

ANDROMAT TODAY

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Housekeeping

"Is it worth it?"

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Hello friends,

I could walk in just about any forge shop or foundry and immediately find several examples of housekeeping in action. Front offices being vacuumed, latrines and changing areas being cleaned, shop floors being swept. But what about your Andromat. It operates in a nasty environment, should I bother cleaning it? In short, the answer is yes.

Housekeeping Principles:

Housekeeping is a broad term that refers to the routine maintenance and upkeep of a workplace. Good workplace housekeeping reduces injuries and accidents, improves morale, reduces fire potential and can even make operations more efficient. Workplace housekeeping should be an integral part of every company's loss control program.

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Spring is in the air!!!



Andromat Today is a quarterly trade publication for discussing Andromat issues important to the end user. Each issue will contain useful tidbits of information as well as any news updates from the company. Look for your issue of *Andromat Today* in your inbox.

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Regulations on Housekeeping:

According to OSHA:

29 CFR 1910.22(a)(1)- all places of employment, passageways, storerooms and service rooms must be kept clean and orderly and in a sanitary condition.

The floor of every workroom must be maintained in a clean and so far as possible, a dry condition. Where wet processes are used, drainage must be maintained, and false floors, platforms, mats or other dry standing places should be provided where practical. (29 CFR 1910.22(a)(2))

Every floor, working place and passageway must be kept free from protruding nails, splinters, holes or loose boards, so as to facilitate cleaning. (29 CFR 1910.22(a)(3))

Put to Work:

We know what housekeeping is and we know how OSHA looks at housekeeping, but how do I apply this to my Andromat? Let us look at a few examples:

We recently changed out a leaking hydraulic line. Due to production needs, we had to go back on line before cleaning up our mess. This happens all the time. Down time is money. Money not used for raises, bonuses, or capital improvements. We do what we must to keep things going. But this does not excuse the need for a clean and neat area in and around the Andromat. How do we note a new leak when the old one is yet to be cleaned up?

You notice some chirping coming from a bearing on the work arm. You can't tell if the thing has been greased recently for all the grease, oil, and dirt on the machine. The machine manual states that joints should be lubricated until fresh grease is visible on the exterior of the joint. Sounds like a good practice. Why not wipe off the excess once the task is complete. Then we can have a quick visual confirmation if a bearing could be failing.

OSHA-

all places of employment.....must be kept clean and orderly....

The operator complains that the master arm azimuth seems to be binding. You go to investigate. You first have to remove three mountain dew cans, a red bull container, to empty water bottles, and an 8 track radio. Just to gain access to the master arm. You quickly diagnose the problem. The tether from a set of ear plugs has gotten wrapped around the shaft of the

master arm. A quick slash with the pocket knife and all is well. You stopped working on a gripper rebuild to clean out someone's cabin. A little silly, yes?

No one is immune from the need of housekeeping. In my own garage at home, I often get so many projects going that tools will be left out until I get done. I'll spend what seems like an eternity looking for a 9/16" wrench.

My son- "oh, I left that on the tractor last night".

Me- "Is that where you found it"?

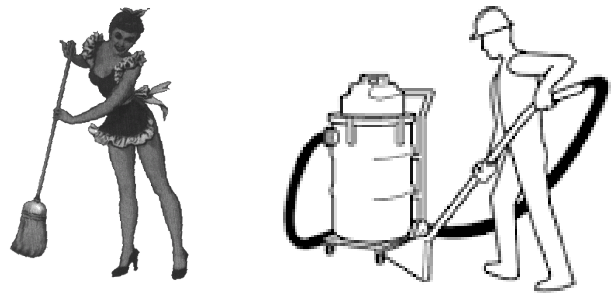
Son- "No, it was under your truck where you left it....."

Ouch! That stings a little.

Conclusion:

Housekeeping would seem to take precious time and leave us nothing tangible in return. This is far from the truth. Dividends from housekeeping come to us in the form of faster troubleshooting, quicker repairs, lowered down time, and yes, improved moral. Where would you feel happier, a ragged out Pinto or a pristine new full size pickup?

HOUSEKEEPING



"Let's all do our part"