



13 Greasing Tips for Construction Operations

Tips for Management

1 Minimize the number of greases your company uses by consolidating brands and types.

Even if you need to change grease for a particular application seasonally, you typically can stay within one family of greases.

2 Use labels to identify grease products and connect them to applications.

Prevent misapplication by properly labeling all grease storage containers and application equipment. Use decals on machines to indicate types of grease required.

3 Restrict the types of grease guns used.

Various grease guns can deliver vastly different amounts of grease per stroke. Minimizing the types and brands of grease guns you use reduces the possibility of under- and over-greasing.

4 Calibrate grease guns to determine how much grease they deliver with one full stroke.

Use a postal scale to measure the weight of several strokes of grease and then calculate the average.

Label grease guns with the average amounts, in ounces, they produce per stroke.

5 Set and post the proper amount of grease needed for each bearing.

Use the equation: $G = 0.114 \times D \times B$. "G" to calculate required grease in ounces for each bearing. "D" is the bearing outside diameter in inches and "B" is the bearing width in inches.

6 Train employees on the importance of grease and how to properly grease equipment.

Chevron provides free education and training services to its customers and their employees.

7 Incentivize operators to prioritize greasing. Ensure other incentives don't conflict.

For example, operators who are evaluated solely according to the number of loads they complete each day might be reluctant to take breaks for machine maintenance. Also evaluate how well operators take care of machines.



Tips for Employees

8 Inspect grease fittings and replace defective or damaged ones.

You should examine every fitting and bearing regularly, and always before applying grease.

9 Before greasing, wipe fittings to prevent pushing dirty grease and external contaminants into the bearing.

Use clean, lint-free cloth to avoid shedding cotton or poly fibers. After greasing, leave a little bit of grease outside the bearing (don't wipe the fitting) to create an added barrier against contaminants.

10 Understand the differences among bearing types.

Two types of bearings generally found in construction operations are journal/plain bearings, which have open grease cavities, and rolling element bearings, which usually have closed grease cavities.

11 Use the correct amount of grease for each rolling element bearing.

Use a calibrated grease gun (see Tip 4) and calculate the proper amount of grease using the formula in Tip 5. If you grease a closed-cavity bearing until you see grease coming out the other side, you will break the seal intended to keep grease in and contaminants out.

12 Learn how to properly purge contaminants from bearings.

With journal and plain bearings, you can apply grease until you see the bead of grease coming out the ends of the journal. To purge closed-cavity rolling element bearings, apply the proper amount of grease (see Tip 4) at shorter-than-usual time intervals.

13 Keep grease guns contaminant free.

Do not place grease guns on dirty surfaces. Repack them on clean work surfaces and keep them covered when not in use. If your employer provides plastic caps for grease-gun coupler nozzles, use them.

