



Article

5 Reasons Why Spreadsheets Don't Work

Say Goodbye to Inefficient Solutions

Introduction

Let's take a moment and think of inventions that have outlived their efficiency to the point that they are barely used, if at all.

There are floppy disks, vacuum bags, transistor radios and analog phones—just to name a few. When we see or hear of someone who still uses any of these, we're surprised.

We might even chuckle a little or talk about how old-fashioned they are.

When someone opens a spreadsheet in your organisation to discuss health and safety, no one bats an eye.

Look around your office and you're likely to see someone using a spreadsheet right now to budget or track content.

Spreadsheets are so pervasive and have helped us in many ways with their automatic calculations and pivot tables that no one stops to think about how inefficient they can be for health and safety professionals.

This article covers five of the things spreadsheets can't do and shares why health and safety software is a more efficient choice.



01

Provide complete visibility over your health and safety programme

How much of your health and safety data is spread across multiple Excel files or even in paper documents?

How many versions of spreadsheets with that data are stored—and possibly changed—on employee hard drives?

You might not even know the answer to that question.

Spreadsheets are great for recording data or performing calculations, but they are not a good long-term solution for visibility into a health and safety programme.

Health and safety software on the other hand, makes critical health and safety information available in one central, secure place—so you have comprehensive visibility of your data, records and actions.

02

Create pixel-perfect visualizations that make identifying trends, tracking leading indicators and proactive interventions easy

Sure, you can create basic charts in a spreadsheet, but your options are limited to a few different types.

Because spreadsheets weren't designed to produce graphics, their pie charts, tables and scatter plots distort data to a certain extent.

In addition, they don't make the process easy. Many of us have spent way too much time struggling to get a z-axis to render correctly on a bar chart.

Health and safety software, by contrast, offers pixel-perfect visualisations that can tell your stories (think business intelligence visualisations).

With the right kind of visuals, you can understand your health and data. Not only that, but you can easily spot trends and patterns to help form proactive interventions and make more informed decisions about the future.



03

Update automatically

The spreadsheets everyone is discussing in a planning or reporting meeting are only good until the next data update. After that update, the odds that changes are made across all the other versions of your organisation's spreadsheets are slim.

Even if you trust your team to create new versions after each update, they can't do it in real time. By the time all the versions are changed, another modification might be needed.

It's a whole different ball game with health and safety software. Update one activity or record, and it is immediately tracked through to any others that the change might affect.

You also get dashboards that are updated in real time, so that everyone stays current on performance, trouble spots, activity progress, interventions and more.

04

Engage employees and senior management

Your employees have no access to real-time health and safety information related to their daily tasks when it comes to health and safety reports generated from historical data. Nor do spreadsheets give them a safety voice.

As for senior management, spreadsheets make it difficult for them to track your organisation's safety performance and hinders their ability to make recommendations based on their knowledge and experience.

Health and safety software enables employees to report incidents, even if they're on the go, and participate in tracking their progress.

Senior management gets unlimited access to performance so they, too, can participate in health and safety programme progress.



“

My favourite thing about spreadsheets is how easy they make it to engage with health and safety.

- Said no one in your organisation ever

05

Keep administration costs low

Excel spreadsheets are an administrative burden. Because they were designed for tracking and calculations on a single desktop, they are not easy to maintain.

They require people to re-enter or reconcile data, fix incorrect records, chase actions, search for information and update files.

Not only are these activities a waste of time for safety professionals—and time is money— but they also affect everyone from entry-level employees to the board.

Think about it: how can anyone follow through on a health and safety programme if they spend 80% of their time fixing spreadsheets?

Health and safety software removes these time-consuming and costly administration tasks and enables safety professionals to do what they do best.

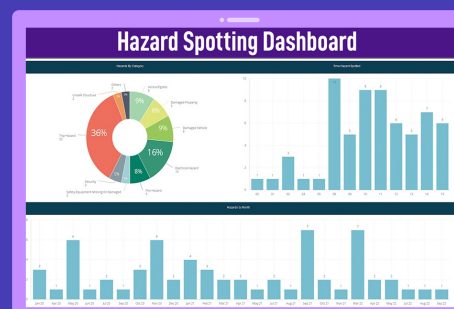
Software provides the time and tools to implement and monitor programmes that can proactively address possible issues.

This saves your organisation from bearing the costs of an incident going undetected.

Ready to say goodbye to inefficient spreadsheets?

Don't keep locking your EHS data away in Excel files. Book a demo to see first hand how you can streamline the way your organisation manages EHS.

[Book your demo](#)





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Let's chat

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Our Evotix team is passionate about applying market leading technology to create safer, smarter workplaces, partnering with organisations that value people's safety, communities and the planet.

As safety professionals and long-term leaders in the Verdantix EHS Green Quadrant, our deep and practical insight addresses your evolving needs, helping you achieve your health, safety and sustainability goals.

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partner for the journey.**

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