

MOTOR OIL ??

Lately I've read a number of articles about modern engine oils and how they relate to our Corvairs. This can be a very technical subject, but most of us just want a straight forward explanation that will keep our Corvairs running well. As space permits I will cover the different aspects of motor oil in this and future newsletters.

Viscosity: Expressed on the oil container as a "SAE" number. The lower the number the thinner the oil (thinner oil is needed in freezing conditions). The higher the number the thicker the oil for high temperature operation.

Single weight = the oil "thickness" is rated for engine operating temperatures ONLY. SAE 30 weight is a good average for California BUT is too thin for days over 86 degrees and it will be too thick at 32 degrees or less. Single weight oils are NO LONGER recommended for normal use in automobiles, including Corvairs.

Multi weight or Multi viscosity = The oil has additives so it can be thin for cold starting, but will have the lubricating protection of the higher number when the engine is hot. SAE 20W40 is good for most Corvairs (20W50 for days over 90). (Note: 10W is for starting an engine at -4 degrees and 10W40 is not recommended for use in California).

Oil change intervals: The intervals between oil changes is now generally advertised at 7,500 miles **HOWEVER** the "severe duty" recommendation is 3,000 miles or once a year (whichever comes first). Severe duty is generally described as "stop and go" (lots of city driving or rush hour on the freeway), short trips (less than 10 miles) and high temperature operation (pulling loads, high speed driving, driving when the outside temperature is over 86. Simply put – most of us are in the "severe duty" category. Change the oil, save the engine.