



## Care for Your Equipment, and It Will Take Good Care of You

*Thorough equipment maintenance increases productivity and reduces downtime.*

You rely on equipment to keep your business operating and profitable. Other than poor management, equipment neglect and abuse are the biggest factors contributing to business failures. An equipment service and maintenance plan can be just as critical as a well-written business plan and should include a schedule of daily, weekly, and periodic service functions for every piece of equipment in your fleet.

During the down season of winter, you should take the time to fully service the machines you depend on to operate at peak performance when the season ramps up again.

### **Basic maintenance**

First and foremost, follow all company authorized lockout / tagout, confined spaces, and personal protection device procedures before performing maintenance or operating equipment. Unexpected machine startups result in an estimated 50,000 injuries and 120 fatalities each year. Workplace safety is a top priority for Colorbiotics<sup>®</sup> so we offer a lockout / tagout safety kit, free of charge to our customers.

**The following is a recommended service schedule for the majority of Colorbiotics colorant equipment:**

#### **Daily**

- Check all safety devices for proper operation.
- Check compressor oil level.
- Check and clean air filters on air compressor as needed.
- Check and clean compressor crankcase filter as needed.
- Check fluid level of color pumps. Fluid should be visible in glass and green in color.
- Check and clean all nozzles, hopper, and mixer sections.
- Completely flush the color / water system with clean water until all nozzles are spraying clear water.

#### **Weekly**

- Grease main shaft bearings: 2 - 4 pumps per bearing.
- Check blade wear throughout entire machine, and replace worn or damaged blades.
- If equipped with a shaft containment collar, inspect shaft sleeve and collar for wear. Rotate sleeve if possible, or replace if worn.
- If equipped, check AR-400 liner for wear, and replace as needed.

#### **At 50 hours**

- Change oil and filter on air compressor.
- Change oil in main drive gearbox.
  - Dodge gearboxes (SH-100, SH-200, X1).

#### **At 300 hours**

- Change oil and oil filter on air compressor.
- Change oil in main drive gearbox.
  - Dodge gearboxes (SH-100, SH-200, X-1).
  - Eurodrive gearboxes (X-2 and X-3).

#### **Every 250 hours thereafter**

- Change oil and oil filter on air compressor.
- Change oil in main drive gearbox.
  - Dodge gearboxes (SH-100, SH-200, X-1).

NOTE: X-2 and X-3 Eurodrive gearboxes are serviced at 300 hours; then every 3,000 hours. Color pump and tote mixer gearboxes have lifetime lubrication.



### ***Winterize colorant equipment***

If you are a color-enhanced mulch producer operating in cold-weather states, you should consider winterizing procedures. Water line, flow meter and water valve damage commonly occur when people don't properly winterize.

#### **To winterize your equipment, follow these steps:**

- Complete normal end-of-day cleaning procedures.
- Drain the water manifold system by removing the inlet water sources from the system and leaving all water valves (manual and electric) open to allow drainage and prevent freezing.
- Cycle the electric valve several times to clear all water, stopping in the open position.
- Pump RV antifreeze through the colorant delivery system to displace any trapped clean-out water in the colorant lines and prevent these lines from freezing.
- Run approximately four to five yards of dry material through the machine without adding water or colorant to remove remaining wet material.
- Allow the machine to run until no further material is coming out onto the conveyor belt.
- After the main mixer auger has stopped, remove and clean out the trough drain plugs to empty any trapped water inside the mixing system.