



MOTOR OIL MYTHS

MYTH: *ONCE YOU SWITCH TO SYNTHETIC OIL, YOU CAN NEVER SWITCH BACK.*

This is one of the most persistent myths about synthetic oil—and completely untrue. You can switch back and forth at any time. In fact, synthetic blends are simply a mixture of synthetic and conventional oils. However, synthetic oil provides the best performance for your vehicle's engine, especially at high engine temperatures.

MYTH: *IF YOU USE SYNTHETIC OIL, YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR OIL LESS FREQUENTLY.*

Oil drain interval recommendations are set by the engine manufacturer. The point of using high-quality synthetic oil is to take better care of the engine over the entire oil drain interval, reduce deposit formation and bring back engine performance.

MYTH: *YOU SHOULDN'T USE SYNTHETIC OIL IN AN OLDER VEHICLE.*

This myth is rooted in the idea that synthetic oil is "slipperier" (lower in viscosity), or not as compatible with seals, and will therefore leak or leak more in places conventional oil might not. Again, completely untrue. Synthetic oils will enhance the engine protection in older vehicles, just as they do for new engines. Always follow the engine oil specification recommended in the owner's manual.

MYTH: *YOU NEED A THICKER MOTOR OIL FOR EXTRA WEAR PROTECTION.*

This is one of the most common car care myths out there. First off, it is the antiwear additives (ZDDP or "zinc") in the motor oil formulation that provide wear protection, not the motor oil viscosity grade. Using a motor oil that is too thick may decrease engine efficiency. Many modern and newer vehicle engines are built with tighter tolerances and recommend lower viscosity grades for better performance and improved fuel economy.

MYTH: *IF YOUR OIL IS BLACK THEN YOU DEFINITELY HAVE TO CHANGE IT.*

The main reason that motor oil darkens is due to oxidation, which happens much more rapidly when the motor oil is exposed to high engine temperatures. Motor oil also darkens as it absorbs by-products from combustion. This means your motor oil is doing its job! Always follow the vehicle manufacturer's recommended oil change interval.

MYTH: SYNTHETIC OIL IS SLIPPERIER AND CAUSES YOUR ENGINE TO LEAK.

Some drivers believe that synthetic motor oil causes your engine to leak because it is slipperier—this is FALSE! Slipperiness has to do with the motor oil viscosity grade, regardless of type. Synthetic oil will NOT cause your engine to leak. Synthetic motor oil actually provides better protection for your engine at extreme temperatures. Always follow the vehicle manufacturer's recommendation for engine oil.

MYTH: HIGH MILEAGE ENGINES JUST NEED THICKER OIL TO REDUCE LEAKS.

FALSE. High mileage motor oils are specifically formulated for older engines to help reduce oil consumption and contain seal swell additives to help reduce leaks. Always follow the vehicle owner's manual for the correct viscosity grade.

MYTH: YOU NEED TO USE THICKER MOTOR OIL WHEN IT'S HOT OUTSIDE.

FALSE. Always follow the OEM recommendation regardless of the outside temperature. Remember, engines operate MUCH HOTTER than any summer day! Using motor oil that is too thick may decrease engine efficiency and fuel economy.

FAQ: WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF HIGH MILEAGE MOTOR OIL?

High mileage motor oil is specifically designed for engines with over 75,000 miles. High mileage motor oil contains seal swell additives to help prevent and reduce leaks in older engines. Full synthetic high mileage motor oil can also help reduce oil consumption in older engines as well as boosted antiwear additives to reduce or prevent future wear.

FAQ: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CONVENTIONAL AND SYNTHETIC OIL?

Conventional oil has only been refined from crude oil. Synthetic oil has gone through additional chemically engineered processes, or it has been engineered from natural gas. Synthetic oil molecules are more uniform in shape and size with fewer impurities and better properties. In general, synthetic motor oil provides better high temperature performance and better cold temperature performance. You need synthetic base oil in order to formulate any SAE 0W-XX viscosity grade. Synthetic motor oils are also generally formulated with higher-performing additives than conventional oils. Drivers of both older and new vehicles can benefit from choosing synthetic motor oil to maximize the performance and longevity of their vehicles.