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by David Aretha

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Manufacturers' Recommended Oil Change Intervals for 2011 Vehicles: Audi-Honda

How Often Should I Change My Oil?

Eat your vegetables. Don't play with matches. And change your oil every 3,000 miles.

Since the days of rocket-finned Chevys, "3,000 miles" has been burned into the American consciousness. Due to advancements in engine and oil technology, manufacturers state that vehicles can go much farther without an oil change, but the 3,000 myth persists.

Oil change shops and many dealer service departments have kept the myth alive in order to maintain their business. On their Website, Valvoline Instant Oil Change states: "We recommend an oil change and maintenance check every 3 months or 3,000 miles, whichever comes first."

Although other official Websites, including Jiffy Lube's, do not make that claim, their workers still put 3,000-mile stickers on vehicles that they service. The sticker doesn't explicitly say you need an oil change in that many miles, but the number "3,000" on millions of windshields perpetuates the myth. As a result, Americans waste hundreds of millions of dollars each year on unnecessary oil changes, and millions of gallons of still-good oil gets dumped onto Mother Earth.

Older cars and trucks may still need service at 3,000 miles, but not vehicles of recent vintage. So how often *should* you get your oil change? The answer is in your owner's manual and--for 2011 vehicles--on the very next page.

A word of caution: Some automakers suggest shorter oil change intervals

if you do severe driving, and they define such conditions. Other car companies do not make that claim. So for automakers that offer a blanket recommendation of, say, 5,000 miles and you *do* drive in severe conditions, you should talk to your service technician to determine the most appropriate interval for you.

Also, every automaker states that the oil filter should be changed with each oil change. This is standard practice across the industry and need not be questioned. Finally, every automaker provides its drivers with a scheduled maintenance chart, which lists recommended intervals for all services--not just oil changes. Be sure to pay attention to your maintenance schedule. You won't reach 100,000 miles on oil changes alone.

Manufacturers' Recommended Oil Change Intervals for 2011 Vehicles: Audi-Honda

Audi

On Audi vehicles, you should get your oil changed when the oil indicator light comes on. Audi also provides a "2011 Scheduled Maintenance Intervals" brochure, which states that each Audi owner should get their first oil change at 5,000 miles and following oil changes at 10,000-mile intervals (15,000, 25,000, 35,000, etc.).

BMW

BMW drivers need to change their oil when the "Oil Change Due" message appears on the Electronic Vehicle Information Center (EVIC). Because BMWs use synthetic oil, which does not need to be changed frequently, vehicles can go up to 15,000 miles between oil



Newer vehicles can go much farther than 3,000 miles before needing an oil change. Click here to see [pictures of the 2011 Cadillac Escalade](#), shown.

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changes. But the automaker states that the "engine oil change interval may fluctuate dependent upon your personal driving style."

Chrysler (including Dodge, Jeep, and Ram)

Chrysler does not recommend a certain number of miles or a time period for an oil change. Instead, you should heed the "Oil Change Required" display that appears on the EVIC. In addition, Chrysler recommends the following:

- Change your vehicle's oil if it has been six months since your last oil change even if the oil change indicator message is not illuminated.
- Change your engine oil more often if you drive your vehicle off-road for an extended period of time.
- Under no circumstances should oil change intervals exceed 8,000 miles.

Ford (including Lincoln and Mercury)

Ford encourages you to determine the maintenance schedule (including the oil change interval) that is best for your Ford vehicle. You can do so by going to https://www.fleet.ford.com/maintenance/maintenance_schedules/Getymm.asp.

You will need to select the year, make, and model of your vehicle and the current mileage. You also will be prompted to select the kind of driving you do:

- normal conditions
- towing
- extensive idling and/or driving at low speeds
- operating in dusty conditions
- off-road operations

Those who drive in severe (not normal) conditions will be instructed to change their oil at shorter intervals.

General Motors (including Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, and GMC)

General Motors states that you should heed the "change engine oil" notification when it appears on your dashboard. It is part of the GM Oil Life System, which is standard equipment on 97 percent of GM vehicles sold in the U.S. In its owner's manuals, GM instructs owners to change the oil "as soon as possible" after the "change engine oil" light goes on, and to do so certainly within the next 600 miles.

Honda and Acura

Instead of a mileage interval, Honda and Acura implore their drivers to follow the Maintenance Minder system, which alerts the driver when it is time to change the engine oil. Once the oil life reaches 15%, an indicator display will light, letting the driver know that an oil change will soon be needed. Depending on the model, this display will read "Service Due Soon" at 15% and "Service Due Now" when you get to 5% oil life.

Hyundai - Mazda

Hyundai

To determine the appropriate maintenance schedule—including your oil change interval—go to <http://www.hyundaiusa.com/maintenance-schedule>. You will need to select your vehicle's year, model, trim level, and other basic information, and you will need to indicate whether you drive in normal or severe conditions.

Hyundai instructs drivers to follow the "Maintenance under Severe Usage Conditions if the vehicle is driven for repeated short distances, in dusty or sandy areas, in areas where salt or other corrosive materials are used, on rough or muddy roads, in mountainous areas, for extended periods of idling or low speed operation, for prolonged periods in cold or extremely humid climates, more than 50% of driving in heavy city traffic in temperatures above 90°F, or if using brakes extensively."

Kia

Kia recommends the following oil change intervals for 2011 vehicles:

For non-turbo cars (normal driving): every 7,500 miles or 12 months, whichever comes first.

For non-turbo cars (severe driving): every 3,750 miles or six months.

For turbo cars—Optima Turbo, Sportage SX—(normal driving): 3,000 miles or six months for first service; every 5,000 miles or six months thereafter.

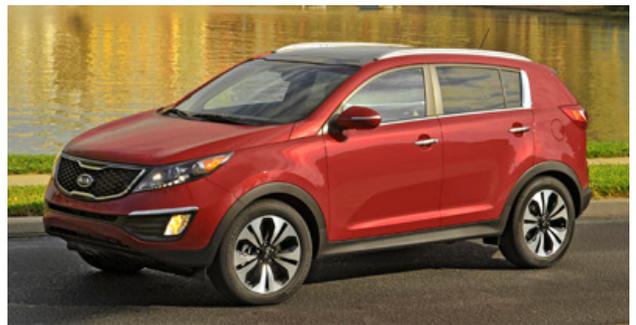
For turbo cars—Optima Turbo, Sportage SX—(severe driving): 3,000 miles or six months for first service; every 3,750 miles or six months thereafter.

Severe driving is defined by Kia as:

- repeatedly driving short distances of less than five miles in normal temperatures or less than 10 miles in freezing temperatures
- extensive engine idling or low-speed driving for long distances
- driving on rough, dusty, muddy, unpaved, graveled, or salt-spread roads
- driving in areas that use salt or other corrosive materials or in very cold weather



General Motors vehicles, like this 2011 Buick LaCrosse, have an oil-life monitoring system that alerts the driver when a change is needed.



The 2011 Kia Sportage can go 7,500 miles between oil changes. Turbocharged Sportage SX models require an oil change every 5,000 miles.

- driving in sandy areas
- driving in heavy traffic for continuous periods over 90 degrees (F)
- driving on uphill, downhill, or mountain roads
- towing a trailer, towing a vehicle, or using a camper
- driving the vehicle as a patrol car or a taxi--or for other commercial use
- frequently driving in stop-and-go conditions

Lexus

Lexus drivers should get their oil changed when the "Oil Replacement Reminder Light" goes on. However, if the vehicle is driven under "special operation conditions," Lexus states that the oil should be changed earlier, at 5,000 miles or six months (whichever comes first). Lexus defines such conditions as:

- driving on dirt roads or on dusty roads
- repeated trips of less than five miles in temperatures below 32°F or 0°C
- extensive idling and/or low-speed driving for long distances

Mazda

Mazda provides two maintenance schedules for its 2011 vehicles. Schedule 1 is a normal schedule, requiring oil changes every 7,500 miles or six months. Schedule 2 is for severe driving conditions. It requires an oil change every 5,000 miles or four months, whichever comes first (Mazda asserts drivers in Canada should follow this schedule). Schedule 2 is necessary if the driver meets any of the following conditions:

- repeated short-distance driving
- driving in dusty conditions
- driving with extended use of brakes
- driving in areas where salt or other corrosive materials are being used
- driving on rough or muddy roads
- extended periods of idling or low-speed operation
- driving for long periods in cold temperatures or extremely humid climates
- driving in extremely hot conditions
- driving in mountainous conditions continually

Mercedes-Benz - Volvo

Mercedes-Benz

For its 2011 lineup, Mercedes-Benz recommends an oil change schedule of 10,000 miles or 12 months, whichever occurs first.

Nissan and Infiniti

For its 2011 vehicles, Nissan and Infiniti recommend the Schedule 1 maintenance plan for those who drive in "more severe operating conditions." These drivers should get an oil change every 3,750 miles or three months, whichever comes first. According to Nissan, severe conditions include the following:

- repeated short trips of less than five miles in normal temperatures or less than 10 miles in freezing temperatures
- stop-and-go traffic in hot weather or low-speed driving for long distances
- driving in dusty conditions or on rough, muddy, or salt-spread roads
- towing a trailer, or using a camper or car-top carrier



Depending on engine, the 2011 Toyota Camry can go 5,000-10,000 miles between oil changes.

Those who do not drive in such conditions should follow Schedule 2 ("less severe operating conditions"). The oil change interval for Schedule 2 is 7,500 miles or six months, whichever comes first.

Saab

Each 2011 Saab vehicle is equipped with the SAAB Oil Life System (OLS), which monitors oil wear and indicates when an oil change is required. Saab states that you should change your oil when indicated by the OLS light on your instrument panel, or every 12 months (whichever comes first). When the OLS light on your instrument panel lights up, change your oil within the next 50 miles.

Scion

Each 2011 Scion model requires an oil change every 5,000 miles or six months, whichever comes first.

Subaru

For Subarus with 4-cylinder engines, the manufacturer recommends an oil change every 7,500 miles or seven-and-a-half months, whichever comes first. However, Subaru asserts, models with 6-cylinder engines or turbocharged engines should have an oil change every 3,000 miles or three months. Subaru recommends an *initial* oil change on all Subaru models at 3,000 miles or three months.

Toyota

The following 2011 Toyota models call for an oil change every 5,000 miles or six months, whichever comes first.

- [Avalon](#)

- [Camry](#), V6 engine only
- [Corolla](#)
- [4Runner](#), 4-cylinder engine only
- [Highlander](#)
- [Land Cruiser](#)
- [Matrix](#)
- [RAV4](#)
- [Sequoia](#), V6 and 5.7-liter engines only
- [Tacoma](#)
- [Tundra](#), V6 and 5.7-liter engines only
- [Venza](#)
- [Yaris](#)

The 2011 Toyota models listed below can go 10,000 miles or 12 months (whichever comes first) unless the vehicle is driven primarily in "special operating conditions." Toyota defines these conditions as a) driving on dirt roads or dusty roads; b) driving while towing, using a car-top carrier, or heavy vehicle loading; c) repeated trips of less than five miles in temperatures below 32°F / 0°C; and d) extensive idling and/or low-speed driving for a long distance such as police, taxi, or door-to-door delivery use. If the following vehicles are primarily driven in any of these conditions, you should follow the 5,000-mile/six-month schedule.

- Camry, 4-cylinder engine (which uses synthetic oil)
- 4Runner, V6 engine
- [FJ Cruiser](#)
- [Prius](#)
- Sequoia, 4.6-liter V8 engine (which uses synthetic oil)
- [Sienna](#)
- Tundra, 4.6-liter V8 engine (which uses synthetic oil)

[Volkswagen](#)

Volkswagen calls for oil changes on all of its 2011 vehicles at 10,000 miles. The exception is the [VW Routan](#), which needs an oil change at 6,000 miles.

[Volvo](#)

For 2011 vehicles, Volvo requires an oil change every 7,500 miles or 12 months, whichever comes first.

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