

The Service Department

JOHN BILLSBOROUGH, EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN, UPLANDS GOLF CLUB

To rebuild or replace – that is the question! Determining if a motor is really in need of a rebuild can be a time consuming job as well as create down time on that particular piece of equipment. Simple checks before you make your decision are:

- Check spark as well as condition of the plug, does it foul, burn hot, etc.?
- Fuel: is the engine flooding or is no fuel at all getting to the piston?
- Engine oil: check for water in oil, filings, contamination, cracks in the block.
- Compression test: this will help you determine the condition of piston and rings.
- Exhaust: does the engine push blue smoke?
- Vibration: is there a chance of major bearings needing to be replaced?

Face it, motors won't run forever. No matter how well maintained an engine, rebuilding or replacing is inevitable. The question is: which to do?

Once you have determined that your motor in question is in need of major re-

pairs, one of the toughest questions a technician has is to rebuild or purchase a new motor.

One has to look at things such as the cost of parts to rebuild, the labour costs involved to rebuild, and if your facility has the tools to assist your rebuilding efforts so that it may be done properly.

If your technician has to send the engine out to a qualified shop for rebuilding, then check out the credentials of the shop – talk to other customers to see if they are satisfied with the shop's quality of work.

Can the particular piece of equipment in question afford to be down for a couple of weeks or is it essential for daily maintenance practices such as a greens mower?

Check past maintenance records and the age of the piece of equipment. It may not even be worth putting any further money towards repairs. All of these as-

pects have to be considered before the technician can make a final decision.

Initially, it could be more costly to purchase a new motor, but the convenience of having the motor delivered and installed within a couple of days can be far more valuable, as well as keeping any valuable parts off.

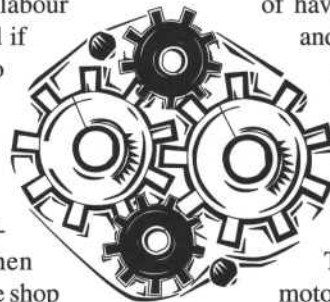
Does the new motor come with a warranty?

The purchase of a new motor can simplify your decision and eliminate any inconvenience of a lengthy downtime.

If the technician keeps records and does regular maintenance checks, the piece of equipment in question could be scheduled for rebuilding in the off-season.

Whatever the final decision the equipment technician has to make, many of the above questions and checks should help him/her arrive at the right conclusion. ♦

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