



Get The Good Stuff.



NAPA Know How

OIL CHANGE

Plan to change your oil every 3,000-5000 miles or every 3 months.

Things you'll need from your garage or your local NAPA store:

- Ratchet or open end wrench
- Oil filter wrench
- Oil catch/recycle container
- Funnel
- New oil filter
- 4-5 quarts new oil
- Clean rag
- Car jack
- Jack stands

STEP 1

Gather the items listed above to change your oil. If you plan to change your oil regularly, you may want to consider investing in jack stands, a socket set and an oil drain pan.

STEP 2

Park your car on a level surface. Apply the parking brake. Run your car's engine for approximately 5 minutes before you drain the oil. Warm oil drains faster than cold oil. Do not drain oil that is at full operating temperature.

STEP 3

Jack up your car and place it on jack stands. Relying on just a jack to hold up your car can be dangerous. The placement of a jack stand is as equally important as where to place a jack. Putting the full weight of the car on a jack stand on the wrong spot could damage suspension or body parts.

STEP 4

Locate the oil drain plug on the underside of the engine, usually near the front center of the engine. Check your owner's manual for the exact location. Place the oil drain pan under the plug and loosen the plug with a ratchet or open end wrench. Make sure that the drain pan is large enough to hold 4-5 quarts of oil. The oil will often drain at an angle, so make sure your pan is positioned to catch it.

STEP 5

Remove the plug by hand. While unscrewing the plug, push the plug back towards the pan. This prevents oil from rushing out until you are ready to remove the plug from the hole.

STEP 6

Put the plug to the side and let the oil drain into the pan. While the oil is draining, remove the filter cap located on the top of the engine. See your owner's manual for exact location. This allows air to enter from the top to speed the draining process. Allow the oil to drain until it stops or reduces to a slow drop. If the drain plug is not at the lowest point with your car on jack stands, remove the jack stands and let the oil finish draining. Once the oil has finished draining, you will need to jack the car up again if you let it down.

STEP 7

Put the oil plug back in the drain hole and tighten by hand. This will ensure that the plug is not cross-threaded. Once the plug is tight, finish tightening with your ratchet or open end wrench. Always use a new drain plug gasket and never over-tighten the drain plug. This could lead to striped threads in the oil pan.

STEP 8

Locate the existing oil filter. Position the oil pan underneath the filter to catch any remaining oil. Use an adjustable oil filter wrench to unscrew the old oil filter. Once the filter is removed, use a rag to clean the mounting surface in preparation for the new filter. Make sure that the sealing o-ring from the old filter is not stuck to the mounting surface on the engine.

STEP 9

Lightly coat the rubber seal of the new filter with fresh oil. Screw the new filter into place by hand. It's usually not necessary to tighten the oil filter with the wrench. Once the filter is installed, lower the car.

STEP 10

Place the funnel in the oil fill opening on the top of the engine and pour in the new oil. Typically, you will use 4 to 5 quarts of oil. Check your manual for the correct oil capacity. Pour in about three-quarters of the engine's oil capacity and replace the cap when you're finished. Often there is still oil in the engine after draining and you do not want to overfill.

STEP 11

Run the engine for a few minutes, then check the dipstick. Add more oil if necessary.

STEP 12

Check the area around the oil drain plug and the filter for oil leaks. Tighten the plug or oil filter if you find leakage.

STEP 13

Dispose the used oil properly: either bring it to a recycling center or a NAPA AUTO PARTS store to recycle it for you. Don't pour it down the sewer!

Important Tips:

- Read your owner's manual or see your local NAPA store specialists to find out the weight of oil and type of oil filter your car needs exactly.
- You'll need the year, make, model and mileage of your car if you go to NAPA AUTO PARTS.
- Make sure the car is securely supported. You will need two jack stands to support the front of your car after jacking it up.
- Record the date and mileage after you change the oil so you will know when your car is due for another oil change. It helps to put a small sticker on your windshield to remind you.
- Handle hot motor oil with extreme caution.
- Only dispose of used motor oil and filters at authorized locations.