

## DID YOU KNOW?



# OIL CONSUMPTION

**In the days of full service gas stations, attendants would check oil levels at every fill up and advise as to whether your engine needed oil. Now the responsibility falls on us to check our oil level at regular intervals, which many of us don't do.**

When we're not consistently checking oil—recommended every 1,000 miles or so—we may not notice a loss until it is significant. With newer cars, and no obvious leakage, the phenomenon of engines “consuming” quantities of oil, or burning it off as they operate, has become a growing concern for car owners.

Although it was normal for engines to consume oil especially as they aged, oil consumption issues improved over time and generally were gone by the early 2000's. Oil consumption issues began to resurface as fuel economy standards have become more stringent. Manufacturers began making trade-offs in engine design that improved fuel efficiency, but in some cases had a negative effect on oil consumption. Compounding this issue, each manufacturer decides what is an acceptable level of oil consumption for their vehicles.

### HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

A common question we see is how to tell when oil consumption becomes excessive? Since a few factors could be involved, here are some of the potential implications.

First, because of wear, vehicles are more likely to consume engine oil as they age. Common culprits that result in burning oil include worn valve stems, guides and seals, and piston rings, all of which can allow oil to seep into combustion chambers. If engine oil gets in the combustion chamber it will burn, possibly in amounts small enough not to produce telltale blue smoke in the exhaust, but enough to notice when you check the car's dipstick.



As a rule, most engines with fewer than 50,000 miles shouldn't use much more than a quart of oil between oil changes (unless the manufacturer says differently). If an engine requires a quart every 3,000 miles or less, it could be a sign of a leak.



**ENEOS**  
MOTOR OIL

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## WHAT IS "NORMAL" OIL CONSUMPTION?

Since vehicle manufacturers do not provide uniform guidance on what "normal" oil consumption is for vehicles, what is considered excessive for one OEM or vehicle could be considered standard for another. Although one quart every 3,000 miles is around average for many vehicles, an engine could burn more between oil changes and be considered within specification.

Some auto manufacturers specify an oil consumption range of a quart every 1,000 to 1,200 miles, or as few as 600 miles for some European cars. This amount of oil consumption may be within specification for manufacturers but requires vehicle owners to stay on top of oil checks and top offs!

Once an engine gets beyond 75,000 miles, and certainly past 100,000, increased oil consumption is even more common. However, if changed regularly throughout engine life with a top quality oil, this is much less likely to be an issue.

If high oil consumption is a concern, especially with a newer vehicle, consult your owner's manual or a mechanic to verify the issue is not mechanical.

## NON-MECHANICAL CONSUMPTION REMEDIES

On many occasions, switching oil brands for at least 2 oil changes can result in an improvement in oil consumption. Using a top brand such as ENEOS is recommended in order to see a difference, but in many cases this simple solution works. One reason is ENEOS meets the Asian "JASO" specifications, which exceeds API approval requirements, making ENEOS a fantastic choice. Additionally, oil quality and performance can vary widely, so some oil blends work better for certain vehicles than others.

Due to our in-house research and development and decades of experience helping OEMs create factory fill oil, ENEOS has access to specifications, technology, and experience that help us make extremely efficient and protective automotive oil.



3251-300



3241-300



3703-300



3704-300