



THE EFFECTS OF POOR PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

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One of the simplest things you can do for the cleanliness and overall productivity of your paint booth is changing the intake and exhaust filters on a regular schedule. Preventative maintenance decreases the likelihood of your equipment failing, helps keep your paint booth producing efficiently and keeps the production costs of your shop low.

"The most common maintenance mistake shops make is not following the paint booth manufacturer's filter changeout schedule," said Steve Love, Parts & Filters Sales Manager for Global Finishing Solutions (GFS). "Paint booth exhaust filters need to be changed every 100 operating hours or every three to four work weeks. Anything beyond that is putting your equipment at risk. Each paint operation is different, which may require changing exhaust media more frequently than every 100 hours."

Photo shown on the right, is a prime example why choosing the right filter for your paint booth, as well as performing preventative maintenance on your parts and filters, is so important to your shop's success. Not only does it directly affect your production output, it also affects your bottom line of overall shop costs.

"This fan is not going to move the same amount of air as a fan that is in good working condition," Love said. "The quality of the finished product will likely be affected by poor fan performance."

Avoiding lost production time and costs should be on every shop owner's to-do list, and GFS is here to help. Here are our top five tips to ensure long-lasting paint quality and continued production in your shop:



1. INVEST IN YOUR PRODUCTS

The risk of taking short-term savings on cheap filters is higher than you may think. While you may be saving money now, the cheaper quality of the materials used in the filters will load with paint more quickly, causing you more frequent filter changeouts. Additionally, low-cost alternatives have a lower capture efficiency, which

can lead to an even higher expense of replacing other parts, such as fans, motors and ductwork.

2. CHOOSE THE CORRECT MEDIA FOR YOUR APPLICATION

When selecting an exhaust filter material, make sure to choose the correct media for your application. The main goal of exhaust filtration is to protect your fans, stack and plenum from the buildup of overspray contamination without slowing airflow. Exhaust filters need to be able to hold enough paint to avoid constantly replacing the filters. When you use a lower-echelon filter, you open yourself up to more serious issues, such as expensive fan repairs.

3. MANAGE YOUR CHANGING PROCEDURES WITH YOUR MANOMETER

Managing your changing procedures with your paint booth's manometer is key to letting painters and service personnel know when it is time to change the filters. Comparing these readings with your paint booth manufacturer's specifications is ideal. If your booth does not have a differential pressure gauge, it is best to establish a strict maintenance schedule based on the volume of spraying taking place in the booth on a day-to-day basis.



4. ESTABLISH PROPER FAN INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE

Proper fan inspection and maintenance helps guard against future problems with your paint booth's exhaust system. Depending on your production rates, you may need to establish only a monthly inspection or maintenance schedule; however, a regular routine must be kept to prevent additional maintenance requests and equipment overhaul.

5. MEET FIRE HAZARD SAFETY STANDARDS



It is also important to ensure your paint operation meets the health and safety standards required by the NFPA and OSHA. In more severe situations, clogged filters may create flammable or explosive conditions in your paint booth. With so many different styles and brands, filters will reach their target reading and require replacement at varying rates. These rates depend upon the paint type, booth design, fan speed, temperature and spray equipment.

Ultimately, it is best to work with your paint booth manufacturer or filter supplier to design an effective schedule for changing your filters. This schedule should balance your filtration and booth performance needs with the costs – and savings – of more frequent filter replacement.