1. Repairing

Naturally, in some instances, laboratory equipment needs to be replaced entirely. However,
other times, simple repairs may be adequate. Conduct small repairs, such as installing
replacement parts, as and when they are needed. This can elongate the functional life of
larger pieces of laboratory equipment significantly.

When it comes to larger pieces of equipment, some parts will accrue wear more rapidly than
others. Pay close attention to which parts of your equipment are showing signs of wear and
embark upon a program of preventative maintenance.[**The Laboratory Equipment Buyer’s
Guide**](http://www.labmate-online.com/buyers_guide/), your complete resource for lab equipment and technologies, can help you source
new equipment.

2. Refurbishing

Refurbishing refers to the process of dismantling pieces of laboratory equipment and
cleaning each component part thoroughly. Metal elements are also polished and any pipette
pistons can be lubricated. Refurbishing at regular intervals will extend the life of your
laboratory equipment and increase its efficiency and functionality.

3. Calibration services

Calibration services should be sought regularly. These preventative, detailed services
increase the accuracy of your equipment and prevent data corruption.

4. Regular cleaning

Regular cleaning is too often overlooked. If your laboratory equipment is not as clean as it
can be, it is unlikely to yield consistent results. Cleaning your equipment thoroughly, at
regular intervals, is among the best ways of keeping it in good working order and elongating
its functional life. On a daily basis, wipe clean exposed surfaces, and schedule a deep clean
once each week.

Most pieces of equipment need to be cleaned in a certain way. Haematology machines, for
example, typically require a 6 monthly check by an engineer, a weekly analyser surface
clean and an HC control check monthly. Ensure you follow the correct cleaning procedure as
documented in the standard procedures for your piece of equipment.

5. Outsource or in-house

Laboratory equipment maintenance and repair should be undertaken by a qualified
professional. While in-house maintenance teams may prove costly, reputable third party
equipment maintenance and repair can be a cost effective alternative. Since the reputation
of any laboratory is only as strong as the accuracy of its lab equipment, regular cleaning,
maintenance, calibration and refurbishing is essential.