

Intelligent Oil-Life Monitor™ Frequently Asked Questions

1) When should I change my oil?

Many 2011 model year Ford vehicles are equipped with an Intelligent Oil-Life Monitor (IOLM). The IOLM uses actual engine operating conditions to calculate the oil change interval by using an algorithm. The IOLM will indicate when the oil change service interval should be completed by displaying ENGINE OIL CHANGE SOON or OIL CHANGE REQUIRED in the message center.

The system requires you to reset the IOLM after an oil change. Missing a “reset” at an oil change will result in a premature OIL CHANGE REQUIRED message.

2) How often do I need to change my oil?

You should perform an oil change when the instrument cluster message center displays ENGINE OIL CHANGE SOON or OIL CHANGE REQUIRED. This can be up to one year or 10,000 miles, depending on how you drive your vehicle. An oil change service must be completed within 14 days or 500 miles after the OIL CHANGE REQUIRED display appears in the message center. Depending on driving conditions, we expect oil change intervals to be approximately:

Up to 10,000 miles	Normal commuting with highway driving
5,000 – 7,500 miles	Trailer tow/high-load driving
3,000 – 5,000 miles	Short-trip usage, extreme cold or hot temperatures

Actual mileage will depend on your specific driving conditions.

Under normal conditions a customer will get an OIL CHANGE REQUIRED message at up to one year or 10,000 miles from the previous oil change.

3) Do I still need to keep my receipts for my oil changes?

Yes, make sure that receipts for completed maintenance work are retained with the vehicle and confirmation of maintenance work is always entered in the Maintenance Scheduled Log. The log is in the Scheduled Maintenance Chapter of your Owner Guide. It is your responsibility to make sure that all of the scheduled maintenance is performed and that the materials used meet Ford engineering specifications. Failure to perform scheduled maintenance as specified will invalidate warranty coverage on parts affected by the lack of maintenance.

4) I have my oil changed every 5,000 miles; why should I change this interval?

You may continue to change your oil every 5,000 miles if you choose, but you may be changing the oil too often or not often enough. If the message center displays OIL CHANGE REQUIRED before 5,000 miles, you should change the oil as indicated. Remember to reset the system after an oil change.

Missing a “reset” at an oil change will result in a premature OIL CHANGE REQUIRED message.

Remember, the Ford Oil Monitor algorithm is implemented to extend your mileage between oil changes, reduce your operating costs and minimize environmental impact of waste oil disposal. Following the IOLM’s recommendation for oil changes should simplify decisions about oil change intervals, make it easier for customers to bundle multiple maintenance tasks during service visits and provide reassurance that long-term reliability of the vehicle is maintained with engine oil in good condition.

5) What if I forgot to reset the system?

The Intelligent Oil-Life Monitor does not use oil quality sensors – it is entirely software-based. As a result, the system requires you to reset it after an oil change, to indicate to the PCM that an oil change has occurred. Missing a “reset” at an oil change will result in a premature OIL CHANGE REQUIRED message.

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If your message center was prematurely reset, was not accurately reset at an oil change or was rendered inoperative, revert to a six-month/5,000-mile oil service interval.

6) Should I stop checking my oil level since you have an Intelligent Oil-Life Monitor?

Per the Owner Guide, we recommend you check your oil level each time you stop for fuel.

7) Why does my independent service facility send me a reminder to change the oil every 3,000 miles?

The 3,000-mile oil change interval dates back to the '60s and '70s, when engine oil technology was not as sophisticated as it is today. Modern engine oils, in normal operating conditions, do not deteriorate as rapidly, which would require the oil to be replaced in 3,000 miles. Simultaneously, significant improvements in engine technology have also reduced oil consumption. Together with the Intelligent Oil-Life Monitor, we are confident that these improvements allow oil change intervals to be significantly increased without affecting engine reliability.

8) Should I use synthetic oil?

You can use a synthetic oil if you prefer. The Ford engines have been tested using the Motorcraft® synthetic blended oils. If you do use synthetic oil, it needs to meet the Ford specifications for motor oil and the specific oil weight as indicated in the Owner Guide. Ford still recommends performing the oil change service intervals as indicated by the IOLM.

9) Most of my driving is in very cold climates, and my engine never warms up. Should I change oil more frequently?

Since the IOLM determines engine oil life based on actual driving conditions, you do not need to adjust oil change intervals based on climate or vehicle usage.

10) Most of my driving is in very hot climates. Should I change oil more frequently?

Since the IOLM determines engine oil life based on actual driving conditions, you do not need to adjust oil change intervals based on climate or vehicle usage.