



When to Stop Doing That PM

Most plants add preventive maintenance tasks more easily than they remove them. Over time the PM program fills with inspections and replacements that rarely find anything, consume technician hours, and create little reduction in failures. The result is wasted wrench time that could have gone to higher-consequence work or to genuine improvement.

Reviewing existing PMs is one of the fastest ways to recover capacity. The goal is not to eliminate preventive maintenance. It is to stop doing tasks that no longer earn their cost and to adjust the ones that still matter.

Signs a PM Should Be Modified, Extended, or Eliminated

Look for these practical indicators in your CMMS history and on the floor:

- No failures or defects found over the last several performances and no related reactive failures.
- High cost or time with low consequence of the failure it is meant to prevent.
- Better covered by a condition-based task that gives more reliable warning with less disruption.
- The failure mode has changed or disappeared due to equipment or process changes.
- Chronic pencil-whipping or incomplete execution with failures still occurring.

How to Review PMs Without a Major Project

You do not need a full RCM study to start. Use a simple filter on the tasks that consume the most time.

Pull PMs from the last 12 months sorted by total labor hours. For each high-hour PM, check how often defects were found and the consequence of failure. Then decide: extend or eliminate if no defects and low consequence; convert to condition-based if possible; or revise content if high consequence but not effective.

Document the decision in the CMMS. Start with the top 10–20 PMs by hours. Reviewing only the largest time consumers usually frees meaningful capacity.

Recovering Technician Time

Every PM hour that produces no useful finding is an hour not available for planned corrective work or higher-priority tasks. Plants that periodically challenge their existing tasks routinely recover 10–20 percent of PM labor within a few months.

Stopping or adjusting a PM is not a sign that preventive maintenance is failing. It is a sign that the program is being managed. The tasks that remain should be the ones whose consequences justify the effort.

Which PMs in your plant consume the most hours while rarely finding anything?