

Maintenance of compressed air dryers: Unseen saving potential

Adsorption and membrane compressed air dryers are used to produce particularly dry air. These remove further moisture from the already dry compressed air in order to achieve the desired dew point temperature.

In order to dry the air accordingly, a compressed air dryer requires components such as solenoid valves, seals, dew point sensors, desiccants and filters. All of these components are continuously stressed du ring operation and are subject to a certain amount of wear.

Increased compressed air consumption due to leaks or longer regeneration times leads to increased operating costs and can be prevented by regular maintenance.



Small spheres, great potential: Desiccants and bulk solids

The general operating principle of adsorption dryers is simple. Compressed air flows over a hygroscopic material such as silica gel, molecular sieves or activated aluminium oxide and is dried as a result. In addition, a layer of activated carbon can be used to filter out pollutants.

In order to expel the adsorbed moisture, part of the compressed air is used for regeneration. This process is partially reversible and is repeated several times aday, depending on how the dryer is used.

After 24 to 36 months, however, the desiccant must be replaced, as a certain saturation occurs that can no longer be regenerated. Exceeding this interval leads to higher compressed air consumption due to longer regeneration times.



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