

Bearing Lubrication Best Practices

How the Right Lubricant, Quantity and Frequency Protect Equipment



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Get Started

Why Bearing Lubrication Matters

Why is correct lubrication important?

Correct lubrication reduces friction, wear and heat while protecting bearing surfaces from damage and corrosion. Poor lubrication is a common cause of premature bearing failure. Both **under-lubrication** and **over-lubrication** can reduce bearing life.

01

Under-lubrication

Can cause increased friction, heat, wear and eventually bearing failure.

02

Over-lubrication

Can cause churning, heat build-up and lubricant degradation.

03

Key principle

The right lubricant, in the right quantity, at the right frequency.

Choosing the Right Lubricant

How do I choose the correct lubricant?

Lubricant selection should consider:

- Bearing type
- Speed and load
- Operating temperature
- Environmental conditions
- Contamination risk
- Manufacturer recommendations

The lubricant must be suitable for the specific application and operating conditions.

Grease or Oil?



Grease is commonly used where the lubricant needs to remain in place and provide long-lasting protection



Oil is often preferred for higher-speed or higher-temperature applications where circulation, cooling or filtration is required.

LPR Tip: Never select a lubricant based on product name alone. The application and operating conditions must be considered.

Common Lubrication Mistakes

Using the wrong lubricant

Applying too much or too little

Incorrect relubrication intervals

Mixing incompatible greases

Contaminating lubricant during handling

Using dirty dispensing equipment

Avoiding these basic mistakes can significantly improve lubrication reliability.

Relubrication & Common Mistakes

How often should bearings be lubricated?

There is no single interval that works for every bearing.

Relubrication frequency depends on:

Speed. Load. Temperature. Bearing size. Lubricant type. Contamination. Operating environment.

Manufacturer recommendations provide a starting point, but actual operating conditions should also be considered.



Automatic & Connected Lubrication



How can automatic lubrication improve reliability?

Automatic lubrication systems deliver controlled quantities of lubricant at regular intervals.

They can help:

Improve
lubrication
consistency



Reduce over-
and under-
lubrication



Reduce
manual
maintenance



Improve
technician
safety



Reach difficult
lubrication
points

Memolub Connect Pro can provide greater visibility of lubrication system status, helping maintenance teams identify potential issues and respond before they become larger reliability problems.

LPR Tip: *Automatic lubrication is particularly valuable for equipment that operates continuously or has difficult-to-access lubrication points*

Practical Lubrication Checklist

»» Correct lubricant selected

»» Correct quantity applied

»» Correct relubrication interval established

»» Lubricant stored correctly

»» Clean dispensing equipment used

»» Contamination controlled

»» Bearing temperature monitored

»» Abnormal noise or vibration investigated

»» Recurring bearing failures analysed

»» Difficult lubrication points assessed for automatic lubrication





When Should You Review Your Lubrication Strategy?

When you experience:

Repeated bearing failures • Rising temperatures • Excessive grease consumption • Unplanned downtime • Difficult lubrication points



Thank You

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