



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

What are the benefits of using the correct oil?

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Most vehicle manufacturers will give a recommendation for the type of oil and what specification is required by that vehicle to operate at its optimum performance and economy levels. Some will even go as far as putting an approval process in place to try and ensure that the correct lubricants and coolants are used in the vehicle. Therefore finding the correct lubricant for that particular vehicle is paramount in terms of –

- 1) Meeting the vehicle manufacturers warranty requirements
- 2) Ensuring the vehicle performs as expected
- 3) Ensuring the vehicle meets fuel economy as stated
- 4) Making the vehicle meet the environmental standards required.
- 5) Making the vehicle meet safety standard requirements
- 6) Ensuring the longevity of the vehicles drivetrain components

Engine oil is Engine oil!

Wrong, engine oils vary greatly between specifications, viscosity, base oil types, additives used and performance levels. Gone are the days when only a couple of grades were available.

Why can't I use the product on special at the auto store?

There is nothing stopping anyone from obtaining a bargain, as long as the product on special meets with the requirements specified for that particular vehicle by the manufacturer. So using a mineral based 20W-50 engine oil in a vehicle that requires a 5W-30 full synthetic oil is false economy and detrimental to the engine.

Why are there so many different types of engine oil?

Vehicle manufacturers are always looking for ways to improve their vehicles, whether it be economy, emissions, longevity, performance or a combination of all of these. Hence they require a wide and varied range of technologies to achieve these goals. Lubricants are an important part of all these areas and have become more sophisticated to ensure that they meet with the vehicle manufacturers requirements as specified for each vehicle in their range. Items such as DPFs (diesel particulate filters) have become the norm with diesel powered vehicles and require special low ash lubricants to perform at their optimum levels. Using the wrong products in vehicles such as these can cause catastrophic and expensive failures to equipment. At Penrite, we recommend the "Right Oil for the Right Application", so our range covers many different manufacturers requirements including OEM approved products where needed.

Will using the wrong oil hurt my vehicle?

Yes, using the wrong specification of oil can be a big detriment to the performance and longevity of an engine. Engine tolerances have improved considerably over the past 20 years and most modern engines are designed to run on cleaner, fuel efficient, lower viscosity engine oils whereas older motors require oils with different properties such as higher viscosities to protect them. Another problem with using lower specification oil in a modern engine is that the older specifications were not designed to cope with the extended service intervals of modern engines. Using the wrong specification of oil can lead to increased wear, poor fuel economy, less power, increased piston deposits, sludge formation and internal failure or blockages of oil galleries leading to engine expiry.

Do I need to add anything to my oil to make it better?

Penrite oils are formulated to perform for the applications for which they were intended. If this means that the oil needs a certain percentage of a particular additive it will already be in the oil. Putting additives into modern day engine oils can upset the balance of properties of the oil and actually detract from its performance for its intended function. Hence we do not recommend additives be added to our oils. Another reason not to use additives would be that once added to the oil, all warranties and OEM approvals for that oil are wiped as the oil properties have been changed.

How do I find out what is the right specification is for my vehicle?

The easiest way to find out is to look in the vehicle owners handbook and see what the manufacturer recommends for that vehicle. Alternatively, you can use either the Penrite recommendation guide from our web page or download either an Android or I-Phone App. to your mobile device. The web or mobile guide will supply you with the correct specification of oil for your vehicle.

Can I top up my vehicle with any type of oil?

We highly recommend topping up with the recommended specification of oil. This ensures compatibility with the existing oil and meets the performance criteria required by the vehicle.



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Why is there such a difference in price from low viscosity modern oils to older specification, higher viscosity oils?

The difference is in the cost of the base oil and the additives packs used in each product. Modern late specification engine oils complying with the latest **API** (American Petroleum Institute), **ACEA** (Association des Constructeurs Europeens de l'Automobile), **JASO** (Japanese Automotive Standards Organisation) and **ILSAC** (International Lubricants Standardisation & Approval Committee) are more expensive to manufacture than earlier specification engine oils.

Base oils for newer modern engine oils tend to be either synthetic based or semi synthetic which costs more to produce than mineral based products. The additive packs and VI improvers used in modern oils are also more expensive to manufacture. They use the latest technologies that provide increased levels of performance over older type additive packs.

Why is Penrite more expensive than some other brands?

Penrite oils are blended here in Australia with premium base oils and additives supplied from the world's leading oil and additive suppliers. We only use the highest quality ingredients that will meet and exceed manufacturers requirements which is why selected Penrite oils carry OEM approvals from the worlds premium vehicle manufacturers such as Mercedes Benz, BMW, VW, General Motors, Porsche, Cummins, Mack, Renault, MAN, Volvo, Detroit Diesel and the NMMA. Cheaper oils do not carry these OEM approvals. Penrite also provide 7 day a week technical assistance for our customers, lube stickers on the bottles, a comprehensive web page with product information, company information, MSDS availability, product recommendation guides, touch screens, mobile apps. technical training and personalised instore service as part of their package. This makes Penrite even better value than most other brands.

If my vehicle has done high kilometres and is burning a little bit of oil. Should I use a thicker oil in place of the normal specification?

This is a common practice to slow oil burning. Manufacturers generally supply a working viscosity range based upon climate of a particular region. In many vehicles this practice is still used to extend the life of the engine. In some vehicles though, this is not an option as the vehicle has particular specification requirements that may only be available in one viscosity. In these cases, we would recommend filling with the specified fluid even if it is burning a little oil. This is particularly important for vehicles fitted with diesel particulate filters or those that require a lower viscosity oil to operate fuel pumps or cylinder de-activation. Again, it is worth checking the Penrite lubrication guide as we will give options where this is possible.

My car is relatively new and the dealer has advised me that I have to use their oil otherwise I will void the warranty on my vehicle. Is this true?

This type of statement breaches Australian Consumer Law and dealers can be reported to the ACCC for suggesting that their oil is the only option for your vehicle. As long as the oil used meets with the OEM specification required by the manufacturer, is fit for service and work on the vehicle is carried out by a professional automotive repairer, then all warranties in relation to the vehicle manufacturers warranty must be met. If owners need further information, this can be found at - <https://www.accc.gov.au/>

Why do you have 3 recommendations on your guide for some vehicles and only 1 for others?

Some vehicles could potentially more than 6 different products depending on what the manufacturer specifies for the vehicle. Other manufacturers may demand an OEM approved product at a particular specification where we will only recommend the approved product.

At Penrite we believe in providing **"The Right Oil for the Right Application"**. To find the correct product for your vehicle, [Click Here](#) to visit the Penrite Recommendation Guide, which will ensure you receive the correct oil for your application.



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