This month's edition of The Reliability Files includes information from Grainger.

Research has shown that by improving its inventory-management practices

Better Inventory Management Helps Cut Operating Costs

Problem

A study conducted by Grainger's Consulting Services estimates that more than half of U.S. businesses aren't effectively managing their maintenance, repair and operating (MRO) supplies, leaving them with dead, obsolete and budget-draining inventory. In 2012, U.S. businesses are expected to spend approximately $110 billion on MRO items—*ranging*

from light bulbs to cleaning supplies to nuts and bolts
—and more than $12 billion of it will never be used.

The Grainger research also found that: customers spend an average of 90 minutes per day replenishing product; half of the inventory customers maintain had no turn within the last year; and customers rarely analyze the inventory they do keep on hand.

The problem is pervasive across all industries: Precious time and money are lost on non-core work as sites struggle to understand the cost savings and efficiency gains that come from stocking only the inventory that is critical to have.

Solution
Grainger's KeepStock services offer a unique portfolio of solutions that help facilities of all sizes better understand their inventory and help them take costs out of their business.

Because each facility is unique, a solid inventory-management program is one that is customer-centric and offers a breadth of options that accommodate a wide range of specific needs from the very simple to the very complex. Grainger currently offers a total of seven solutions within its KeepStock portfolio—*many of which can be fully integrated with a facility's purchasing system or Grainger.com.*

They include:

[redacted]

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