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MLS 304

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, 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.