large machinery, electricity, and compressed air can be dangerous. When performing maintenance duties always remember to make sure the electrical supply is disconnected and locked out. The air compressor system should be completely relieved of all pressure before any maintenance begins.

Basic maintenance and checks need to be done to air compressor systems to make sure they continue working efficiently. When issues are discovered don't put off the problems for another time or person. Take immediate action and resolve the problem. It could save thousands in the end.