



SLICK MOVES: LUBE ROOM TOOLS & TIPS

Increase the life and performance of your equipment by building a reliable lube room

Lubricant contamination is a hazard to the lifecycle of lubricated parts. Improper handling and storage can introduce contaminants to the lubricant before it ever reaches the equipment. The lube room itself may be the source of such problems. A variety of tools and techniques are available to mitigate this concern, and continuing education is necessary to stay on top of the options.

BUILD AND MAINTAIN EXPERTISE

Those making lube room decisions need a solid knowledge of current tools and best practices. Regular lubrication training and certification is the best way to stay current on lubricant management topics. Companies such as Lubrication Engineers offer public and private training options.

“Personnel responsible for the lubrication of plant assets need a basic understanding of the detrimental effect that dirty oil can have on the operating life of those assets,” says Paul Llewellyn, asset reliability education manager at Lubrication Engineers. “Often times, the imminent failure of an asset starts in the same area where the so-called new oil is kept.”

Advanced Machine Reliability Resources Inc. (AMRRI) offers certification and reliability-focused instruction in classroom settings, self-paced online courses, and live web-based training. “There is a strong trend toward improving the protection of stored lubricants and the cleanliness of lubricants during the handling and application process,” says Mike Johnson, president of AMRRI. “It reflects the growing

awareness of what machine owners need to do to protect the productive capacity of their machines.”

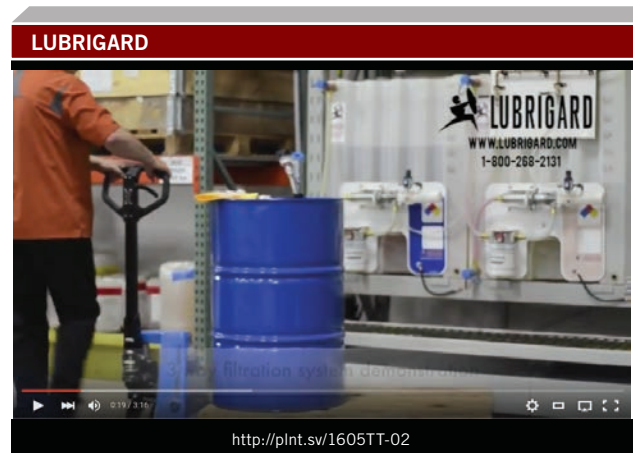
“Manufacturers are getting better at understanding the degrees of lubricant contamination and (are) moving toward prefiltering and proper storage of lubricants to avoid corrupting the new lubricant from the point in time that it’s delivered through when it goes into the machine,” he adds.

IMPROPER HANDLING AND STORAGE CAN INTRODUCE CONTAMINANTS TO THE LUBRICANT BEFORE IT EVER REACHES THE EQUIPMENT.

IMPLEMENT THE RIGHT TOOLS

Integrated storage systems facilitate the storage and dispensing of clean and dry oil. The Polytank Lubricant Storage System (POD) from Lubrigard takes a multipronged approach. PODs use desiccant breathers to protect oil tanks from particulates and moisture in the surrounding air and also provide filtration during storage.

“Oils are filtered at the transfer; oils in the tanks are then circulated and filtered; and oils are also filtered at the dispensing stage of operation,” says Paul Dumont, vice president at Lubrigard. The POD is also designed to fit in tight spaces. Customers can reduce the floor space needed to store



TECHNOLOGY TOOLBOX

oils thanks to the stackability of the tank system layout.

Properly labeled tanks and taps ensure accurate fluid identification and handling, while quick connects, auto-shutoff taps, spill pallets and drip trays help prevent and contain spills in the lube room. Whitmore's OilSafe lubrication management systems incorporate such features.

"The color-coded OilSafe Systems significantly reduce cross-contamination of fluids," says Steve Anderson, product development director at Whitmore. "OilSafe's newest line of flat-face, colorized quick connects eliminate cross-contamination with dedicated color-to-color connects while maintaining workplace safety with virtually zero leakage."

Fluid storage and dispensing used to be messy and costly, says Larry King, director of fluid handling system product development at The IFH Group (IFH). King says IFH's centralized lubrication handling and dispensing system streamlines lube room operations, making it safer, cleaner, and more cost-efficient than traditional 55-gallon drum storage methods.

IFH's standard or custom steel lube carts have high-load-bearing wheels for maneuvering heavy oil cans, filters, and

tools. Customized carts are designed to the user's needs for specialized casters, grease storage, safety beacons, or other features. Lubrication pallets can be designed for lifting onto a trailer or truck bed or mounting on a drivable cart.

Sight glasses allow for visual inspection of fluid levels and quality. Des-Case's newest 3-D BullsEye sight glass design provides 360° viewing and is made of a high-performance transparent polyamide. "A 3-D BullsEye is like a check-engine light in that it provides a quick peek inside equipment from any angle," says Michelle Arceneaux, Des-Case senior product manager. "It's a real advantage with hard-to-reach equipment that can otherwise go neglected." ☺

Email Contributing Editor Sheila Kennedy, CMRP, managing director of Additive Communications, at sheila@addcomm.com.

REFERENCE WEBSITES:

www.LElubricants.com

www.amrri.com

www.lubrigard.com

www.whitmores.com

www.ifhgroup.com

www.descase.com

COMPRESSOR SERVICE TIP #3

How Often Would You Change Your Air Filter Now?

Between service calls, inspect your air compressor's inlet air filter element and replace it when it's dirty. A dirty air filter increases pressure drop forcing the compressor to use more energy to produce the same amount of air. For more helpful tips:

www.atlascopco.us – 866-546-3588



Sustainable Productivity

Atlas Copco

