

UNDER THE HOOD

WITH THE MOTOR MEDICS

Dear motor medics,
I have a 2004 Dodge Durango with a 4.7 engine that I drive primarily to work in town. The problem I am having is that the oil pressure has been running about 10 psi lower than normal and when I come to a stop the pressure drops to zero for about 5 seconds then returns to about 10. The oil is full and I change it regularly, every five to six months but always under three thousand miles. I have taken it in and they tell me I need to have the engine removed and the pan taken off and cleaned. They say there is no other way and this "just happens" with this vehicle and I am lucky it was caught in time. Can you offer me any advice on a repair I could try other than the one they suggested? It is just not in the budget at this time. I love your show; I listen each week on KIWA in Sheldon, Iowa. Keep up the great work.

Dan from Sheldon, IA.

Dan, thank you for listening to the show.

I have to throw a flag right away on the oil changes. The 3000 miles are great but over three months is very hard on the engine and this is why: when someone tells me they put less than three thousand miles on an in-town vehicle in six months I know they are driving short trips. These short trips don't add up miles and wear oil out but they do cause acids and sludge to build up fast. When the oil can not warm up to a point which turns the water to steam and stay there until it is completely dry it forms sludge. This is even worse in some vehicles, yours being one of them. Eventually it will clog the oil pick up and kill the engine. The prevention is to change the oil at three months or 3000 miles and to use a cleaner such as Justice Brother's Oil System Cleaner just before each change. This is also the only product I know of that has successfully cleaned out a sludge buildup once it has occurred. You will need to add the prod-

uct to a warm engine and drive for 30 minutes or so then change the oil. It will be blacker than it has ever been and you may need to do it more than once due to the high buildup of sludge. If it cures your problem look to spend about \$10.00 per can for the fix.

Take care, Russ.

Dear Motor Medics,
I have a 2000 Olds Alero and the headlamps are so yellow and faded that I can't see very well with them. Is there anything I can do to fix them without buying new lenses? Thanks for a great show; I listen each week on KMSD in Milbank, SD.

Tom from Milbank

Tom, thank you for listening to the show.

You can have the lamps cleaned and polished at many repair and detail shops for less money than new lamps. The service can be done on the car and usually takes an hour or so.

Take care, Russ.

If you have questions for the Motor Medics email them to Help@underthehoodshow.com We will respond to your email quickly and may print it in The Motor Market. Listen to Under the Hood on KELO am 1320 Thursdays at 10:00 and Sundays at 5:00 or on a station near you. We can also be found on the internet at www.underthehoodshow.com.

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. TM

