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WINTER MAINTENANCE GUIDE FOR AGGREGATE MINING OPERATIONS

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WHY WINTER MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Cold weather can grind productivity to a halt and create major safety risks in aggregate mining operations. A proactive winter maintenance plan reduces downtime, protects equipment, and keeps crews safe—all while maximizing throughput during the toughest season.

This quick-reference guide outlines the key steps to winterize your site and keep your operation running strong.

We are providing this guide in hopes that it will help keep your mining plant running smoothly, strong, and produce more tons.



APACHE





EQUIPMENT PREP



Inspect all mobile equipment:



- Check heaters, batteries, fluids, and tire conditions

Use winter-grade lubricants:



- Prevents freezing and wear under cold conditions

Cover exposed hydraulic systems:



- Insulate or shield vulnerable hoses and fittings

Check all cold starts:



- Make sure engines start without strain; install block heaters if needed





HAUL ROADS & SITE ACCESS

Winter weather can turn haul routes into hazards fast. Prep your roads before the freeze with proper grading, traction materials, and high-visibility markers to keep equipment moving and operators safe—even in snow, fog, or ice.



Grade roads before freezing:

Smooth out ruts and potholes now to avoid winter breakdowns



Apply gravel or sand:

For traction on icy haul routes



Mark road edges clearly:

Use high-visibility stakes to guide operators during snow or fog

SAFETY & CREW READINESS

Cold conditions demand more from your crew—physically and mentally. Equip your team with the right winter PPE, train them to recognize cold stress symptoms, and reinforce emergency protocols so everyone knows exactly what to do when temperatures drop and risks rise.



01

Provide PPE for extreme cold:

Gloves, thermal vests, insulated boots

02

Train on cold stress symptoms:

Hypothermia and frostbite awareness saves lives

03

Review emergency protocols:

Ensure all crews know shelter locations and communication plans

CONVEYOR & CRUSHER CHECKS

Winter can wreak havoc on your material flow. Ice buildup, tension shifts, and frozen belts cause costly downtime. Regular inspections, moisture control, and de-icing around critical zones help keep your crushing and conveying systems running smooth, safe, and efficient all season long.

01

Clear belts of residual moisture:

Prevents ice buildup that causes jams and slippage

02

Inspect belt tension:

Cold can cause shrinkage or expansion, adjust accordingly

03

De-ice regularly:

Especially around loading zones and discharge points



FINAL REMINDERS

- *Schedule weekly site walk-throughs during winter*
 - *Test generators and backup systems weekly: Ensure you're covered during power outages*
 - *Keep your maintenance log updated daily*
- *Top off fuel at day's end: Prevents condensation and fuel line freezing overnight*
 - *Stock extra filters, fuel additives, de-icer, and tarps*
 - *Designate a "Winter Maintenance Lead": Assign someone to own cold-weather readiness and follow-ups*

