



Why Is It More Important to Frequently Check Your Engine Oil on Today's Vehicles?

Did you know that it is not uncommon for your engine oil temperature to be hotter than your engine coolant?

Typically, your engine coolant will average 190–210° F, while your engine oil temperature may average 220°–240°F.

Therefore, aside from the normal oil vaporization that takes place, let's talk about the essential purpose of the engine oil:

All engines require oil to lubricate and protect the load bearings and internal moving parts from wear, including cylinder walls, pistons and piston rings. When a piston moves down in its cylinder, a thin film of oil is left on the cylinder wall. During the power stroke, part of this oil is consumed in the combustion process. As a result, varying rates of oil consumption are accepted as normal in all engines.

The often accepted rate of oil consumption for today's engines (passenger cars and l/d trucks under 8,500 GVW) can be in the range of 1 quart within 2,000 miles on a properly driven and maintained vehicle.

However, there are many other variables, such as driving habits and load conditions. So don't think you need to check your oil every 2,000 miles. In fact, every fuel fill is recommended. (And only add oil with the starburst symbol.)

Why today, but not in the recent past? Oil change intervals have changed as a result of GM's technological leadership and encouragement to reduce hazardous waste. Nearly all GM vehicles produced today are equipped with the GM-patented Oil Life Monitoring System. This GM technology allows the vehicle to alert the driver when an oil service is needed within two fuel tank fills. This range, which is based upon driving habits and vehicle usage as well as temperatures, can be from 2,000 miles to 12,000 or more miles (max. annually).

Therefore, in the past you may have had your vehicle serviced at 3,000 or 4,000 miles, and if your vehicle consumed 1 quart at 2000 miles, chances are you remedied the low oil level by the scheduled oil change service. Do the math! Today, with extended intervals, you could be down 3 quarts of oil in a 5 quart capacity in 6,000 miles or even more.

Protect your employers' investment. Have the engine oil checked at every fuel fill to avoid possible costly major engine repairs, as well as to help reduce unnecessary hazardous waste.