

production TIPS

When Screens Go Bad

Common screening problems, their causes and ways to fight back:

Material is coming off the end of the deck, instead of passing through the screen cloth.

Cause: The wire diameter is too large for the application, resulting in loss of open area.

Solution: Consider changing wire diameter to increase open area, with little wear life reduction.

Cause: The bed depth is too heavy for the screen deck (i.e., you're feeding too much material, running 400 TPH on a plant designed for 250-300 TPH).

Solution: Make sure you don't run more material than the screen deck was designed to handle.

Cause: Material is being dropped or fed too far down the screen, wasting potential open area.

Solution: Reposition the conveyor or drop box feeding the screen so that the material hits on the feed plate of the screen, or as close as possible to the back of the feed end of the screen.

Cause: The screen cloth is blinded by wet, sticky material, or is pegged with near-size rock, resulting in a loss of screen cloth open area.

Solution: Consider changing the woven wire screen cloth to a self-cleaning screen cloth design.

The screen cloth is breaking or failing before it wears out.

Cause: The screen cloth is too wide or too narrow for the screen deck.

Solution: Check to make sure that the screen cloth hooks are not hitting the side of the screen or that the cloth is not too narrow to allow proper tensioning by the clamp rails.

Cause: The crown bar rubber is missing from the crown rails, or it is worn out.

Solution: Replace the crown bar rubber.

Cause: There are gaps between the screen cloth and the crown bar rubber. The screen deck may be damaged, or the crown rails might be bent or excessively worn.

Solution: Check for damage or wear, and make sure all crown bars support the screen cloth with no gaps between the screen cloth and crown bar rubber.

Cause: The feed material is being dropped from too great a height to the screen deck.

Solution: Consider repositioning your feed conveyor or chute, or adding a feed lip or feed box.

Prevention, Prevention, Prevention

Observe the clamp bar rails to make sure they are never bent or damaged. Either situation can cause the screen cloth to become loose – or damage the cloth due to the flow of large stone and volume.

Keep bolts and wedges tight. If bolts or wedges become loose, they will cause the screen cloth to lose its tension and cause damage. Loose bolts can actually back out and fall on workers underneath. Clamp rails can fall off into the crusher or stockpile.

To protect yourself and your operation from screening problems that could decrease efficiency – and even cause injuries – conduct daily inspections before start-up and after shut-down. If you recognize one of these situations, fix it before it causes real problems!

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