



Changing Oils; Changing Drain Intervals

The automotive industry is finally recognizing the consumer benefits of utilizing 'extended drain intervals' which have long been promoted by Amsoil.

([PRWEB](#)) November 24, 2004 -- Many motorists today are confused.

For several years General Motors, BMW and Mercedes-Benz have been installing monitors on their dashboards that light up to indicate when it's time to change oil. GM monitors have frequently allowed motorists to drive 5,000 miles and as much as 7,000 miles or more before signaling that it's time to change oil. The Mercedes-Benz service system indicates 10,000- to 20,000-mile oil change intervals.

Naturally, this flies in the face of the 3,000-mile drain recommendation.

What's a Car Owner to Do?

Petroleum oil companies have insisted their oil needs to be changed every 3,000 miles, even for vehicles with the dashboard light. But the world's largest automaker, General Motors, states that oil change intervals should not be based on miles driven, but rather on driving style. In a feature story titled "Supersize Me! GM moves to extend drain intervals;" (May 2004 Lubes N Greases, vol.10 issue 5) David McFall unveils the latest move in GM's strategic plan to cut loose drain intervals.

The GM solution is for motorists to depend on its patented Oil Life System (OLS). The owner's manuals in today's GM fleet no longer make specific mileage recommendations. Instead, the GM Oil Life System analyzes the engine's operational data including temperature, revolutions, speed, to calculate the rate of engine oil degradation and determine when an oil is nearing the end of its life. At this point a message on the dashboard signals that it is time to change oil.

Each OLS computer model is engine-specific because GM believes each engine behaves differently under the various driving situations and conditions. For this reason GM is on record as stating there can be no standard oil change interval. Both cars and driving styles vary. The OLS allegedly calculates all factors pertaining to the engine and the driver and thereby makes its oil change recommendations.

GM senior project engineer Robert Stockwell has been studying analyzed oil samples from vehicles with OLS.

"In all cases where the OLS signaled for an oil change it was before the oil was worn out," according to Stockwell. 'Many of these samples were from vehicles with greater than 10,000 miles on the oil, a few with more than 14,000 miles and at least one with 16,000 miles. These intervals were recorded in vehicles using regular mineral oil. Synthetic oil gets even longer oil change intervals.'

AMSOIL XL motor oils are formulated for 7,500 miles or six months of service. If the light doesn't come on by then, customers can choose to change the oil and filter or keep going until the change oil light comes on. AMSOIL XL motor oil is a premium oil that is fully capable of meeting the needs of GM cars in accordance with their recommendations. Customers can always feel safe using the XL motor oil until the light comes on.

Let There Be Light

The theme of extended oil service life with AMSOIL synthetic motor oils has been a feature of the company



from the beginning.

Despite the clear environmental benefits of extending drain intervals, the major oil companies continue to send the message of regular, frequent oil changes to consumers and the mechanics who service their vehicles. Millions, if not billions, of dollars have been spent on advertising and training to reinforce this "change your oil every 3,000 miles" mantra.

In recent years, industry analysts, who have questioned the 3,000-mile oil change, have begun to speak out against them.

GM has unshackled its oil change indicator and soon there will be 24 million cars on the road relying on the Oil Life System.

AMSOIL still Leads the Way

As extended drain intervals and environmental benefits of those extended drains become widely accepted, the AMSOIL message will become increasingly mainstream and the 3,000-mile drain interval message will be further eroded. Eventually every automaker will be under pressure to follow suit, not only for environmental reasons but because consumers are busier than ever and frequent oil changes have always been a hassle.

AMSOIL INC. coined the phrase "extended drain intervals" in 1972. Today, AMSOIL offers a complete line of extended drain motor oils, all formulated with the industry's finest synthetic base stocks and premium long-life additive packages. AMSOIL motor oils last longer and protect engines better than conventional petroleum oils.

For more information on the Amsoil product line for personal or business applications, you can contact Amsoil Independent Dealer

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