



Napa Modern Auto & Truck Parts

Conventional Vs. Synthetic Oil

When it comes to getting an oil change, you've probably had to decide between synthetic or conventional oil for your vehicle. With the higher cost of synthetic oil, we would assume that synthetic oil is better for the engine and components, which would be correct. However, are you aware of the differences between synthetic and conventional?

Conventional

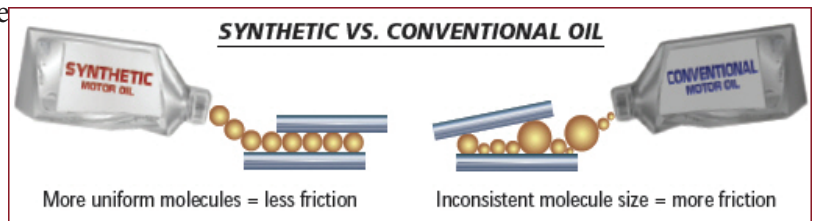
Conventional oil is a lubricant that is derived from crude oil. Base oils and chemical additives are blended together to meet the needs of an engine. The properties of conventional oil allow it to provide lubrication at high temperatures, as well as maintain long term stability. Conventional oil provides the perfect oil for older vehicles.

Benefits:

- Low cost
- Better for break-in period for brand new vehicle
- High viscosity

Disadvantages:

- Short life duration
- Deposits on the engine
- Less protection at high temperatures



Synthetic

Synthetic oil is derived from conventional oil but is modified to improve its protective and lubricant properties. The oil is distilled, purified, and broken down into its basic molecules. This process allows individual molecules to fit the needs of modern engines by removing more impurities from the crude oil. A variety of high performance additives are used to protect against heat build-up, enhance engine durability, and help clean engines of deposits.

Benefits:

- Improved lubrication
- Better stability
- Reduced oil breakdown, resulting in oil changes less frequently
- Fewer deposits on the engine
- Better protection at high temperatures
- Cleaner engine
- Flow easier in cold weather
- Better fuel economy
- Longer interval between oil changes



Disadvantages:

- High cost
- Does not hold lead in the suspension of the oil, which causes problems with older vehicles that are lead based
- Less friction than conventional, which is not good for the break-in period of a new vehicle
- Not compatible with rotary type engines

Synthetic-blend

Along with synthetic and conventional oils, there is also a synthetic blend which is a mix of conventional and synthetic oil. Chances are if you own a relatively new vehicle, you've probably had synthetic-blend oil in your vehicle. As you would expect, synthetic-blend oil is priced between conventional and synthetic oil and performs better than conventional but not as well as synthetic.

Conclusion

Although synthetic oil is better for your engine, conventional oil will do the job. It is important to check your owner's manual before changing your oil, as some vehicles require synthetic oil. For old vehicles, conventional oil is best to use as that is what the engine is used to, unless the car has already been run with synthetic oil. Newer vehicles should typically run on either synthetic or synthetic blend oil.

Conventional Oil vs. Synthetic Oil

WHICH ONE IS BETTER?

Conventional Oil	Synthetic Oil
■ Cost of 5 quarts = \$28	■ Cost of 5 quarts = \$45
■ Average oil-change cost* = \$38	■ Average oil-change cost* = \$70

Synthetic oil outperformed conventional oils by 47% in AAA's tests.
Better Performance = Better Engine Protection



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