



Why do I need to change my engine oil?

According to automotive experts, regularly scheduled oil/filter changes are the single most important item for prolonging engine life. Most new vehicles have recommended oil/filter change intervals of 7,500 miles and some new vehicles have recommended oil change intervals of 11,000 to 15,000 miles under normal operating conditions, with “normal” operation described as the operation of the vehicle for at least 20 minutes at a medium speed, with a steady throttle and in a clean driving environment. Short hops to the store, stop-and-go rush hour driving, driving on dirt roads and inclement-weather operation are all considered severe operating conditions that can cause impurities to build up quickly in the oil, resulting in increased wear and tear on internal parts. That is why most owner’s manuals and mechanics recommend changing the oil and filter every three months or 3,000 miles (whichever comes first) to assure that maximum engine lubrication occurs while a minimum of impurities are suspended in the oil. To find out what the recommended oil change frequency is for your vehicle, check your owner’s manual or talk with your automotive service professional.

How can I tell the condition of my engine coolant /antifreeze?

It is impossible to determine the condition of the coolant in the radiator just by looking at it. Coolant, a mixture of ethylene glycol and water, breaks down with age, picks up contaminants that cause sludge, and becomes acidic. When this happens, it can cause corrosion within the radiator and cooling passages of the engine. To determine its condition, coolant must be tested with a coolant hydrometer that determines what its freeze-point protection is. Coolant is an environmentally hazardous substance. It pollutes the water table and is poisonous to people and animals and therefore must be disposed of as a hazardous waste. Your mechanic/quick lube has special tools and procedures for testing and changing coolant.

What is synthetic oil and what benefits will I get from using it?

Synthetic motor oils are fuel efficient, extended life lubricants manufactured from select base stocks and special purpose additives. Synthetic oil base stocks are made from organic compounds or synthetic hydrocarbons using a process that re-arranges the structure so all the molecules are uniform in size, shape and weight, a phenomenon that does not occur in nature. Because a synthetic oil’s molecules are much more consistent in size and shape, they are better able to withstand extreme engine temperatures. By contrast, the unstable molecules in conventional oil can easily vaporize or oxidize in extreme heat. Mobil 1 synthetic is said to be capable of protecting engines “at well over 400 degrees F”. Because a synthetic oil is chemically produced, there are no contaminants in the oil. By contrast, conventional oils contain small amounts of sulfur, wax, and asphaltic material that can promote detonation as well as varnish and sludge buildup. With no wax, synthetics will flow at much lower temperatures than conventional oils. Using synthetic oil improves your vehicles horsepower, torque, fuel economy and offers better protection to the internal parts of your motor. Extended drain intervals, up to 5,000 miles, can be used with synthetic oil.

How often should I change my wiper blades?

For vehicles parked inside, car care experts recommend that the wiper blades be replaced at least once a year or when they start streaking or making noise during use—whichever one comes first. On vehicles kept outside or in areas where wipers receive excessive use, changing the blades two or even three times a year is recommended for clear vision. TIP—Be sure to clear all snow and ice off your windshield and away from wiper blades before turning them on to help prolong their life.

How often should I have my tires rotated?

Tires should be rotated every 6,000 to 9,000 miles or every two to three oil changes. Doing this will give you optimal life on your tires.

What is the function of a micron cabin air filter?

A micron cabin air filter is used to filter out the air that comes from the vents of the vehicle. If your vehicle is equipped, every time you turn on the heat or air conditioning, air is sucked through the cabin air filter to catch dirty particles such as dust, mold and many other dirty allergens’. Manufacturer’s recommend these filters to be replaced every 20,000 miles or as needed.

Why should I have my fuel injectors cleaned out every 15,000 miles?

With today’s precision, close-tolerance engines are prone to fuel system deposits that can lead to poor performance and expensive repairs. Rough idling, misfiring, engine run-on and knocking and pinging are all symptoms of gum, varnish and hard carbon deposits in your fuel system.

Performing this service when recommended can restore performance, fuel economy and lower your vehicles emissions.