



HOW TO INCREASE HEAVY EQUIPMENT UPTIME

WHAT DOES HEAVY EQUIPMENT MACHINERY DOWNTIME MEAN FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

If you've faced significant downtime due to a piece of heavy equipment machinery breaking down, you know how devastating it can be for your business. Having heavy equipment out of commission for just a few days can add up to tens of thousands of dollars and cause projects to fall behind schedule.

There are two types of downtime for heavy equipment machinery – planned downtime for maintenance to be performed and unplanned downtime, which occurs when machinery breaks down and can no longer operate until a repair is made. Unplanned downtime can cost a company dearly, as the average wait time across the industry to make repairs is currently about two weeks. Purchasing or renting machinery is not a short-term fix either due to the current economic climate that has created months or even years-long backups.

Costs associated with unplanned downtime can vary significantly based on how long the downtime lasts, the costs to repair the machinery, and the type of machinery it is. But one thing is sure – having a piece of heavy construction equipment such as a 30-ton excavator, wheel loader, or compactor out of service for a week or two is extremely costly, leading to missed deadlines, lost contracts, and even potential layoffs. Downtime costs can range from hundreds to thousands of dollars per hour.

Your company doesn't need to find itself in this predicament, though. Companies can greatly reduce downtime associated with equipment breakdowns by ensuring their equipment is regularly and properly maintained according to the manufacturer's guidelines. Unfortunately, studies have found that 70% of companies lack complete awareness of when equipment is due for maintenance or upgrades.

In this white paper, RPM Machinery discusses the current issues and causes of heavy equipment downtime, as well as how to increase equipment uptime. We'll also detail how regular maintenance can prevent breakdowns, and why partnering with a company such as RPM Machinery – the leader in Indiana at reducing equipment downtime can keep your machinery running smoothly for years to come.

ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH UNPLANNED DOWNTIME

If a piece of heavy equipment suddenly breaks down due to a lack of maintenance or another problem while working on a construction project with a tight deadline, what would you do? You may think about renting or purchasing new or used machinery. However, due to current supply chain issues, it can be nearly impossible to find equipment to buy or even rent. Currently, there's an 18-month waiting period to rent certain pieces of heavy equipment. This means companies must maintain their old equipment to keep projects moving.

Unfortunately, many companies experience severe consequences from unplanned downtime. Deferred maintenance – which consists of postponing maintenance due to staff, time, or budget constraints – can end up costing a company in the long run. Once equipment breaks down, it can cost 3 to 10 times more than regular maintenance.

That's why scheduling maintenance to increase equipment uptime is more critical now than ever before. Properly maintaining heavy equipment reduces the risk of untimely breakdowns that can create significant downtime. But businesses across many industries – including farming, construction, and industrial – often don't have the time and staff with the know-how to properly maintain equipment. This can lead to several issues, most notably, breakdowns that cause downtime.

Not only will maintenance prevent breakdowns, but federal and local regulations dictate how frequently certain types of heavy equipment must be maintained based on the hours they're in service. Companies that fail to comply with these regulations can face stiff fines and penalties.



HOW TO INCREASE HEAVY EQUIPMENT UPTIME

To increase uptime with your heavy machinery, create a plan for proactive equipment maintenance.



Make a list of your equipment

Oftentimes, large companies don't even know every piece of equipment they own, which can make it nearly impossible to know when equipment such as backhoes, compactors, wheel loaders, and forklifts need to be maintained or replaced. Make a log of all of the heavy equipment your company owns and include the age, serial number, and any other defining characteristics.



Make a list of routine maintenance requirements

When you buy new or used equipment, carefully review the owner's manual to learn how to properly care for, operate, and service the machinery. You can also learn which parts to store on hand in case you need to make a repair, which will increase uptime.



Train employees to use equipment properly

Train specific employees on how to properly use, service, and maintain specific pieces of heavy machinery. If you own dozens of different types of equipment, it doesn't make sense from a financial or productivity standpoint to train all employees on every piece of equipment. You can assign certain supervisors or employees to provide detailed inspections after each shift, week, or month to the equipment they're assigned to.



Create a maintenance schedule and keep records

After carefully reviewing the owner's manual, create a calendar that lists every maintenance item that needs to be performed. This list should include how often the machine needs to be serviced based on operating hours, length of time, and distance traveled. Record all maintenance and repairs that have been performed in the log so it's available for other employees to view.

WHY WORK WITH A QUALIFIED HEAVY EQUIPMENT MACHINERY DEALER?

At RPM Machinery, we understand your company may not have the resources, staff, or time to properly train employees on how to operate and maintain heavy equipment machinery. That's why partnering with a local and respected dealer such as RPM Machinery pays dividends.

When you work with RPM, our maintenance and repair technicians will show your staff how to maintain each piece of equipment. From there, you can choose to have your maintenance performed on-site by your employees, or you can select to enroll in a maintenance plan from RPM. Studies show that a predictive maintenance program like the one offered by RPM Machinery can reduce breakdowns by 70 to 75%.

Enrolling in our heavy equipment maintenance plan is also a great way to ensure maintenance is not forgotten, and it takes the responsibility of this timely task off of your plate. Our factory-trained technicians follow recommended manufacturers' service guidelines and use the latest diagnostic equipment to ensure optimal performance. Some of the benefits of our routine maintenance program include:

- **Fast, affordable service for all types, makes and models of heavy equipment machinery.**
- **Following manufacturer-recommended service intervals to keep your equipment operating at peak efficiency.**
- **Remaining compliant with local and federal regulations to avoid potentially harsh penalties.**
- **Inspection services for excavators, wheel loaders, bulldozers, backhoe loaders, and more.**
- **Extending the life of your equipment and reducing costly repairs.**
- **Improving the length of equipment uptime.**



QUICK TURNAROUND ON MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS REDUCES HEAVY EQUIPMENT DOWNTIME

You simply can't afford to have a piece of equipment sit idle for two or more weeks. The success of your business and projects rely on your equipment working properly. By enrolling in a heavy equipment machinery maintenance program, you will have the peace of mind of knowing that one of RPM Machinery's technicians can typically be on-site within 48 hours to perform maintenance and repairs. The industry average is currently 2+ weeks for repairs.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, businesses can save 30-40% by switching from a reactive maintenance approach to a predictive maintenance approach.

Whether your team is in need of maintenance or repairs, you can count on RPM Machinery to deliver and provide the service you need – when you need it.

CONCLUSION

Unfortunately, we've seen several construction companies lose money and fail to meet deadlines because of broken-down equipment that was necessary to finish a job. With proper maintenance, these situations can be avoided. Even an hour of downtime can quickly cost a company tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars. Employees who arrive and find the piece of equipment they operate broken down can lead to a loss of productivity and money.

Now more than ever, companies should keep their heavy construction equipment maintained to increase uptime as repairs can take weeks to perform, and buying and renting equipment is currently not a viable option due to wait times. Enrolling in a preventative maintenance plan from a trusted company such as RPM Machinery can keep your equipment operating efficiently and your business on track to complete projects on time.



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