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THE BENEFITS OF A PLANNED MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



The idea of spending money on planned maintenance when a machine is running well can be a perplexing decision. Why spend the money if you don't need to? Packaging equipment is often overlooked, which can be a very costly mistake.

Once your product is picked and ready to be packed, it will go through the various packaging machinery, such as case tapers, formers, stretch wrappers, etc. Consider, for a moment, the ramifications of one of these machines failing. It would mean that many of those processes would need to be performed by hand, or worse yet, could not be done at all.

Most failures can be identified and remedied well before the point where the machine would become inoperable. This is where having a trained service tech on site, at the manufacturer's recommended service points, can save you not only time and money, but ensure your customers' satisfaction remains high, while keeping your reputation glistening. There are also more indirect operational benefits associated with having a trained tech on site while the machine is still functioning. It offers the opportunity for your machine operators to ask questions and learn more about the machine you've invested in, as well as providing knowledge and training on troubleshooting techniques and minor repairs you can conduct in-house.

When service techs come out on site, they will inspect and test all the functions on your machines to ensure that they are performing to the manufacturer's recommended specifications.

Stretch wrappers, which stretch the film prior to it being applied to the product, will potentially lose the original pre-stretch value over time due to worn out rollers, motors, bearings, etc. This wear and tear can lead to less-than-optimal stretch film usage. For instance, if a stretch wrapper was designed to stretch at 250% and it's only pulling 140%, you're spending more than necessary on stretch film. Further, if the purchase of the machine was justified under the assumption it would stretch at 250%, you will not see the return on investment that you were expecting. Under a planned maintenance program, service techs will check for these common problems in regular intervals to ensure your machinery and equipment are functioning at peak efficiency.

A service visit is a cost that typically occurs quarterly. Consumables, however, are a monthly expense. The monthly savings you could see on the consumables far outweigh the expense of a planned maintenance visit, or worse, an unplanned service call for a machine that has gone down. Oftentimes, maintenance visits help companies plan ahead and budget for repairs on parts nearing the end of their life expectancy, making what could have been an operational nightmare nothing more than a brief inconvenience. A planned expense is much easier to account for than an unexpected one.

When a visit is planned, it allows other areas of the facility to prepare for halting operations as well, while the routine maintenance is performed. If every area is shut down at once, then restarts at the same time, the loss of productivity can be planned and mitigated ahead of time so that product can be stocked for orders. While most plants have maintenance personnel on staff who maintain the machines on an as-needed basis, they don't typically have the time to perform the routine maintenance that is required to keep the equipment running at 100% efficiency. Most maintenance personnel are great at fixing the machines all over the plant, but they have not necessarily received specified training for every single unit. A factory-trained service tech will know the intricacies of each machine and its known problem areas.

With all of this is mind, why not discuss our Planned Maintenance Programs for your equipment with your PackSmart Sales Representative today?



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