

The Different Oil Grades

Mineral motor oil

It is extracted directly from crude oil distillate and is the primary type of motor oil. Since the 1940s additives are added to improve the oil's performance. Nowadays it is the least powerful oil. Nevertheless it still has a right to exist because it is quite affordable. Moreover many classic cars need it because the additives of more modern oil could harm the engine sealing.



Synthetic motor oil

The first commercial synthetic motor oil came on the market in the 1970s. Unlike the mineral oil it is not extracted directly from crude oil distillate. Instead of that single chemical components are put together like in a construction kit ("synthesis"). These chemical components may stem from crude oil but not obligatory. The advantage of these efforts is the great chemical purity of the result. Whilst mineral oil consists of a wide variety of different molecules synthetic oil is very homogeneous. Development of oil sludge is nearly impossible. And the additives that are added to every motor oil are more efficient. That is the reason for the significantly higher performance of synthetic oils compared with mineral oil (greater temperature range, lower oil consumption, lower friction). Blends made from mineral and synthetic oil are called "partial synthetic".



Hydro-crack (HC) motor oil

They are the latest development and are based upon crude oil. By means of hydrogen heavy heating oil for example is cracked into lighter oils like gasoline. Motor oils made in that manner are nearly equal in quality to synthetic oils but easier to produce.

