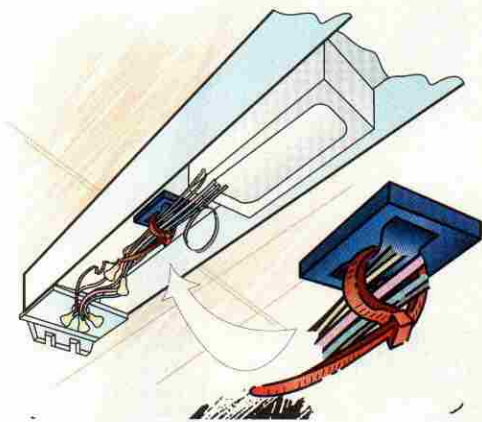


SIMPLE SOLUTIONS

Maintenance tips: The oldest form of TPM?

Skillful application of common sense underlies most of the tips we receive. Someone stops and gives thought to a procedure or process and discerns an easier way to do it. Isn't that the essence of Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) and "continuous improvement?"



Curing dangling wires

Problem: It's common for a tangled bunch of wires to drop down when the reflector or wiring cover is removed from an overhead fluorescent fixture. Getting them back in place without pinching any is a nuisance.

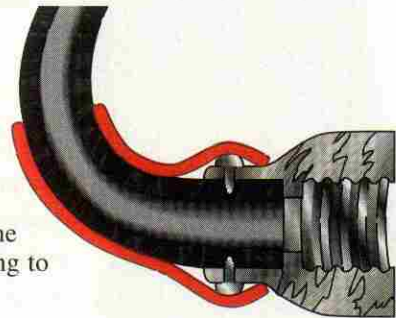
Solution: Attach cable tie adhesive mounts at suitable spots in the fixture. Use cable ties to bundle wires out of the way. (It's a good idea to carry a few adhesive mounts in your toolbox.)

Contributor: Glenn R. Sahlberg, Facility Maintenance Technician, Nakanishi Mfg. Corp., Winterville, GA

Prolonging blast hose life

Problem: Sandblast and gritblast hoses and fittings erode prematurely due to small air leaks at attachment screws and mating surfaces between fittings and hoses.

Solution: After assembling hoses and fittings, apply an appropriately sized heat-shrink sleeve to the possible leak area. This sleeve seals potential blow by and greatly increases the life span of the assembly. (The sleeve may have to be slipped over the hose before assembling the fitting to the hose.)



Contributor: Paul Widdison, Facility Planner, Thiokol Propulsion Group, Clearfield, UT

Drilling thin strips

Problem: Drilling aluminum or brass strips can be dangerous, as the drill bit can suddenly grab into the soft metal and plunge through it in uncontrolled fashion. The material may grab onto the drill bit and ride up it, spinning dangerously in mid-air.

Solution: Take a honing stone and dull the sharp leading flutes on the drill bit, and much of the problem will disappear.

Contributor: Ronald R. Gould, VP/Engineering, Advance Lifts, Inc., St. Charles, IL

Send your tips to Simple Solutions, *PLANT ENGINEERING* magazine, 2000 Clearwater Dr., Oak Brook, IL 60523-8809; e-mail: gweidner@cahners.com; fax: 630-320-7145. Each item accepted for publication will earn the sender \$35.