

Here are the GPM service center's top eight tips for extending the life of your industrial pump.

1. Install it properly.

A significant number of pump failures happen immediately, primarily due to improper installation. Often the pump may be hooked up backwards. If a pump is installed backwards, it may run, but it won't perform correctly and could fail. There are myriad other potential installation errors that will affect a pump's performance – system piping, valves, the alignment from the motor to the pump, mounting to the base, etc.

2. Monitor operating conditions.

Monitoring and optimizing operating conditions to make sure they match the specs the pump was sized for will help ensure a pump runs smoothly for as long as possible.

3. Perform routine maintenance.

While it is common to run pumps to failure – and for a GPM-Eliminator, that can be a very long time – consider scheduling proactive inspections and maintenance, because scheduled down time is cheaper than an emergency breakdown.

In order to determine a maintenance schedule, document the install date and the first time you pull the pump out of service. What does it look like? What kind of condition is it in? You could even go as far as taking photos (GPM's Service Center documents all of this and more.)

Store this information each time you perform maintenance to get a good grasp on the rate of wear and how long certain parts will last. That will help determine and schedule preventative repairs appropriately.

4. Replace wear parts.

With a solidly-built pump, fixed components should last a long time. Wear parts in particular abrasive or corrosive applications should be inspected regularly and replaced when appropriate.

5. Upgrade material construction.

When performing maintenance on all pumps newer and older, see if there's an opportunity to upgrade the material construction of a certain component. Replacing a cast-iron part with a stainless steel part, for example, might help the pump last a lot longer.

6. Inspect the system.

If your pump isn't performing optimally, or at all, remember that it might not be the pump's fault. There are a lot of other variables at play. Examine piping, valves, drives and operating conditions to eliminate them from the equation.

7. Track repairs.

Maintaining good maintenance records can serve invaluable. Since 2010, GPM has integrated a service module into its software system that tracks a pump's repair and maintenance history. This allows GPM to access previous repairs and what condition previously serviced pumps were in. The service history tracking includes photographs and detailed inspection reports, which we provide to you with the quote and upon completion of the service. Very few pump repair shops offer such reporting.

8. Have high standards.

Utilize a service shop with high standards. "Junkyard repairs" may get a malfunctioning pump up and running again, and save money up front, but if the repairs are not to OEM specs, the repair and pump may fail prematurely in the future.

GPM repairs and balances pumps to OEM specs or better. We offer the same guarantees on repaired pumps as we do on brand-new ones.

Have an industrial pump issue – or want to prevent having one? Contact GPM for an honest, no-obligation consultation.

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