

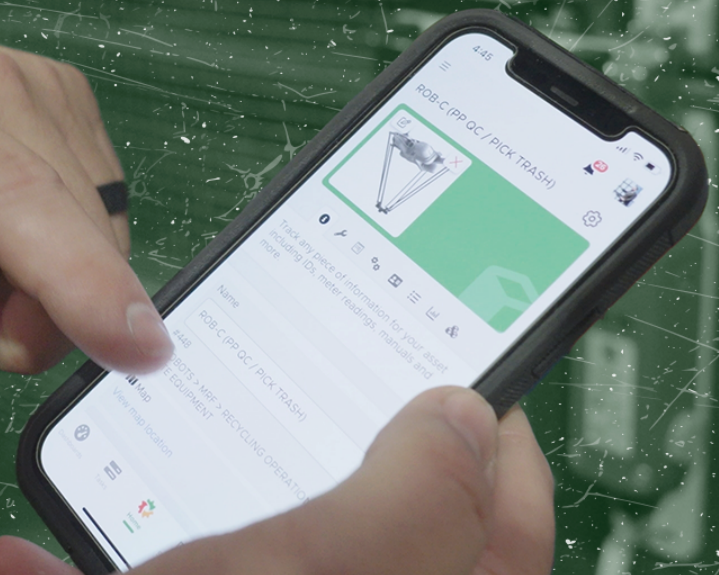
Guide

10 maintenance strategies to cut costs and build resilience

Total Cost of Ownership: **\$6,328.74**



● Labor
● Parts
● Invoices

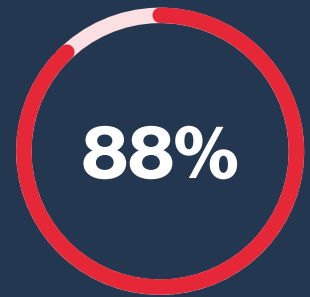


Introduction

Rising operational costs are introducing new challenges across industries. A recent Limble survey revealed that 88% of maintenance teams are seeing cost increases in parts, labor, and downtime. Add ongoing supply chain disruptions, labor shortages, and fluctuating tariffs, and it's clear: building an efficient, resilient operation is more important than ever.

More than 1 in 3 maintenance professionals spend the majority of their time on reactive work. Over half regularly face critical spare part shortages, leading to unexpected downtime. When costs are rising and margins are tightening, efficient maintenance operations aren't just nice to have, they're a must for maintaining long-term stability and growth.

Forward-thinking companies are shifting gears from reactive fixes to modern, proactive strategies. Here are 10 ways leading organizations are using smarter maintenance to reduce costs, increase uptime, and create resilient operations.



88% of maintenance teams are seeing cost increases in parts, labor, and downtime



More than 1 in 3 maintenance professionals spend the majority of their time on reactive work



50%+ of teams still regularly run out of critical spare parts, risking prolonged downtime and higher procurement costs

Move from reactive to preventive maintenance

Most maintenance teams know that waiting for something to break is both costly and stressful. Preventive maintenance (PM) is essential for efficient operations. A strong PM program reduces downtime, labor costs, and capital expenses. If you're only going to choose one strategy to cut costs, this is it. By tracking and improving your Planned Maintenance Percentage (PMP), you can drive significant cost savings across your operations.

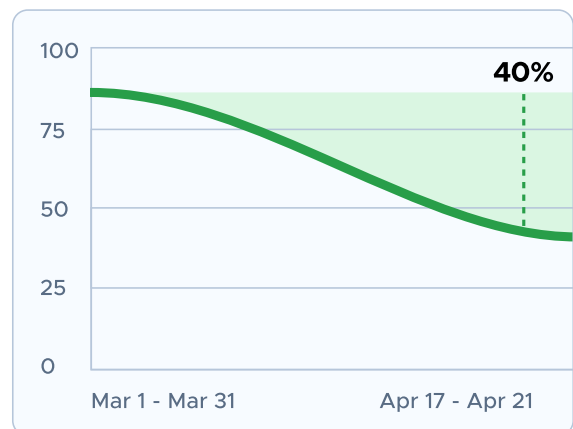
The benefits of preventive maintenance

- ✓ **Reduce unplanned downtime:** Preventive maintenance reduces the frequency of unexpected equipment failures, cutting unplanned downtime by nearly 20% according to a FacilitiesNet survey. Keep production on track and maximize revenue with a more proactive strategy.
- ✓ **Lower repair costs and expenses:** Routine servicing helps extend the lifespan of your equipment, delaying large capital expenditures and reducing the risk of expensive emergency repairs. In fact, FacilitiesNet found that preventive maintenance can cut machinery repair costs by up to 40% compared to reactive fixes.
- ✓ **More efficient labor utilization:** Proactive scheduling and fewer unexpected breakdowns allow teams to shrink backlogs, reduce task volume, and avoid costly overtime. By minimizing after-hours emergencies and balancing workloads more effectively, maintenance teams can operate more efficiently and make better use of available resources.



Pro tip:

Use a CMMS (Computerized Maintenance Management System) to schedule recurring PM tasks automatically. With step-by-step templated procedures, your team can stay on track without manual oversight.



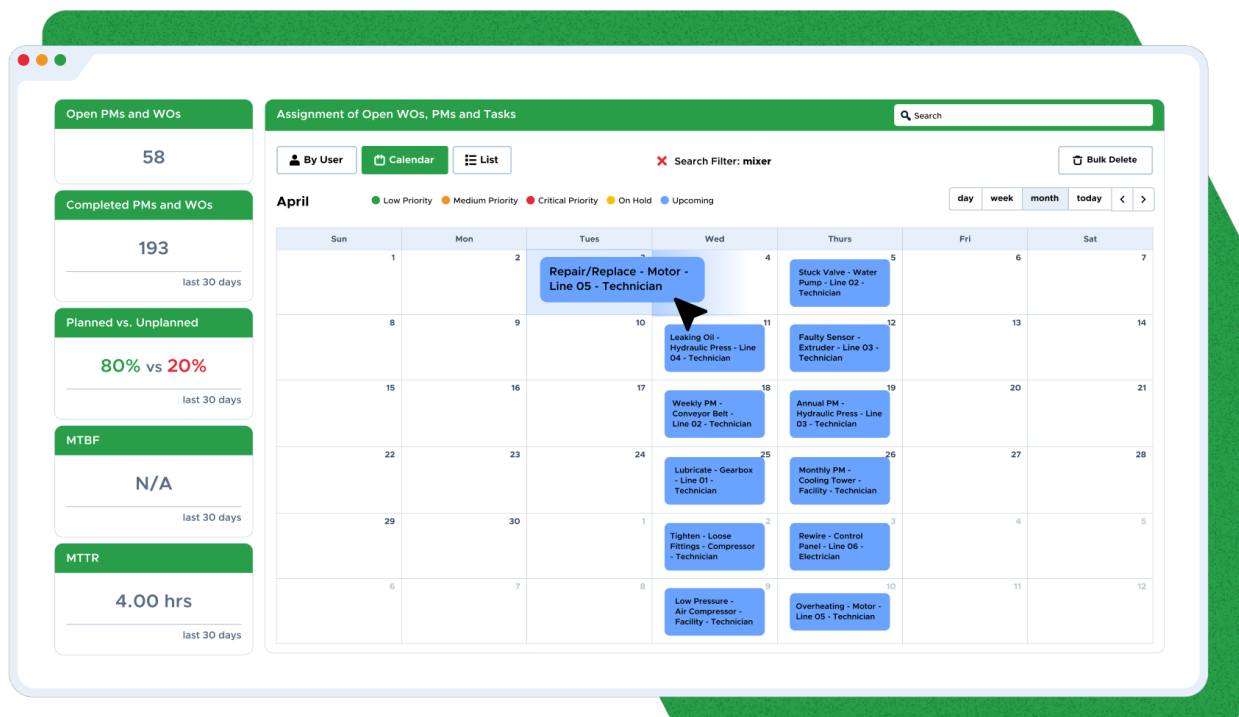
FacilitiesNet found that preventive maintenance can **cut machinery repair costs** by up to 40% compared to reactive fixes

Organize and standardize maintenance workflows

Inconsistent processes can lead to mistakes, wasted time, and compliance risks. By standardizing maintenance workflows, teams can mitigate costly errors, improve labor efficiency, and ensure tasks are completed correctly the first time. Documented procedures help technicians complete tasks consistently and compliantly, spending less time searching for information and more time executing.

How to standardize operations

- ✓ **Document standard operating procedures (SOPs):** Create clear, step-by-step SOPs for PMs and common work orders. Include required tools, parts, and safety protocols, and make them easily accessible to the team.
- ✓ **Use a CMMS to streamline workflows:** Use work order and PM templates to attach relevant SOPs, photos, parts, and asset details. Set rule-based automations to assign tasks, prioritize work, and put preventive maintenance on an automated recurring schedule.
- ✓ **Centralize work history:** Store all maintenance records in one easy-to-navigate place to simplify root cause analysis and prevent recurring equipment issues. Using a CMMS makes it easy for technicians to access these records and troubleshoot faster.



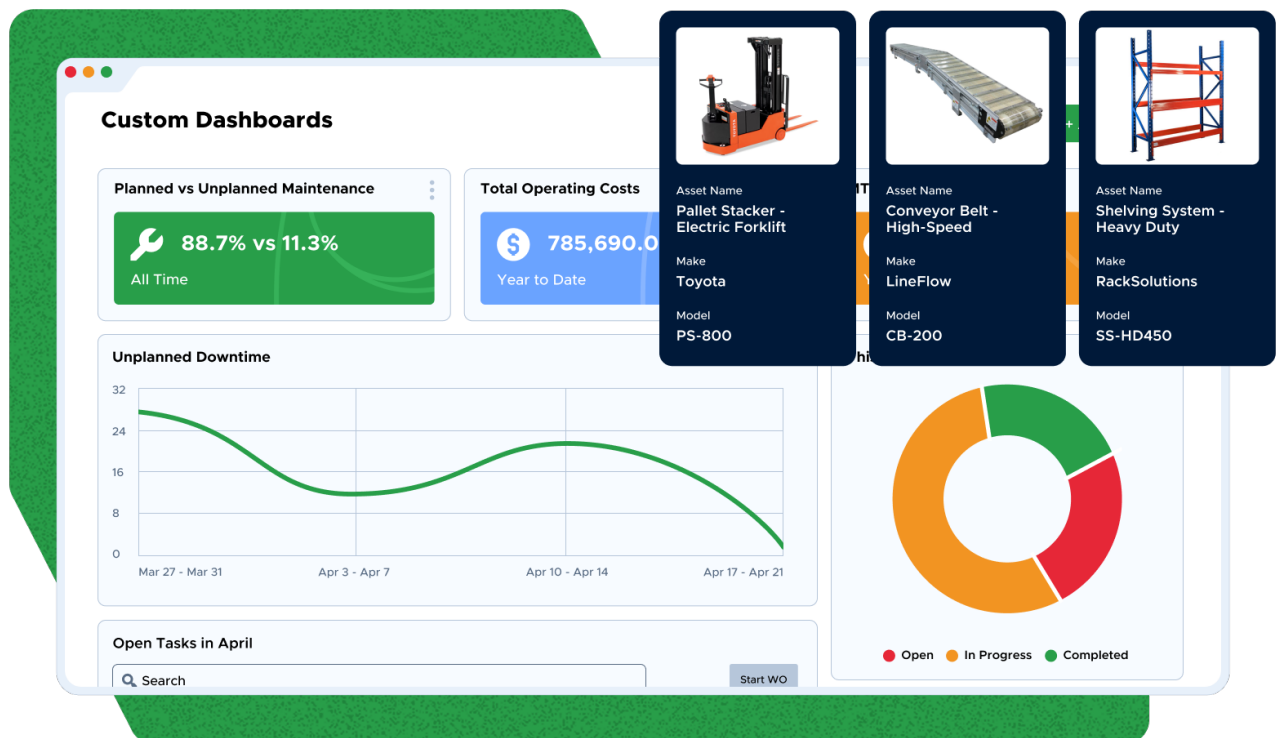
Digitize asset management and address chronic issues

Manual records and scattered systems make it difficult to understand what's really happening with your assets. Digitizing asset management gives your team centralized visibility, reliable history, and the insights needed to address costly recurring issues.

When your asset data is easy to access and analyze, it becomes a powerful tool for reducing long-term costs. You can spot recurring issues faster, troubleshoot more effectively, and make smarter decisions about repairs, replacements, and PM schedules.

How to eliminate recurring issues

- ✓ Digitize asset records and maintenance history to create a single source of truth
- ✓ Use work order trends and asset reporting to spot recurring failures
- ✓ Conduct Root Cause Analysis (RCA) to identify and address underlying problems
- ✓ Refine PM schedules or upgrading aging equipment to prevent future breakdowns



Establish and track maintenance KPIs

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) provide the insights you need to make improvements across your operations. By tracking these metrics, you can identify inefficiencies, cut costs, improve labor efficiency, and enhance asset performance.

Start by establishing baselines and setting clear goals for the metrics that matter most to your operation. Tracking these KPIs over time helps you spot trends and make smarter, data-driven decisions that cut costs. For example, Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) helps drive timely decisions about when to replace assets, instead of overspending on repairing aging or faulty equipment.

Example KPIs maintenance and operations teams track

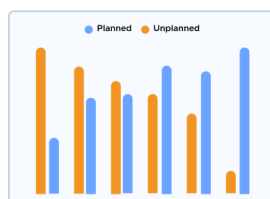
- ✓ Asset Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)
- ✓ Labor and overtime trends
- ✓ Inventory and services costs
- ✓ Equipment downtime hours
- ✓ Equipment uptime percentage
- ✓ Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF)
- ✓ Mean Time To Repair (MTTR)
- ✓ Planned Maintenance Percentage (PMP)
- ✓ On-time PM completion



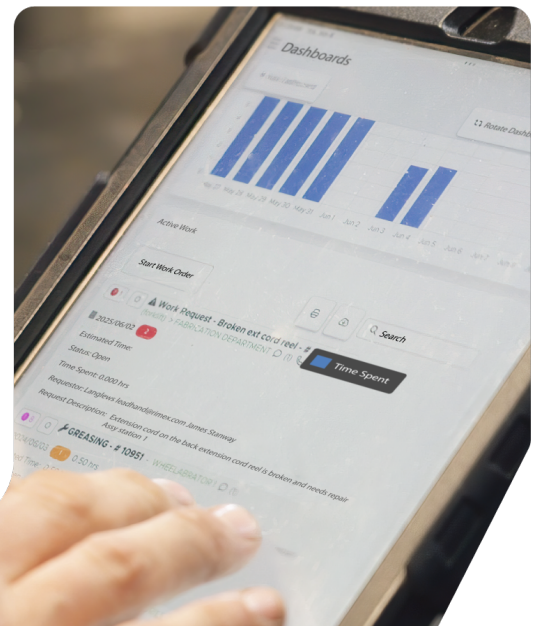
Pro tip:

Use a CMMS to track KPIs automatically as work is completed. Real-time data helps you monitor trends, identify opportunities, and justify decisions like equipment upgrades or staffing adjustments.

Planned vs. Unplanned Maintenance



Total Cost of Ownership \$6,328.74



Strategy 5

Empower technicians with mobile maintenance

Mobile access puts critical information at every technician's fingertips. Regain time lost searching for information or running back and forth from a desk, so your team can stay focused and get more done. The result: Fewer overtime hours and faster issue resolution, helping to minimize production disruptions.

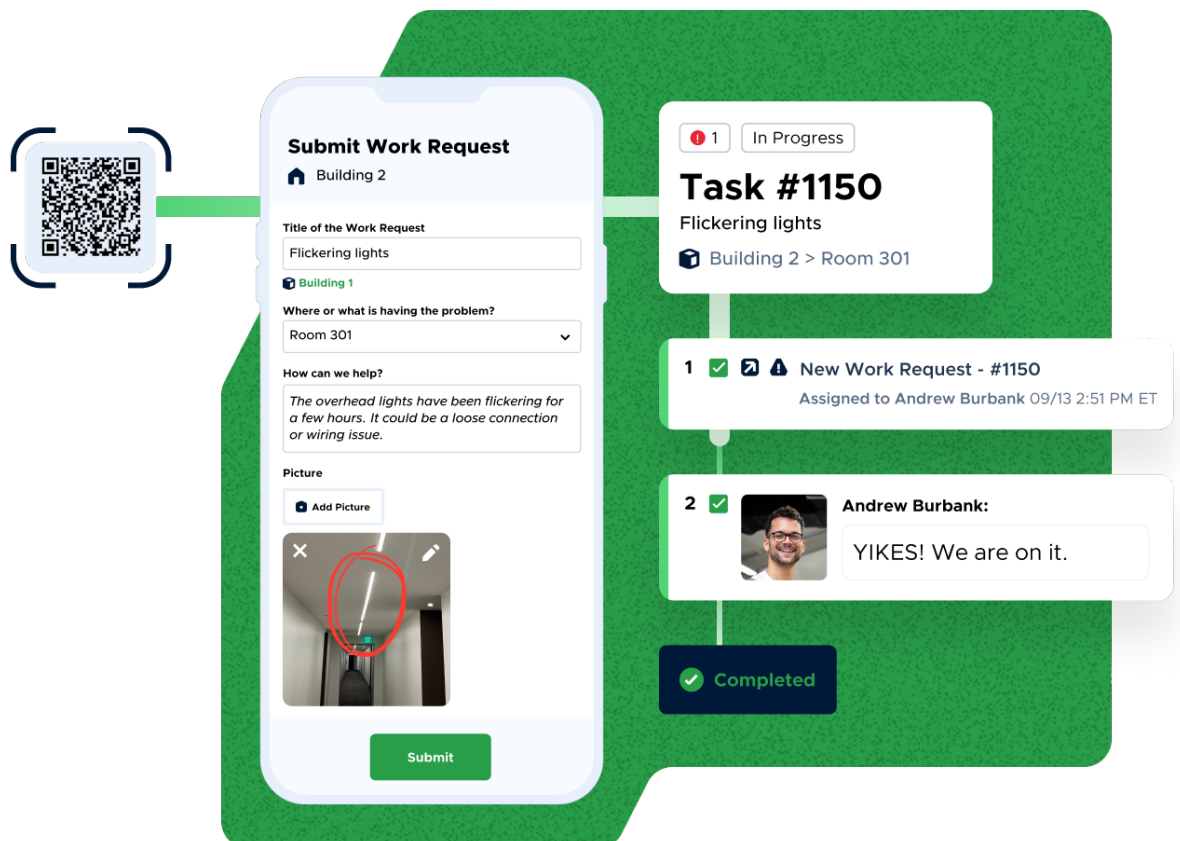
How mobile accessibility drives efficiency

- ✓ Access asset details, manuals, diagrams, and histories in seconds, right from the plant floor
- ✓ Quickly locate spare parts with a digital inventory repository showing exactly what's needed and where to find it
- ✓ Track time automatically, close out work orders on the go, and gain real-time visibility into work status



Pro tip:

For rugged environments, issue durable tablets or protective cases to keep tech devices accessible in any condition.



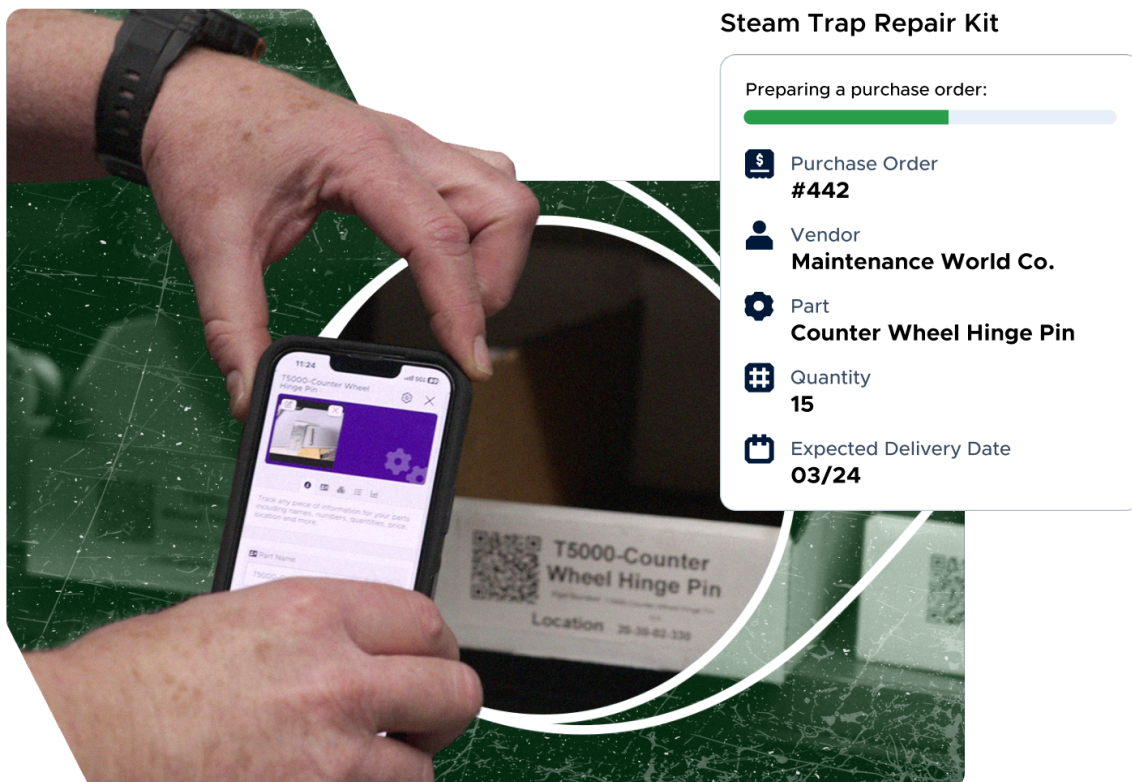
Strategy 6

Optimize spare parts inventory

Disorganized inventory is one of the biggest contributors to unnecessary maintenance spend. Critical part stockouts lead to prolonged downtime, inflated part costs, and expedited shipping fees, while overstocking ties up valuable capital. Inaccurate records slow technicians down and result in duplicate orders. An optimized inventory strategy strikes the right balance: buying in bulk to reduce costs and ensuring critical spares are available when needed, without overstocking.

Inventory management tips

- ✓ **Organize inventory space:** Label shelves, group parts by type or equipment, and make it easy to find what they need and check stock levels.
- ✓ **Set min/max thresholds:** Establish clear minimum and maximum stock levels for spare parts to facilitate timely reorders and prevent excess inventory.
- ✓ **Track usage and forecast demand:** Monitor part consumption trends to anticipate future needs. Use historical data to inform purchasing decisions and avoid costly last-minute orders.
- ✓ **Conduct regular cycle counts:** Perform routine spot checks to keep records accurate, restock items below threshold, and return or sell obsolete parts.



Strategy 7

Implement condition-based monitoring

Preventive maintenance is a great foundation, but condition-based monitoring (CBM) takes it a step further by enabling maintenance at the exact moment it's needed. By tracking real-time equipment data like temperature, pressure, or vibration, teams can catch early warning signs before small issues become costly failures.

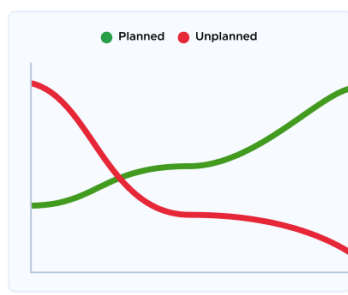
Many organizations install IoT sensors on high-value or failure-prone assets and connect them to their CMMS. This integration allows anomalies in equipment data to automatically trigger new work orders, reducing Mean Time to Repair (MTTR) and preventing unplanned downtime.

How CBM reduces operational costs

- ✓ Catch anomalies early for lower-cost interventions
- ✓ Prevent more severe issues that require expensive repairs or third-party vendors
- ✓ Avoid catastrophic breakdowns that risk safety issues and production losses
- ✓ Minimize unnecessary PMs by servicing equipment when needed



Planned vs. Unplanned Maintenance



Integrate safety and compliance into maintenance

Regulatory violations often come with steep fines and reputational consequences. OSHA penalties alone can exceed \$15,000 per violation. Embedding safety and compliance protocols directly into your maintenance workflows protects your team while reducing legal exposure and preventing avoidable costs.

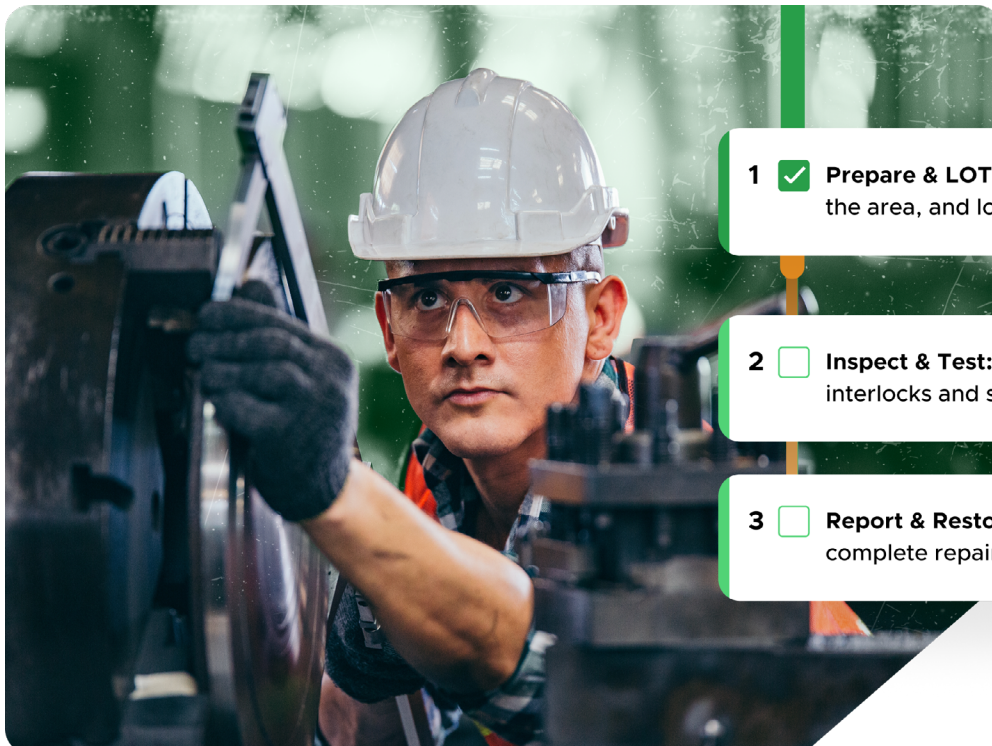
How to stay safe and compliant

- ✓ Embed safety protocols and checklists into every PM and work order
- ✓ Maintain comprehensive audit trails to simplify preparation and pass inspections
- ✓ Track safety incidents in real time to catch and resolve issues before they escalate



Pro tip:

Use a CMMS to maintain digital audit trails automatically. Create reusable templates for critical procedures like Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) and apply them across relevant tasks. Use dashboards to monitor safety incidents and ensure compliance stays on track.



- 1 ☒ **Prepare & LOTO:** Wear PPE, clear the area, and lock the machine

25%

- 2 ☐ **Inspect & Test:** Check guards, test interlocks and safety devices

- 3 ☐ **Report & Restore:** Document issues, complete repairs before restarting

Align maintenance with production and finance teams

When maintenance operates in a silo, it can lead to production delays, rushed purchases, and budget misalignment. Keeping maintenance, production, and finance in sync improves planning, scheduling, and cost control.

Methods to improve alignment

- ✓ Coordinate PMs with production to avoid disruptions
- ✓ Share long-term maintenance plans with finance to improve budgeting and resource allocation
- ✓ Align budgets to support smarter procurement decisions and avoid last-minute spending
- ✓ Use shared dashboards to give all stakeholders visibility into asset health and maintenance activities
- ✓ Hold regular cross-departmental reviews to improve transparency and collaboration



Pro tip:

Share maintenance wins (like catching issues before they cause breakdowns, reducing downtime, or lowering parts costs) to build trust and gain support across the organization.

Notifications

- 🔔 The scheduler created one or more PMs for you last night!
8/17 - 9:15:02 AM ET
- ✅ Cleaning – #54924 – Sugaring Machine – 0104 > Cake Donuts Line” at “Delicious Donuts Production Facility” has an Approval requested.
8/17 - 7:15:02 AM ET
- 🔔 The scheduler created one or more PMs for you last night!
8/15 - 9:15:02 AM ET

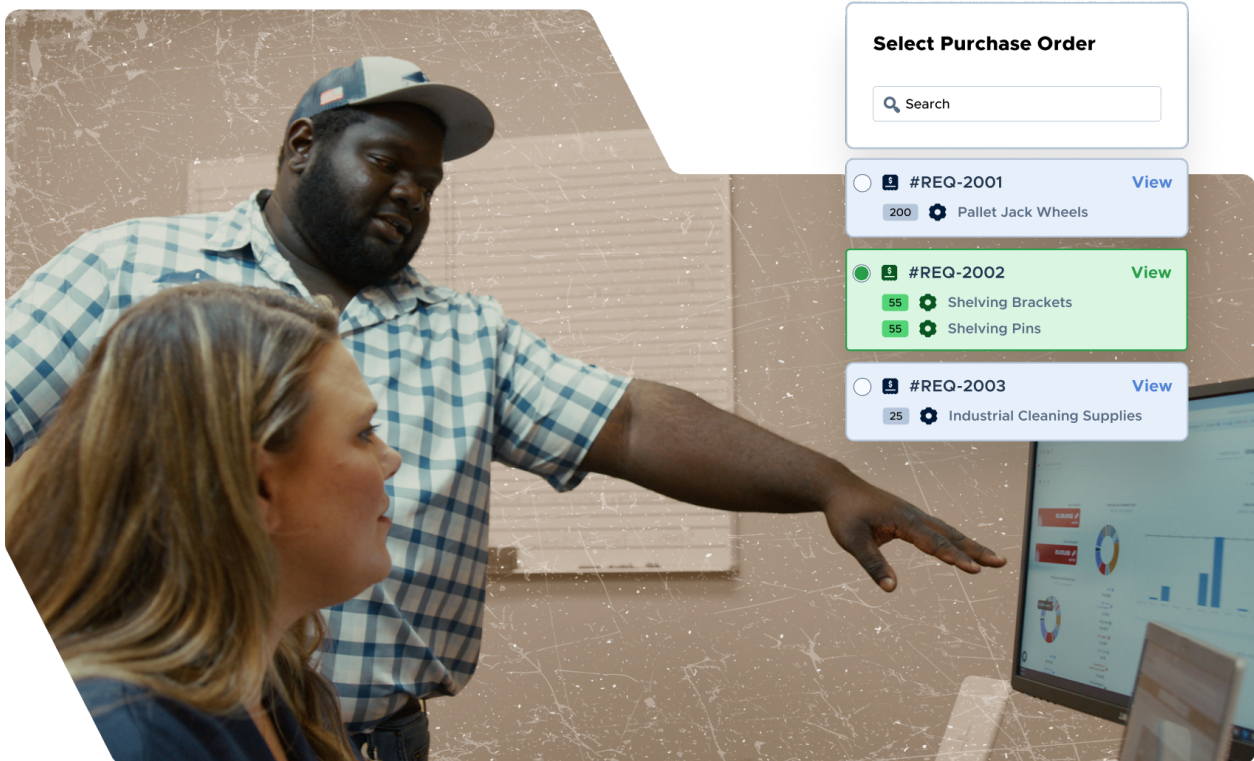
Foster a culture of continuous improvement

The most resilient operations embed continuous improvement into their culture, empowering frontline workers to drive lasting change. Technicians are often the first to spot inefficiencies in day-to-day operations. Whether it's identifying redundant PMs or flagging assets with recurring issues, perspective from the front lines is invaluable. Encouraging technicians to be active problem-solvers can reveal hidden cost drivers like excessive labor hours, over-maintained assets, or outdated procedures that might otherwise go unnoticed.

By consistently refining processes, your maintenance program will continue to become more and more cost-effective over time.

How to cultivate continuous improvement

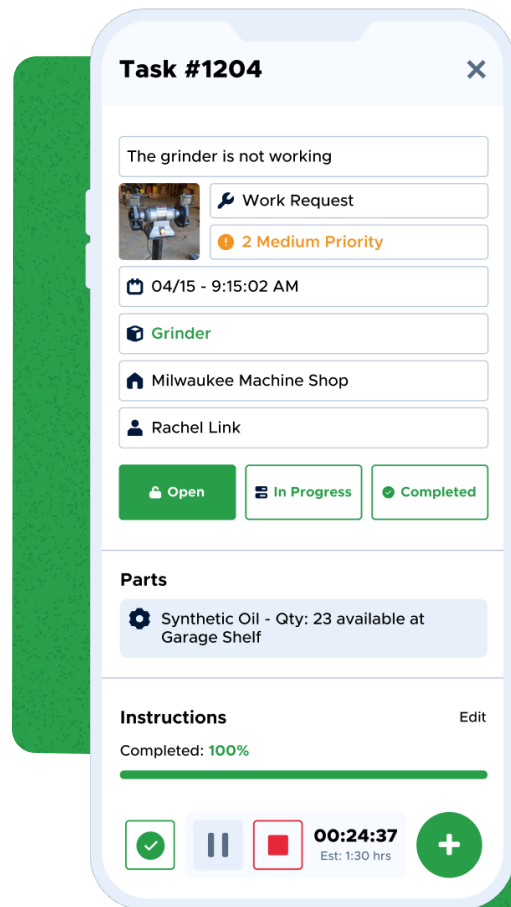
- ✓ Host training sessions to upskill technicians and encourage process improvements
- ✓ Solicit technician feedback to discover inefficiencies or outdated workflows
- ✓ Review KPIs regularly to spot trends and refine maintenance programs



Transform maintenance into a strategic advantage with Limble

With costs rising, finding smarter ways to improve efficiency is more important than ever. Each of the strategies in this guide is designed to help you prevent downtime, optimize labor, and spend more strategically. But overhauling a maintenance program can be challenging without the right tools.

That's where Limble comes in. Limble empowers your team to implement cost-saving tactics faster, smarter, and with less of a lift. From automating preventive maintenance and streamlining inventory management, to tracking KPIs and staying compliant, leaders across industries rely on Limble to implement smarter maintenance strategies and drive long-term operational success.



Ready to put smarter maintenance strategies into action?

Schedule a free demo to see how Limble helps teams cut costs, reduce downtime, and build more efficient operations for long-term success: limblecmms.com/request-demo

