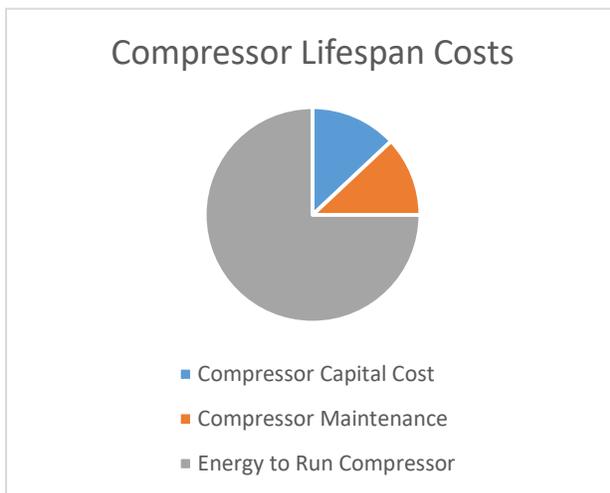


# Why You Need a Compressed Air Leak Management Program

## Why We Ignore Leaks

Compressed air is a misunderstood utility. As such, it tends to be misused, and even abused. Leaks continue to be the biggest problem. Yet, they are often overlooked because they are difficult to detect, don't smell bad, don't make a mess on the floor, and rarely stop production.

## The Real Cost of Leaks



One of your factory's highest operating expenses is the energy consumed by your compressed air system. Only 25% of the cost of a compressed air system is capital cost and maintenance. The remaining 75% is energy, and as much as 35% is wasted by leaks.

## Additional Impacts

Compressed air leaks create fluctuations in system pressure, which negatively impacts product quality. Compressors work overtime to compensate, leading to early degradation of the asset. Eventually, the compressor system can't

keep up with demand. You are then faced with a decision; add more capacity, or optimize the capacity you have by fixing leaks. With so much at stake, why are compressed air leaks managed so poorly; and why doesn't every factory have an air leak management program?

## Where to Look for Leaks

Every component has the potential to leak, but we can hasten our search by focusing on common failure points. Usual problem areas are branch line connections, automatic drain traps, desiccant filters, regulators, coalescent filter assemblies, quick couplers, valves, hoses, fittings, pneumatic cylinders and thread sealants. Most leaks occur at points of use, so begin your search there.

## How to Find Leaks

Locating air leaks in a loud factory floor is next to impossible with a human ear. The best, and easiest way to find air leaks is with an ultrasound leak detector. Ultrasound detectors allow you to hear the minute hissing noise produced by leaks, despite the roaring noise of a production area. Ultrasound detectors are portable, easy to use and require little training to get started



## How to Manage Leaks

It's not enough to just find leaks. You need to fix them, and document your cost savings. To fix them, you have to make it easy, and justifiable, for your repair guys to find them. One way is to use SDT's LEAKReporter, a mobile smartphone App available for iOS and Android. LEAKReporter is focused, simple and free.. It saves inspectors time and money by documenting leaks in pictures, estimating their cost impact and creating fast comprehensive leak reports.

Being competitive has never been more important than it is today. Energy costs directly impact your bottom line. There is not easier way to reduce energy waste than to tackle the "low hanging fruit" in your compressed air system. Contact an authorized SDT Distributor today, to Hear More about creating a compressed air leak management program.

