
Water Strainer Maintenance

General Information

Strainers play a critical role in industrial systems by removing debris and particles from process fluids, helping protect equipment and maintain reliable operation. To ensure long service life and consistent performance, routine maintenance is essential.

This guide outlines practical maintenance steps for different types of strainers, including inspection, cleaning, and component replacement.

Why Strainer Maintenance Matters

Ongoing maintenance helps prevent blockages, maintain system efficiency, and protect downstream components from damage. By addressing wear or buildup early, you can avoid unexpected downtime and reduce the risk of costly repairs.

Regular Maintenance

To maintain optimal system performance, it is strongly recommended to **remove, inspect, clean, and reinstall the strainer basket** according to the following schedule:

- After Equipment Start-Up
- Three (3) months after start-up
- Minimum Annually
- Whenever any other equipment in the water system is repaired or has had regular maintenance performed on it

Routine Inspections

Consistent inspections are key to effective maintenance. Inspection frequency should reflect system usage and environmental conditions. Systems operating under heavy loads or in harsh environments may require more frequent checks.

Visual Checks: Inspect the strainer body and screen for corrosion, wear, cracks, or other signs of damage.

Cleaning Guidelines

Cleaning intervals and methods depend on the strainer type and the material being captured. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations to prevent damage.

Basket and Y Strainers: These models feature removable screens or baskets. Remove and clean them using a soft brush or by rinsing with water or an appropriate solvent.

Duplex Strainers: Redirect flow to the clean basket before servicing the clogged one, allowing continuous system operation during maintenance.

Self-Cleaning Strainers: While designed to reduce manual intervention, periodically inspect the automatic cleaning mechanism to confirm proper operation and check for wear.

Temporary Strainers: Used during system start-up, these often collect large amounts of debris initially. Inspect and clean them frequently until they are removed from service.

Replacement Considerations

Screens: Examine screens during cleaning for holes, tears, or excessive wear. Damaged screens should be replaced promptly to maintain filtration effectiveness.

Gaskets and Seals: Inspect sealing components at each service interval. Replace any that show signs of deterioration or leakage.

Strainer Body: Although built for durability, the housing should be checked for corrosion or structural damage.

Recommended Best Practices

Maintain Records: Keep detailed logs of inspections, cleanings, and part replacements. This supports predictive maintenance and helps identify recurring issues.

Stock Spare Parts: Having replacement screens, gaskets, and seals readily available minimizes downtime.

Provide Training: Ensure maintenance personnel understand proper procedures and safe handling practices to avoid accidental damage.

Conclusion

Consistent strainer maintenance is vital to maintaining system efficiency and safeguarding equipment. By implementing regular inspections, proper cleaning routines, and timely part replacement, you can extend the life of your strainers and ensure dependable system performance. Proactive care not only reduces long-term costs but also supports uninterrupted operation.