



High Cost of Compressed Air Leaks

Compressed air can be one of the most expensive sources of energy used in mining, costing 11-17 times the energy input cost. Air leaks and equipment left running when not needed waste energy and dollars. Compressed air leaks cost mining companies hundreds of thousands of dollars every year.

The equivalent of 100 HP (75kW) electricity is used to run a compressor. Of that, only about 6 HP ends up as being useful work.

- 3 HP is lost to air leaks
- 11 HP is lost to friction and distribution and
- 80 HP is waste heat

Consider these examples:

Annual Dollars Wasted			
	1 Shift (2250 hrs)	2 Shifts (4250 hrs)	3 Shifts (8400 hrs)
1/16" leak	\$ 200	\$ 380	\$ 750
1/8" leak	\$ 800	\$ 1,520	\$ 2,990
1/4" leak	\$ 3,210	\$ 6,070	\$ 11,990
3/8" leak	\$ 7,230	\$ 13,650	\$ 26,980
1/2" leak	\$ 12,820	\$ 24,210	\$ 47,850

Average Ontario mine running 2 shifts may have:
 200 leaks that are 1/16" +
 50 leaks that are 1/8" +
 3 leaks that are 1/4" +
 1 leak that is 1/2" =

**\$194,420 wasted
 in one mine
 in one year
 through leaks**

If a piece of equipment (ex. an atomizer or air pump) that uses 500 SCFM of air is left on for 12 hours when no one is working, and the cost of electricity is 10 c/kWh, the annual cost is \$10,450.

**In a large mine with
 25 atomizers this would be
 \$261,250 wasted in one year**

**In a small mine with
 20 air pumps this would be
 \$209,000 wasted in one year.**

You can
 make a
 difference.
 Fix Leaks.
 Cut Costs.
 Save Energy.