



Fluid Diet for Your vehicle

Today's high tech vehicles require maintenance, as always, in fact one of the most important things to do in the way of preventative maintenance is to change your engine oil regularly. Even in this day of extended drain intervals, it is incredibly important to remove contaminated and depleted oil and replacing it with new on a regular basis. There are many different oils on the market and oil is oil is it not? Wrong, today's engines have a thirst for exactly the right kind of oil, based on engine design and application. Selecting the right oil for your vehicle was always important, but was a lot simpler when there were only a few viscosities (how readily the oil flows at cold temperatures) to choose from. Now it really requires a professional's guidance to make sure the correct oil is used.

Most, new engines require a multi-grade 5W30 for general driving in our Canadian climate. These oils are lighter and thinner, with a range of additives to reduce friction, improve fuel economy, and enhance fluidity. They will reach upper engine components quicker on cold start up as they flow better in bitter cold temperatures.

In recent years we have seen the introduction of a whole new range of oils for high-mileage vehicles, SUV's, 4X4's and pickup trucks. This is not just a matter of marketing, as some vehicles do experience unique problems, which can be addressed by special formulations of oil. For example, in older vehicles oil molecules tend to break down more quickly rendering them less able to lubricate. Engine seals and gaskets may also be deteriorating and allow oil leakage, resulting in oil consumption. Motor oils specifically formulated for the fleet of older growing vehicles on the road address these concerns and offer protection that regular oils cannot match. Certain late model vehicles specify a synthetic spec engine oil to maintain their factory warranty. If your vehicle has a turbo or supercharged engine, a high performance or high output engine, if it's used for towing or operates in extremely hot or cold temperatures, then synthetic oil is the way to go.

It is very important to read your owners manual to be sure your engine is getting the correct oil installed. For example, some new model Fords use 5W20. Do not let anyone tell you their oil is universal as there are documented cases of engine failures due to use of non specified oil and warranty claims have been denied.

In closing this article, one must also remember all the other vehicle fluids, for transmission, power steering, differential, transfer-case, brakes and cooling system, also require service, but at less frequent intervals. Always check your owner's manual for manufacturer's recommendations. If you have any questions about vehicle maintenance please feel free to contact our service department.

April 2006.