



Each day starts anew with making a list of “to do’s” and a fierce resolve to conquer those tasks. You know the ones; they range from putting the final touches on the power point presentation, to squeezing in 45 minutes of cardio fitness to remembering to pick up milk for the kids’ cereal in the morning. With the seemingly endless and frenzied pursuit of tending to our tasks each day, there is one critical item that many continue to neglect – checking the oil in our cars. Much like the Tin Man from the Wizard of Oz, we run the risk of depleting our car’s oil supply.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=louBM-Mix7s>

Before long our automobiles fail to function and we find ourselves in the position of having to spend unnecessary and avoidable time, energy and potentially a lot of money on repairs. In fact, an astonishing 47% of motorists fail to check their oil regularly and 28% never check it. (<http://www.checkyouroil.co.uk>).

Additionally, the most important thing to keep in mind is to use the correct oil. Many of the brands used by the Quick Lube service shops are inadequate for your vehicle. If you are unsure of the type of oil that is recommended for your car, refer to the owner’s manual or stop by our shop, Francis Automotive. We will gladly check your oil in between oil service changes and guide you in the type of oil that meets your automobile’s “specs”. We go out of our way to use the right oil which, in the long run, will save you money.

Myths

There is a misleading perception that today’s vehicles are impervious to damage. On the contrary, if you don’t change your oil regularly, corrosion, heat and abrasion will create sludge, which will corrupt your engine and cause it to fail prematurely. Estimates for the optimal oil change interval do vary so please check your owner’s manual.

Another misnomer is that car owners don’t need to check the oil in between oil changes. Car manufacturers have misled consumers to think that you don’t need to raise the hood. We at Francis Automotive recommend checking the oil once a month. If you don’t know how to properly check the oil or don’t want to do it yourself, stop by Francis Auto, we will gladly do it for you.

Safe Rule of Thumb

Change your oil approximately every 4 months or 5,000 miles if you drive frequently. If you don't drive a lot, you can put off the oil change a little longer.

In the past we have advised getting your oil changed more frequently but changes in oil and engine quality have allowed for larger grace periods. Every car is different so it's important for you to better understand the needs of your vehicle (Published March 03, 2012, *NewsCore*).

The Tin Man didn't have a heart, you do. Please care for your car by using the correct oil, topping up and changing its oil and filters regularly. Surely, you'll need your car to complete many of the tasks on your list in an uninterrupted and speedy fashion.