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24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

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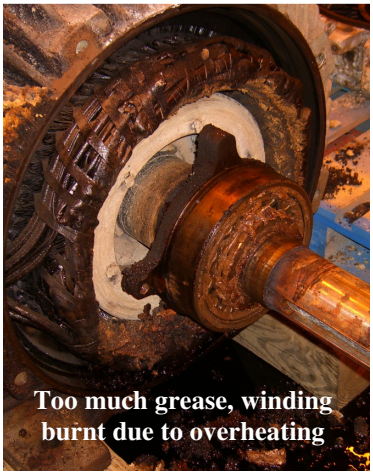
Motor bearings: To grease, or not to grease. That seems to be the question.
The first thing to consider is which type of bearing your motor has. For a new motor, you can find out from your distributor, or from the manufacturer. For a rebuilt motor, ask your repair shop. There are 3 basic types we will discuss.
Sealed – These have seals on both sides of the bearing and are lubricated for the "life" of the bearing. No additional grease is necessary, and it wouldn't get to the bearing anyway.
Shielded – These have shields on both sides which capture the grease inside the bearing, but they are not sealed. Therefore, they can have more grease in the bearing housing which might aid in lubrication. These are also more at risk of contamination.
Open – These have no seals or shields, and totally rely on the bearing housing to capture the grease in close proximity to the bearing. This type can be successfully lubricated on a maintenance schedule; however care must be taken to ensure the bearing is not over-greased. The idea is to replace the grease, not to add more. There should be a "drain" through which the old grease can be forced out when the new grease is pumped in. Only after the motor has been running long enough to purge any excess grease out, should the "drain" cap be replaced. This same procedure may be used on Shielded bearings, but the grease inside the bearing will not be replaced.

But how often should I grease my open type motor bearings? I'm glad you asked. There are so many variables which would dictate the frequency of lubricating the bearings that it is difficult to determine an exact formula for this. Bearing manufacturers recommend anywhere from 3,000 to 20,000 hours of operation, depending on those many other variables. You will need to determine the best interval for your operation but a good rule of thumb might be some time between 3 to 6 months.


Too much grease, winding burnt due to overheating

If your bearings become noisy, some additional grease might quiet them down but the damage has already been done. To prevent a catastrophic failure the motor should be removed from service as soon as possible and have the bearings replaced, and the bearing fits checked. In most cases this would be a good time for a complete inspection and recondition of the motor.

Fox Brothers uses sealed bearings in most repaired motors, unless a different type is required or requested. When current inventory is depleted we, again in most cases, will be using **Koyo RD** sealed bearings. We have switched to Koyo for most common sizes already. **RD** means reduced drag. Koyo is a major bearing manufacturer which several motor manufacturers are now using. We believe they are the best choice in high quality bearings. Visit www.koyousa.com for more information about Koyo bearings.