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.