



Transitioning to preventive maintenance: Enhancing reliability and reducing downtime

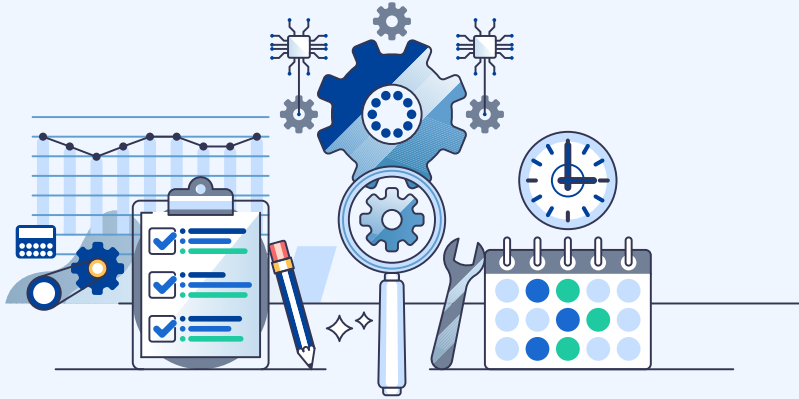
A comprehensive guide with real-world examples

Importance of maintenance strategy shifts

As the importance of reliability and efficiency continues to rise, maintenance strategies are evolving from a reactive approach to a more proactive preventive maintenance model. This shift not only helps minimize downtime but also reduces costs and enhances overall equipment efficiency. According to a

recent McKinsey study, preventive maintenance proves to be faster, more cost-effective, and significantly less disruptive than traditional reactive maintenance, highlighting the critical need for organizations to adopt these modern strategies to stay competitive in today's fast-paced environment.





Industry trends and statistics

Preventive maintenance is rapidly becoming the industry standard across various sectors due to its cost-saving benefits and efficiency improvements. Here are some key trends and statistics:



Trend 1: Growing adoption of preventative maintenance

According to the highlights of the 2020 Plant Engineering industrial maintenance study, 88 % of industrial facilities follow a preventative maintenance strategy.



Trend 2: Increased investment in maintenance technology

CMMS Software Market size was valued at USD 956.4 Billion in 2024 and is projected to reach USD 2069.3 Billion by 2031 according to Verified Market Research.



Trend 3: Focus on reducing downtime

A McKinsey report indicates that companies implementing preventive maintenance have reduced downtime by up to 50%. This has translated into significant cost savings and improved operational efficiency.

Challenges of reactive maintenance

Reactive maintenance, while sometimes necessary, often leads to numerous problems that can negatively impact a company's operations. Here are some common challenges:

Challenge 1: Unplanned downtime

Reactive maintenance typically leads to unexpected equipment failures, causing significant unplanned downtime. **Example:** A manufacturing plant experiences a sudden machine breakdown, halting production for several hours and resulting in substantial financial losses.

Challenge 2: Higher maintenance costs

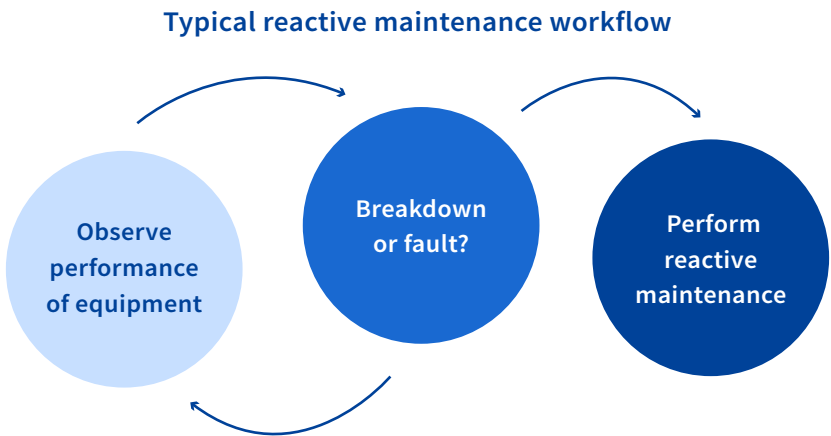
Emergency repairs are often more expensive than planned maintenance activities. **Example:** A company spends 30% more on reactive maintenance due to the need for urgent parts procurement and overtime labor costs.

Challenge 3: Reduced equipment lifespan

Frequent breakdowns and inadequate maintenance practices can shorten the lifespan of equipment. **Example:** An industrial compressor, designed to last 15 years, fails after 10 years due to irregular maintenance.

Challenge 4: Safety risks

Unforeseen equipment failures can pose significant safety hazards to workers. **Example:** A sudden hydraulic failure in heavy machinery leads to a workplace accident, injuring several employees and halting operations.



Understanding preventive maintenance

- Preventive, or proactive, maintenance aims to prevent machine and system failures from occurring.
- Activities are planned and performed in advance to reduce or eliminate potential problems.
- Benefits include extended equipment life, improved operational reliability, and minimized unplanned downtime.
- An Aberdeen study found that unplanned downtime costs industrial manufacturers an average of \$260,000 per hour.



EGE's journey to optimized maintenance with Elara

EGE, a German manufacturer of high-quality windows and front doors, encountered significant maintenance challenges due to poor collaboration, decentralized inspection plans, and scattered machine documentation. Maintenance tasks were neither centrally coordinated nor collaboratively managed with process partners, leading to misalignment and inefficient task handling.

Additionally, EGE's inspection plans were not centrally accessible, resulting in inconsistent implementation. The workflow for compliance management and inspection documentation was unclear and inefficient, with important information spread across various locations, making it difficult to find. This caused delays in maintenance processes and made it challenging to access the necessary machine data, leading to longer downtimes and inefficiencies due to reactive problem-solving.

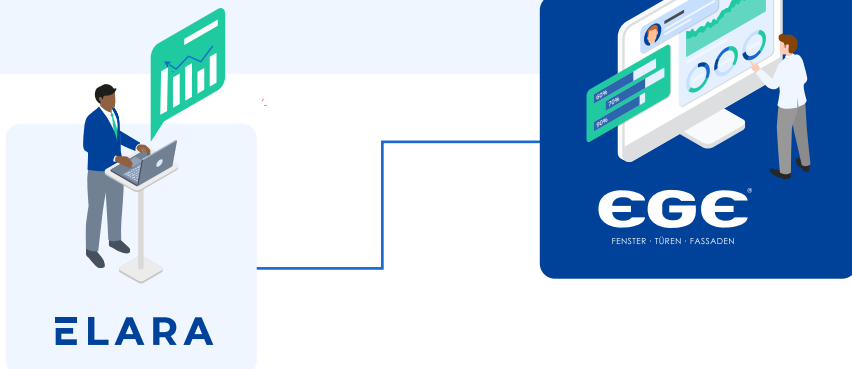
Elara's maintenance software has significantly helped EGE overcome these issues by:

Proactive inspection plan management:

Inspection plans are now integrated with automated notifications, alerting responsible personnel in advance of upcoming inspections. The execution of inspections is tracked, and results are centrally documented—whether for internal machine checks or legally required inspections, such as testing compressed air storage tanks.

Efficient ticketing system:

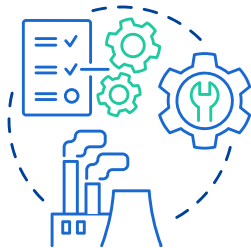
The introduction of a user-friendly ticket system allows team leaders and employees to directly log maintenance tasks at the machine. The simplicity of the system encourages widespread adoption, resulting in more efficient task management and timely logging of maintenance needs. This has reduced both the mean time to repair (MTTR) and mean time between breakdowns (MTBR), as minor issues are often resolved before escalating into major equipment failures.



Six steps to transition from reactive to preventive maintenance

Step 1: Taking stock

- Conduct a thorough asset analysis to identify critical equipment.
- Determine maintenance intervals and acceptable downtime levels.
- Example: EGE identified key assets and set maintenance schedules to minimize impact on operations.



Step 2: Define maintenance intervals

- Establish clear maintenance intervals for key assets.
- Consider manufacturer recommendations, industry requirements, and maintenance resource availability.
- Example: EGE balanced these factors to ensure smooth operations and minimal downtime.

Step 3: Create a maintenance plan

- Document all required maintenance activities in a comprehensive and coordinated plan.
- Assign clear responsibilities and review the plan periodically.
- Example: EGE used Elara's software for accessible, regularly updated maintenance planning.



Six steps to transition from reactive to preventive maintenance



Step 4: Train maintenance team members

- Provide training to ensure team members can perform maintenance effectively using the new system.
- Combine theoretical and practical training elements.
- Example: EGE's team received a good onboarding to Elara's software to guarantee uninterrupted uptime.

Step 5: Using software applications

- Streamline maintenance processes and identify problems early with software.
- Benefits include optimized uptime, reduced costs, and increased safety.
- Example: EGE's use of Elara's maintenance software facilitated a preventive maintenance strategy.



Step 6: Continuous feedback and improvement

- Regularly analyze performance and adjust maintenance schedules accordingly.
- Gather feedback from team members and customers to identify improvement areas.
- Example: EGE continually optimized its maintenance programs and increased equipment reliability.



The benefits of preventive maintenance

Preventive maintenance is essential for efficiency and reliability.

It minimizes downtime, increases productivity, and improves company competitiveness.

Overcoming challenges such as initial costs and training is key to successful implementation.

Example: EGE's experience demonstrates the feasibility and benefits of this transition.

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The unique selling point of Elara is the uncomplicated and fast implementation as well as the direct access via QR codes to the information pages of the equipment. This function enables direct access to relevant data and documentation, which significantly increases the efficiency of maintenance processes.

- Axel Schick

Operations Manager EGE GmbH

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Conclusion

Shifting from reactive to preventive maintenance is crucial for minimizing downtime, reducing costs, and increasing overall equipment efficiency.

Step 1

Taking stock



Step 2

Define maintenance intervals



Step 3

Create a maintenance plan



Step 4

Train maintenance team members



Step 5

Use software applications



Step 6

Continuous feedback and improvement



Six steps for successful transition:

By following these steps, companies can transition smoothly to preventive maintenance, optimizing their maintenance programs and enhancing equipment reliability.

Experience our product in action and book a free live tour with one of our product experts to see how Elara can help you!

TELARA



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