

ZDDP Update

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The situation in the world of automobile oil is changing quickly so some of the information in my previous article is a bit dated. So here is the latest information that I have.

First to review, normal engine wear is caused by contact between moving metal surfaces and corrosive wear of metal surfaces. Two engine design factors that limit such wear are separation of metal parts by a lubricant film and protection of metal surfaces with chemical coatings. Engine oil separates, cools, and cleans metal parts, reduces friction and controls rust and corrosion. Motor oil is made by mixing base oil with chemical additives. These additives include viscosity modifiers, cold flow improvers, detergents, dispersants, rust and corrosion inhibitors, anti-wear agents, oxidation inhibitors, and antifoam agents. One of these additives is ZinkDiakylDithioPhosphate, referred to as ZDDP.

ZDDP has been taken out of today's oils, yet our old cars still need the wear protection that ZDDP offers. So here are some more options for you.

1. Use an additive. I have purchased a product called **ZDDPlus** that replaces the ZDDP that has been taken out of oils. This appears to be a better option than the GM lubricants that I suggested in my previous article. With shipping and taxes, the cost is about \$10.55 per bottle, enough for one oil change. For more information go to www.zddplus.com.
2. The Indiana Region of the Classic Car Club of America is now selling Classic Car Motor Oil which contains ZDDP and is sold as 15W-40 multi-grade. At \$55 per case that amounts to \$4.58 per quart.
3. A fellow club member suggests GC Lubricants Company, 977 Brausten Road, San Carlos. I'm told that they can mix up any type/grade of oil that you want. The more you buy, the cheaper per quart. Their phone number is 650-592-1050. I have not had a chance to personally check them out but I will do so.
4. Another club member says that Wal-Mart is selling oil with the older designation "SF" (pre SM). This oil should have sufficient ZDDP. The price is reasonable. If you have a Wal-Mart near you, check it out. Their supplies are usually limited so you may have to check often.

That's it for now. Stay tuned for further updates. And don't feed your old car SM rated oil unless you add ZDDP.

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