

UNDER THE HOOD

WITH THE MOTOR MEDICS

An Anonymous listener in Sioux Falls writes...

Dear Motor Medics, I have a question about oil. I change my own oil and use Quaker State 5w30 Fully Synthetic oil. The vehicle takes 6.5 quarts and this time when I was finished pouring them all in to the engine I noticed that two of the bottles were labeled 10w40. Of course this concerned me so I thought to contact you. I have two questions about the oil. Can you mix two different weight oils safely in an engine? And can you mix synthetic oil and conventional oil safely in an engine?

Thanks guys, I listen to your show on KELO AM-1320 and love the great advice you give.

Thank you for listening to the show. This happens more often than you think. Today's vehicles run one weight of oil all year long but if you check the owners manual you may find that there are a few choices for very cold and very hot driving conditions. A vehicle that takes 5w30 year round may allow 10w30 in the

summer. The limited amount of oil you mixed will end up with a finally weight somewhere in between not affecting the oil much. As for mixing Conventional oil and synthetic just think of Synthetic Blend oils. They have a little of both so again you are ok. Thank you for the email and for listening to Under The Hood®

Karen in Sioux Falls Writes...

Dear Motor Medics, I have a 2003 Buick Park Avenue. I recently took it to a shop for an oil change and check over because it was losing coolant but was given some alarming news, at least to me.

They said my car which by the way has only 53,000 miles on it was in good shape other than needing intake gaskets to the tune of \$750.00 I know you guys like details so that price also includes new spark plugs, oil and coolant, and plug wires, as well as a new upper intake. Is this a needed repair? Is this a fair

price? What if I don't do it?

Thank you, I love to listen each week on the internet or on KELO-AM-1320

Karen, thank you for the email. You have the typical GM engine with bad gaskets. Not to say that the engines are in any way a bad product but rather as some vehicles need timing belts every 50,000 miles, this model engine will need gaskets every so often. The different metals in the engine expand and contract at different rates wearing on the gaskets. Also if the coolant is not flushed and a proper additive for rubber seals used this can occur sooner. There is also a heated EGR tube that runs through the intake that melts the upper intake which necessitates the replacement of it at times. If you don't do the repair the leaking coolant into the engine will permanently damage it.

Thank you for the email and for listening to Under The Hood®

Advice given by the Motor Medics is for use as a guide to repair. Always check with your favorite repair shop for verification. The motor medics have been operating a repair shop and answering questions on the air for 19 years. Russ is an ASE Master Certified Technician with extensive dealer and aftermarket training. Shannon is an ASE Certified Parts Specialist with more than 30 years in the automotive world. You can ask a question of The Motor Medics by going to help@underthehoodshow.com we will answer your question on line and you may see it appear in this publication. The Under The Hood Show can be heard each week on local stations with coverage reaching 7 states and on www.underthehoodshow.com. Go to Underthehoodshow.com to find one near you.



Shannon Nordstrom and
Russ "The Open Top" Evans

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