



A COMPREHENSIVE CHECKLIST FOR INSPECTING AN INJECTION MOLDING MACHINE

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Purchasing an injection molding machine can be a large and costly up-front investment for your business—which is why you shouldn't do it blindly. It's important that you make the best possible decision and choose the injection molding machine that is truly aligned with your needs and budget.

So, it's essential to do the proper research and gather all the necessary information before making a final decision. If you don't and make a hasty purchase, it could end up causing major problems for your business later. For example, if you buy a used machine after being told it was high quality, but didn't take the time to do an inspection yourself, you could end up running into costly maintenance issues later that weren't exposed by the seller.

But how can you know what you should be looking for, and if you're really choosing the right piece of machinery for your business? This can be an overwhelming process—but we're here to help with an outline of the key information you need to gather before adding an injection molding machine to your fleet.



So go ahead—print out this guide, check things off as you go, and take notes that can be shared with other key decision-makers in your organization and referred to later! We hope this tool simplifies your research and selection process so you can find the injection molding machine you need to meet your business goals and production objectives. **Let's get started!**

Basic Information about the Injection Molding Machine

Start by jotting down basic information about the machine so you can refer back to it later and compare it against other options. What is the model number and serial number? What brand is it? When was it manufactured? What are the dimensions and weight of the injection molding machine?

Overall Appearance of the Injection Molding Machine

Conduct a visual inspection to check for cracks, rust, dents, scratches, or fluid leaks that will be identifiable by simply looking at the piece of injection molding machinery. Be sure to also check the condition of important parts, such as barrels and screws.

The Condition of the Environment in Which the Injection Molding Machine was Used

Don't forget to survey the environment and conditions in which the injection molding machine you're looking to buy is currently being used. Make sure the area is climate controlled, clean, and safe. If the machine is exposed to extremely hot or cold temperatures or being used in dirty, unsafe conditions that do not meet OSHA guidelines, it will likely result in maintenance and safety issues later on.

See the Injection Molding Machine Under Power In Person or Over Video

Ensure the injection molding machine is actually running and producing parts without making any funny noises. If you're an experienced injection molding machine operator, you likely know how a fully functioning machine should sound—so be sure to listen closely for anything abnormal that may indicate a repair is needed.

Electrical Parts and Capabilities

Check if there are any missing screws or disconnected wires. Check the voltage to make sure it will run properly in your current facility, as well as the amperage draw of the machine to determine what your power consumption and estimated electricity bill would be if using this piece of injection molding machinery.

Preventative Maintenance Schedule

Review the machinery's maintenance records, if they are available, to see if the previous owners had a preventative maintenance schedule in place. Were safety and maintenance checks conducted daily, weekly, monthly, annually, or not at all?

Updates Made to the Injection Molding Machine

Inquire if any upgrades have been made to the machinery. Have there been electronic updates, or was a new controller recently installed? If so, was it because there were chronic issues with a particular part of the machine, or was the update necessary after everyday wear and tear?

Availability of Spare Parts

Are replacement and spare parts for the particular piece of machinery easy to obtain? You want to have a clear idea of how difficult it will be to acquire spare parts in case a repair is needed later on. This way, you can avoid surprises and additional machinery downtime in the future.

Rigging Process/Cost

How easily will it be to remove the injection molding machine from its current location and move it into your plant or warehouse? Was the machine so big it had to be assembled on-site to fit through the door, and if so, is it possible to disassemble it without damage? Will it be able to fit through your existing dock doors once it arrives at your warehouse? Be sure to also consider what it would cost to dismantle, move, and reassemble the machine.

Availability and Shipping Process/Cost

When is the machinery available? Once the previous user is ready to give it to you, how long will it take to get there and how much will that cost? This is important because if you have a project that requires the machinery in two weeks and it won't even be available for three weeks or would take over a month to ship, that could cause a big issue.

Any Recurring Issues

Be sure to ask why the previous user is selling the machine. Were there specific issues that led them to get rid of it, or did they simply no longer have a need for the injection molding machinery?

Mechanical Functionality

Take an oil sample and check all filters, manifolds, and valves. Inquire about the age of the oil and all motors, plus how many hours of runtime and number of cycles the machine has endured. Additionally, check the condition of heater bands and all heating elements.

Materials Used and Quality of Products Molded

Ask what types of plastic material have run on the injection molding machine, as there are many different types that could be used during the injection molding process. Additionally, examine products molded by the machine to make sure there are no issues with final output quality.

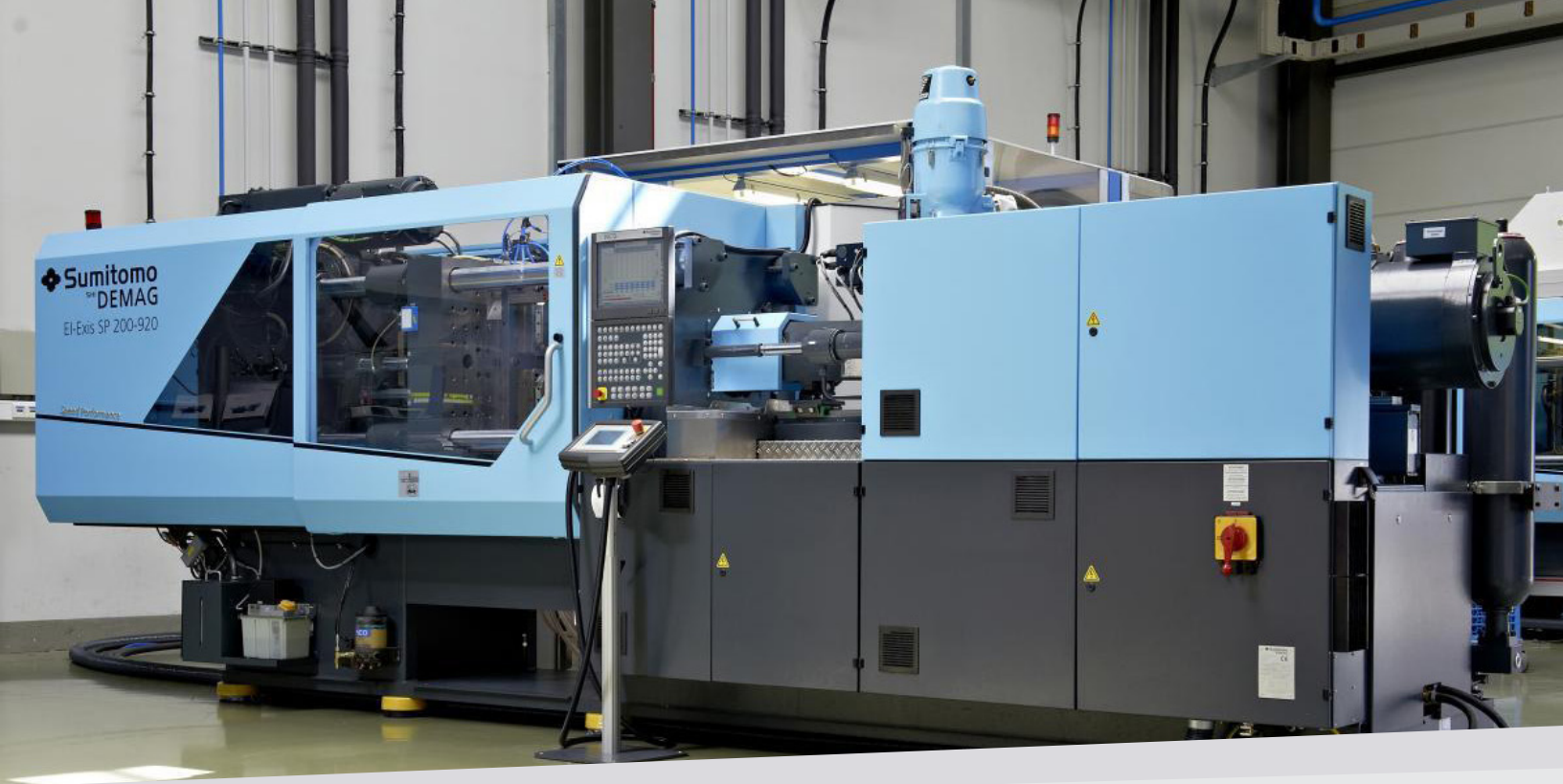
Photos and Videos

Remember to take photos and videos of the machine so you can refer back to them later. This way, if you go to pick up the machine in a few weeks and there are scratches or damages that were not there before, you have proof of its condition when you agreed to make the purchase.

Safety Features

What safety features is the machinery is equipped with? Ensure the safety of your employees operating the machine by making sure it meets your warehouse's safety standards, as well as OSHA guidelines. For more information on the safety features you should be looking for, refer to this standard safety checklist for horizontal injection molding machines.

There you have it—a step-by-step guide to what you should be looking for before purchasing an injection molding machine. Not only will this help you make a more well-informed decision, but having this information in writing and readily available to refer back to later can keep the seller accountable and everyone involved in the buying process on the same page.



If you need additional guidance throughout your injection molding machinery search, please reach out to one of our PlastiWin experts!

We offer more than 20 years of combined experience, outstanding service, and competitive prices to meet the needs of the all used processing equipment industries. We have a vast stock of used equipment and machinery for sale, and would love to help you find the piece of injection molding machinery that is right for your business!

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