

How to choose the right motor oil: Just the facts, no friction

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Many people don't know how to select motor oil that will help them get optimum performance out of their car. People often just select the oil their father used, or they may take the suggestion of a counter person at an auto parts store who may not know any more about cars than they do. Things can get even more confusing because of ads that use slogans like "formulated for stop and go driving." One would certainly hope that the motor oil they chose could handle the rudimentary challenge of keeping a car running that had a tendency to stop and go. There are meaningful differences in motor oils and choosing the right one can have a major impact on how well your car runs. Selecting the right oil is often the quickest and cheapest way to improve your car's performance and reliability. Two components determine how well motor oil will perform in your car. One factor is the base oil, and the other is the combination of chemicals (additives) that are added to the base oil. Base oils The two primary types of base oils used are mineral and synthetic. Mineral oils are by-products of refined crude oil. Refining helps to reduce the impurities but leaves molecules of all shapes and sizes. Synthetic oils are manmade compounds whose molecules are all the same size and shape; consequently, synthetic oil has less friction and performs significantly better than mineral oils. There's been sizable growth in the use of synthetic oils over the years. In fact, synthetic oils are often what the factory uses in many new performance and luxury cars. Additives Regardless of the base oil used, chemicals must be added to give motor oil the characteristics needed to do its job. Typical additives that may be added to base oil include detergents to reduce the formation of residue, defoamants to deter absorption of air, anti-wear agents, antioxidants and others. Although additives are typically only 15 to 25 percent of motor oil, they can impact a lubricant's performance much more than the base oil. For instance, mineral based motor oil with a very good additive package can easily outperform synthetic motor oil with a mediocre additive package. There is no easy way for a consumer to determine the quality of motor oil's additive package. Price is often an indicator of quality since the more advanced additives cost more to produce. Performance is the ultimate measure of additive package quality. Advances in lubrication Some of the biggest technological advances in lubrication are now coming through advancements in chemical additives. These breakthroughs have been developed by a handful of companies that specialize in high-performance lubricants, as opposed to major oil companies whose primary focus is refining and selling crude oil by-products like gasoline and other fuels. One high-performance lubricant company, Royal Purple, has developed lubricants that outperform both leading mineral oils and other synthetics. Their oil has been proven in numerous independent tests to dramatically reduce engine wear, increase horsepower and torque, and reduce fuel consumption and emissions. Cars using their oils can also go further between oil changes, saving the owner time and money, and reducing the impact on the environment. Their oils are commonly used by professional racers. Additionally, in an annual competition among America's top engine builders, seven out of eight chose Royal Purple for their engines. Their products are available exclusively through select auto parts stores and service centers. What to choose The easiest way to select motor oil is to follow the good, better, best model: * Good -- Mineral-based (regular) motor oils. These are the cheapest and most widely available oils. They typically use standard additive packages that provide minimum levels of performance and protection. * Better -- Synthetic motor oils. These man-made oils are more expensive than mineral-based oils but are still widely available. Their performance advantages come predominantly from the synthetic base oil used. They have a longer service life and offer some improvements in protection. They typically use the same additive packages found in mineral-based oils. * Best -- High-performance synthetic motor oils. These motor oils are the most technologically advanced oils. Although they significantly outperform mineral based or synthetic motor oils, they are about the same price as standard synthetic motor oil. They are typically only available through auto parts stores and select oil change centers. These oils primarily differ in their use of more advanced, proprietary additive technologies. Still confused? For a used car with little life left in it, stick with the cheap mineral-based motor oil. For a car you plan to keep for a few years and want to get a little better performance from, you should at least upgrade to synthetic motor oil. To get the most performance out of your car, truck or RV, or to protect a vehicle you really care about and want to last, upgrade to a high performance motor oil. To get more information about their products and find select auto parts stores near you go to www.royalpurple.com.

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