

White Paper

3 Types of Bearing Maintenance Strategies



There are 3 types of bearing maintenance strategies ...

1. Periodic maintenance
2. Predictive maintenance
3. Breakdown maintenance

1. Periodic maintenance

Over time, your applications and equipment will begin to wear down and fail. In fact, a study found that 45% of unscheduled downtime is a direct result of aging equipment.

Periodic preventive maintenance sets up a regular schedule for you to clean, inspect, and fix up your applications and parts to maintain the health of your equipment. A well-planned maintenance schedule can save your business a lot of

money and allow you to have more control over downtime instead of waiting for an issue.

2. Predictive maintenance

The following are potential warning signs for aging or failing applications:

- Excessive vibration
- Overheating
- Steam, air, or gas leaks
- Contamination
- Electrical imbalances
- Misalignment.

These check-ins can be performed through manual inspection or through monitoring technology. If no signs are spotted, it means that you should be set until the next inspection.

3. Run-to-fail/breakdown maintenance

This type of maintenance isn't so much a strategy as much as the choice not to conduct any maintenance work until something stops working. While this usually isn't the most cost-effective solution for businesses that can't afford unexpected downtime, there are some situations where it can be an advantageous approach.

One such example is if equipment failure won't affect production and can be quickly and easily repaired. However, this approach likely is a bad choice for parts like bearings.

Consider this simple piece of advice: doing things right the first time saves you from problems down the road.

One way to limit to the amount of time and resources spent on maintenance is to invest in quality bearings. Good bearings can keep your application running smoothly while lasting longer than poorly-made or ill-fitting parts.

Recognizing how problems occur and knowing how to prevent them allows your equipment to run smoothly over time.