



Spring Cleaning

By U.S. Ice Rink Association Staff

FOR MOST OF US, spring and summer has become that dreaded time of year where those less fortunate and without the full docket of scheduled ice time have resigned themselves to pacing empty lobbies and eagerly anticipating the return of core customers. But as we get into the summer months there is plenty to do in our facilities to prepare for our busy season (which is only 132-143 days away—but who's counting).

To help you accomplish your goals, we've compiled a handy checklist. We know that all of us have different buildings and capabilities, but there are some common tasks that everyone should have on their radar.

Make the List:

It all starts with a list. Walk through your building and compile a list of cosmetic improvements and safety items that can best be accomplished during your down time:

Area of Focus:

Lobby, Public Restrooms, Concessions Area, Party Rooms, Viewing and Spectator Areas

- Do walls need a fresh coat of paint?
- What is the condition of the flooring?
- What is the condition of benches, countertops, trash cans, tables and chairs?
- Do the toilets, sinks, and hand drying stations work?
- Are the changing stations and stall doors in working order?
- Does the concession equipment work and in good condition?

Area of Focus:

Rink, Locker Rooms, Referee and Coaches' Rooms

- Are the dasher boards in need of repair?
- Are the kick plates sound and free of gaps, bumps and kinks?
- Do the doors and latches to the rink move easily and are they sound?



Keep your refrigeration room clutter-free and don't turn it into a storage room.

- Does the glass sit flush on the cap rail?
- Are the stanchions or seamless dividers flush between panes of glass?
- What is the condition of the flooring and benches?
- Do the toilets, sinks and showerheads work?
- Do the scorekeeper box amenities work?

Area of Focus:

Building Exterior, Entryways and Parking Lot

- Are the parking lots free of potholes? Are the curbs intact? Are the handicap access ramps in good shape?
- Are parking space lines visible? Are fire lanes, no-parking and handicap parking signs clearly visible?
- Do the parking lot lights work and illuminate fully?
- Are the sidewalks level and free of cracks and pitting?
- Is the facility sign in good condition?

- Are the landscaping and grassy areas in good condition?

Area of Focus:

Ice Resurfacer, Ice Resurfacer Room, Refrigeration Room

Ice Resurfacer (IR)

If your facility is seasonal you will have valuable downtime to evaluate and service the IR(s). Now is the time to fix the non-emergency nuances that you have noticed during the busy season. If your operations are year-round, this work still needs to be conducted to ensure the equipment is operational for another season.

- Items that can be done in-house.
- Inspect maintenance logs from the season and identify problems or items that have been noted.
- Check the starter battery and replace if it is 3-5 years old.
- Inspect the overall condition of the machine and components:
 - IR body

- Conditioner and related components

- Tires (studs)
- Engine and related components
- Hydraulic hoses and related components
- Battery (Battery Powered IR's)
- Dump tank (interior and lifting components)

- Take an inventory of spare parts (see sidebar on "things that should be on your shelf").

Area of Focus:

IR Room

The room that is used to house the IR is very important and it deserves attention at least once a year to make sure conditions and equipment are maintained. Inspect the walls of the room. Could it use another coat of paint? Check for any areas that could produce mold. If mold is found anywhere in the IR room, have it removed by a professional company. Inspect the



Things that should be on your shelf:

- Flooder cloth
- Conditioner squeegee
- Wash water impeller
- Ice breaker spring
- Chain link for auger drive train
- Hydraulic hose
- Horizontal and vertical auger bearings
- Board brush

Items that should be performed by professionals:

- Any work performed on the hydraulic systems
- Any major mechanical work to the engine or drive train
- Emissions testing
- Any major work performed to damaged auger or conditioner components

flooring of the IR room. The floors are continually exposed to water throughout the season. Are there cracks that need to be repaired? Do all of the drains in the room work? Take a look up. Unfortunately ceilings can be neglected because they are out of sight. Do you need to replace any light fixtures? Has there been any damage to pipes or HVAC equipment? Is the exhaust working for the room?

We know you want to, but don't ignore the snow pit. Now is the time to drain the water and inspect the inside of the pit. Clean the debris and inspect the conditions. Is there any mold? Are the drains working properly? If you have a sump pump, is the pump in working order? Do you have snow melt lines from your compressors? If so, inspect them and make sure that you stay on top of any corrosion. How about

IR Distributors:

Reputable IR distributors offer comprehensive service plans for the machine and can provide peace of mind for the less mechanically inclined. If you are sending the IR out of house, plan your budget appropriately for the annual service and allocate extra funds for replacement parts. Team up with other rinks to double up on transportation to reduce the cost.

the grates? Are they bent? Do you need to replace any of them? Remember, grates for snow pits should be in place at all times.

Area of Focus:

Refrigeration Room

Check your refrigeration plant and remedy any custodial issues that exist. This room should not be treated as a "dump all" storage room. Floors should be clean and free of any clutter. Parts and supplies should be well organized and inventoried.

Are you missing any parts? If so, this is the time to put them on the re-order list. Inspect the logbook. Is your maintenance staff filling it out? Are there any reoccurring problems that need to be addressed? Conduct a visual inspection of all electrical, mechanical and plumbing equipment in the room. Look for anything out of the ordinary. It will be beneficial to include your maintenance staff in this inspection as they are familiar with the equipment and can identify out of the ordinary items. Be sure to inspect and test any audible, visual or callout alarms connected to your system. Alarms only help if they are in working order. Inspect any safety procedures and equipment that are utilized for this room. Be sure your safety equipment is in working order and that you are providing personal protective equipment to all staff members that perform work in the refrigeration room.

Contact outside service providers on projects that are beyond you or your staff's capabilities. Once bids have been received and you've determined the needs versus the wants, it's time to pull out the calculator and calendar to determine what can be done and when. Safety issues should always be given the highest priority as well as servicing everyday use equipment (like your plant and IR). 