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Bulletin 202

Air Filter Maintenance

Selling Sy-Klone Air Precleaners offers you the opportunity to re-address the importance of a proper air intake maintenance program with your customers.

Keep in mind that the contaminants that kill an engine normally enter through the air intake system. Every time a filter is removed from an air filter housing, the engine is exposed to particles and contaminants. Customers who try to extend their filter life by blowing or knock off the debris may be costing themselves big money in the long run.

Blowing air filters can result in extreme engine damage. Paper filter elements are made of compressed fibers. This gives a certain amount of flexibility without changing the micron rating (the hole size). When an air filter is blown out, it is normally done from the inside out. The compressed air passes through a small cross section of the filter paper at any given time. This creates two major problems. One, the air filter allows a certain amount of airflow to pass through the entire length of the filter element. When air is directed at a pressure greater than 20 psi through a small area, the paper expands past its ability to flex and pulls apart. This greatly distorts the paper and the micron rating of the air filter element and allows larger particles to pass through to the engine. This increases wear and reduces engine component life.

“Knocking out” an air filter can rob an engine of hundreds of hours of life. Air filter elements are joined to the end caps with glue or molded plastic. The weak link in the filter is where the end caps and the paper join. The paper flexes under the vacuum created by the operating engine. There is limited flexibility where the paper joins the rigid end cap. When the filter is knocked, it pulls on the paper where it is joined to the end cap causing the paper to pull away from the end cap. This is hard to see with the naked eye, but it allows large quantities of dirt to get by the filter. This will cause engine damage.

Overall, the least expensive and most effective air filter for an engine is one that is properly sized and offered by the OEM or a quality supplier. And, if you combine this equipment with a properly sized and installed Sy-Klone Air Precleaner, your customer will be able to greatly extend the filter life. Just imagine the savings by reducing maintenance and equipment downtime, and extending engine life.

If you have any questions on air filtration or any other topic regarding air intake systems, please contact our technical service department at
1-800-351-8265 or 904-448-6563.
You may also e-mail us at Service@Sy-Klone.com.

WARNING! Do not attempt to install, remove, or inspect unit while engine is running. Do not insert objects into open areas while in operation.