

Holman _____ Driving What's Right



**MAINTENANCE STRATEGIES
TO HELP FLEET MANAGERS REDUCE DOWNTIME**



Fleet maintenance has evolved beyond routine oil changes and brake checks. With vehicles remaining in service longer due to supply chain challenges and capital constraints, a comprehensive maintenance strategy is essential for managing costs and minimizing downtime.

Understanding the role of preventive maintenance and how proactive practices complement it is key to keeping your fleet reliable and cost-efficient.

Why Your Maintenance Strategy Matters

Today, a growing number of fleets are keeping vehicles in service longer, extending lifecycles well beyond initial forecasts. This creates challenges such as higher repair costs, increased downtime, and added strain on operating budgets during the most expensive stage of ownership.

When it comes to maintenance, consistency is key. Fleets that consistently follow recommended service schedules tend to experience lower costs and fewer unexpected failures compared to those with inconsistent service practices. Staying on top of minor maintenance needs helps prevent small issues from becoming major repairs.

Preventive Maintenance: The Foundation

Preventive maintenance is the cornerstone of any effective maintenance program. It focuses on scheduled services such as oil changes, brake inspections, and tire rotations performed at regular intervals based on mileage or time.

Key benefits include:

- Reducing the risk of major repairs
- Maintaining long-term cost stability
- Improving reliability and reducing downtime

To maximize results, begin with OEM-recommended intervals and tailor preventive maintenance schedules to your fleet's operating conditions. Work with qualified service providers for multi-point inspections, and ensure drivers promptly report issues such as unusual noises or a check engine light. Skipping or delaying services often leads to costly repairs and extended downtime.

Recommendation: Audit your preventive maintenance compliance quarterly to identify gaps before they impact performance.

Proactive Maintenance: Maximizing Uptime

Unplanned downtime drains productivity and revenue. When maintenance decisions rely on guesswork, breakdowns are inevitable and costly. A proactive, data-driven approach improves visibility into vehicle health and operating conditions, helping fleets make informed decisions and reduce risk.

Consistent preventive maintenance remains essential, but pairing it with real-time data allows managers to identify trends and adjust service plans before issues escalate. This combination minimizes disruptions, extends asset life, and keeps vehicles on the road.

Key benefits include:

- Greater visibility into vehicle health and performance trends
- More timely service decisions aligned to actual operating needs
- Fewer disruptions and improved uptime

Recommendation: Start small by monitoring one metric such as tire pressure or brake wear, then expand as you establish reliable processes and data-driven routines.

Putting It All Together

The most effective maintenance programs combine scheduled care with proactive, data-driven visibility. This integration gives fleet managers flexibility to adapt to changing conditions. It also helps allocate resources strategically to support long-term goals.

Action steps to get started:

- Review and adjust service schedules for vehicles with high-utilization and extended lifecycles
- [Use telematics for real-time diagnostics and trend analysis](#)
- Partner with trusted service providers for consistent quality
- Set clear driver policies to support compliance
- Monitor data and adjust gradually; avoid overhauling everything at once

A balanced approach not only improves reliability but also aligns maintenance with your overall fleet lifecycle strategy.

LEARN MORE

Explore fleet maintenance strategies and other lifecycle-focused insights in our [Resource Center](#).