



When Should I Have My Engine Oil Changed?

Doesn't sound like a complicated question! Or have some made it out to be? Your maintenance service provider may say every 3,000 miles, your fleet management literature might say every 5,000. Advertisement campaigns by major oil companies are promoting 7,500, or even 15,000. Yes, it can become complicated!

Upwards of 95% of GM vehicles manufactured in the last five to seven years are equipped with an onboard computer system that lets you know when to change the engine oil and filter. This patterned technology is based on a complex algorithm, including key factors such as engine revolutions, engine temperatures, driving conditions, vehicle specifications and high-quality motor oils (starburst symbol designations).

Mileage is not part of the equation. Therefore, when the system has calculated that oil life has been diminished, it will indicate that an oil change is necessary. The actual accumulated mileage on your vehicle can vary considerably. This can occur at 3,000 miles or less, or as high as 10,000 or more.

When change is necessary, a CHANGE ENGINE OIL SOON message will appear on the instrument cluster. Change your oil as soon as possible, within the next 600 miles (1,000 km). It is possible that if you are driving under the best conditions, the oil life system may not indicate that an oil change is necessary for over a year. However, your engine oil and filter must be changed at least once annually.

Also, please note that for the oil life system to work properly, you must reset the system every time the oil is changed. Refer to your Owner's Manual to determine the correct procedure for your vehicle.

If the system is ever reset accidentally, you must change your oil at 3,000 miles (5,000 km) since your last oil change.

Because of potential extended oil change intervals, it is very important to check your oil regularly and keep it at the proper level.