

Demand Control

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Peak demands occur when a number of electrical systems and equipment are being used at the same time. A key to controlling demand is to identify deferrable loads in your business, ones that you can schedule at different times without affecting production. These become your primary targets for demand controls.

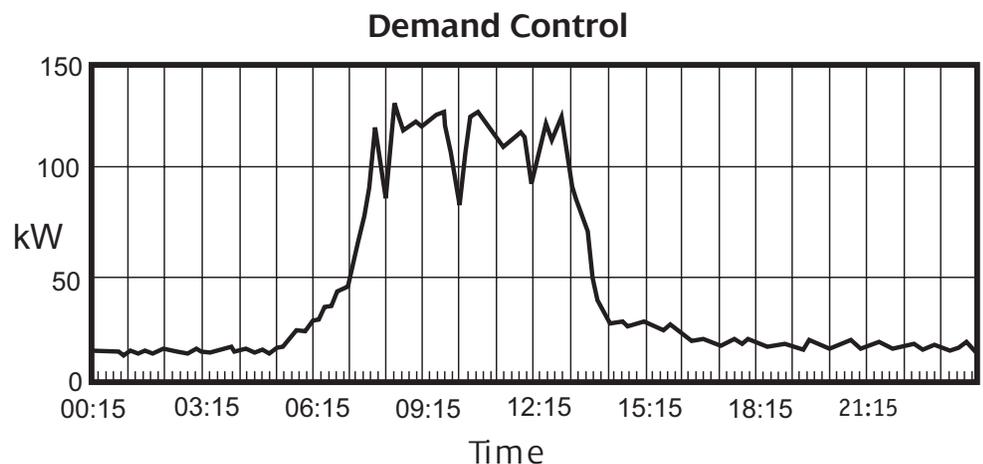
Review your business with these points in mind:

- Identify electrical equipment, which is not essential to production or could be used at different times of the day.
- Select equipment or systems that allow you to “store” materials or resources, such as water heaters that can heat enough water at night to provide you with hot water during the day, or a grinder which can stockpile materials for processing at a time when the majority of your other equipment is not in use.
- Turn off equipment when not in use.

The first step in controlling your demand is to understand what factors contribute to it.

- Pay careful attention to infrequent loads and try to schedule them at times when the rest of demand is low.
- Turn off major appliances and equipment, if you have a power outage that lasts more than five minutes. If all of your appliances, motors and equipment start to run at the same time, when the power is restored they will all register on the demand meter and could cause a demand peak.
- Stagger the use of equipment, such as compressor motors and electric heating, which is controlled with a thermostat. When turned on, this type of equipment runs until it achieves a certain level and then cycles, turning on and off as needed. Waiting to start some other equipment, until the first ones you turn on have cycled off, will help you levelize your demand.

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Weekly kW Demand Profile

Analyzing your demand profile can help identify expensive operating practices. For example, the weekly operation of waste removal equipment caused the demand spike late Thursday afternoon. By rescheduling this two-hour operation and using less horsepower for a longer time, the same work was done with substantial financial savings.

- When buying equipment, purchase the most energy efficient.
- When purchasing equipment or planning an expansion, recognize the impact on demand and take steps to minimize it.
- Review your demand periodically.
- Once you have reviewed your operation with these points in mind, determine what steps can be taken through revised operating schedules or manual procedures. Remember, manual procedures must be carefully followed each day to ensure equipment is operated in a manner that will maintain your reduced demand level.
- Techniques for reducing demand can range from simple scheduling changes to sophisticated Energy Management Systems (EMS). There is a range of Energy Management Systems (EMS) and services on the market today.

Keep this in mind if you decide automatic controllers are necessary to cycle your equipment. We strongly recommend that you carefully analyze your operation before investing in an EMS. A sampling of EMS's include:

- Timers that can turn equipment on and off on schedule
- Devices that sound an alarm so that a decision can be made about what action, if any, will be needed in order to avoid creating a new peak demand.
- Computer controllers that can automatically turn off equipment when the demand approaches a present peak level.
- Computer control systems, which maintain industrial boiler efficiency, can decide which fuel to burn, and control demand.

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