

A solid green horizontal bar.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF
PREVENTATIVE
MAINTENANCE**



Nothing lasts forever.

It's an unfortunate fact of the linear existence we call life.

However, through looking after ourselves and our environment we can live longer, healthier lives. The same is true of a machine be it a car, a computer or a bedpan washer.

Regardless of whether you use DDC Dolphin technology to tackle your sluice/dirty utility room solutions or not, any machine can only last for so long without proper maintenance to keep it up and running.

This is where planned preventative maintenance comes in.

To some it may seem like an unnecessary expense but think of it like servicing your car. Wouldn't you rather a qualified mechanic identifies and replaces your brake pads before they fade and put your life at risk?

Planned preventative maintenance for your bedpan washer or pulp macerator is exactly the same thing.

As we all know, **blockages** or equipment failures can be catastrophic in a hospital or care home setting. Much like a set of faded brakes or bald tyres putting your life at risk, failed infection control equipment puts the lives of your staff and patients at risk.

Whilst no device is impervious to component failure or simple happenstance, preventative maintenance is designed to spot the failure before it happens.

It also helps to keep your clinicians and patients safer.

A qualified engineer can disassemble service and reassemble a bedpan washer or pulp macerator with ease. In doing so they can identify not just potential points of failure but clean mechanisms and pipes to ensure the machines overall health is high.

This means there's no nasty build ups, no leaks or potentially build-up of hazardous residue.

Because this kind of maintenance is, as the name suggests, planned; it reduces down time and actually becomes part of your infection control strategy.

As maintenance will be routine you will have a contingency in place, with enhanced infection control procedures, for when you know that sluice/dirty utility room is out of commission.

However, it goes further than this. Because you and your team will know what to do when the sluice/dirty utility room is out of commission when it's planned, you'll know exactly what to do in the event of a problem.

It becomes a stabilising element to your strategy.

It also helps you to budget.

Blockages and breakdowns are expensive.

They're expensive because it's an emergency call out. Plus, it's the sterilisation of your sluice/dirty utility room after the breakdown (in the case of blockages) plus repair work to any rooms directly below.

Whilst we can't prevent misuse or those one in a million chance component failures, planned preventative maintenance minimises that potential whilst extending the life of the machine making your original investment go further.



A maintenance agreement, whilst a monthly cost, reduces breakdowns and therefore reduces emergency call outs but raises uptime and increases productivity.

This, all the while reducing the chances of an outbreak because the machines are cleaner and working at peak efficiency.

All with the added benefit of a complete audit paper trail to put towards your CQC review.

So whilst preventative maintenance is important because it keeps your machines working and your patients safe, it also has an overall benefit to your facility.

Machines that you can count on backed up by infection control procedures that incorporate maintenance, keep people safe. Healthy, more productive staff delivers better care.

Well maintained machines last longer making the original investment better value.

At a time when budgets are the tightest they've been for a generation, that's just good business.

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