



Dry Kiln Maintenance

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Are Dry Kilns high maintenance or low maintenance?

Can good or bad kiln maintenance affect the quality of the lumber you dry?

What makes up a Dry Kiln

Fan Deck

Motors and Fan Controls

Baffles

Doors & Hangers

Steam and Spray Lines

Vents

Controls

Walls, Floors , & Roof

By keeping the floor clean & free of debris, your wetbulb wicks and EMC wafers will perform better.

Seal floors with polyurethane or another sealant

Keep your walls in good repair

To Paint or not to Paint?????

If your roof leaks, fix it!!!!



Fan Deck

Make sure Fan Deck is in good shape

Motor mounts are solid

**Check for loose or missing bolts,
broken welds, etc.**



Fans and Motors

Grease motors & check bearings on a regular basis

Check fans

- for loose blades**
- any sign of wear on the shrouds**



Baffles

Adjust all baffles so that they go up out of the way, but still will rest on the lumber when down.

Make sure cables & ropes are in good conditions. Check and lube pulleys.

Plywood baffles???

Forklifts and baffles should never touch.....or else.



Doors

A well sealed, well insulated, kiln door can save you \$\$\$\$\$\$

The door gasket should seal tight against the kiln

“ The Small Cat Theory”



Doors & Hangers

Should it take 4 people to open 1 kiln door?

Is the door hanging up or is the hanger not rolling properly?

Bad bearings in your door hangers?

A little grease goes a long way. If you don't have grease fittings, install them.



Doors & Hangers

Hangers should hook securely into the door

Install plates so the hanger hooks the door properly. This will also help the door drop on the hooks properly.



Hooks

Hooks hold gasket tight against the kiln

Doors should drop on the hooks without having to move the hanger or slam the door



If the hooks are broken, bent or missing, fix or replace them

Steam & Spray Lines

Inspect Fin pipe for leaks

Installing unions and valves now saves time and effort 5 years down the road

Check traps year round..... Not just when it gets cold outside



Steam & Spray Valves

Air operated valves are relatively low maintenance

Adjust so that valves open and close fully

Check for leaks with soapy water in a squirt bottle



Vents

Make sure vents open all the way

Do your vents seal properly when closed?



Vents propped open???

Power Vents

Inspect fan & motor mounts

Check to make sure that the vent inlets open and close properly



Controls

Is your kiln doing what you tell it to do?

Several different types



Dry Bulbs & Wet Bulbs

Solder in RTDs and seal with heat shrink.

Damaged wires will give you bad RTD readings.



Keep wet bulb wicks and water boxes clean.

EMC Wafers

Change EMC wafer at the beginning of every kiln charge

Clean deposits off wafer holders with Acetone



Samplewatch Platforms

Very low maintenance if properly cared for

Be gentle.....these are computer parts



Fan Drives

Keep variable speed motor drives clean.

**Vacuum out the Heat sink in
the back of the drive..... DO
NOT USE THE AIR
COMPRESSOR**



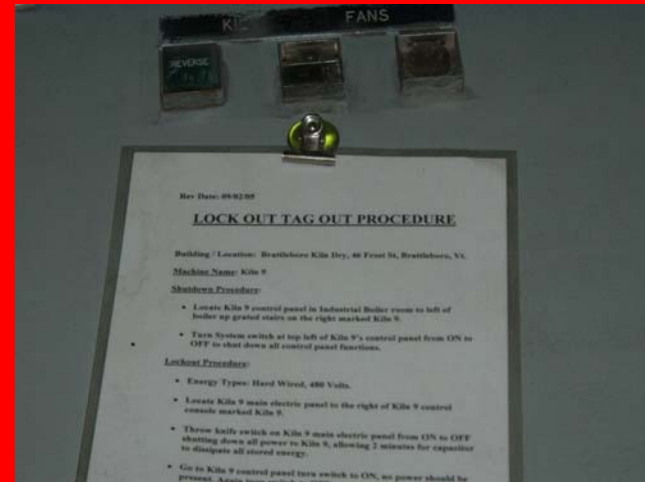
Other Considerations

Kiln Operators should be involved with the operation of the Boilers.

Spare Parts..... Is it cheaper to have them or cheaper not to have them?

A good Lock Out/Tag Out program will keep people from being hurt

Communication



Questions.....

Comments.....

GO SOX!!!!

