

Which oil is right for you?

The current and previous API Service Categories are listed below. Vehicle owners should refer to their owner's manuals before consulting these charts. Oils may have more than one performance level.

For automotive gasoline engines, the latest engine oil service category includes the performance properties of each earlier category. If an automotive owner's manual calls for an API SH or SJ oil, an API SL oil will provide full protection. For diesel engines, the latest category usually – but not always – includes the performance properties of an earlier category.

Gasoline Engines		
Category	Status	Service
SL	Current	For all automotive engines presently in use. Introduced July 1, 2001. SL oils are designed to provide better high-temperature deposit control and lower oil consumption. Some of these oils may also meet the latest ILSAC specification and/or qualify as Energy Conserving.
SJ	Current	For 2001 and older automotive engines.
SH	Obsolete	For 1996 and older engines. Valid when preceded by current C categories.
SG	Obsolete	For 1993 and older engines.
SF	Obsolete	For 1988 and older engines.
SE	Obsolete	For 1979 and older engines.
SD	Obsolete	For 1971 and older engines.
SC	Obsolete	For 1967 and older engines.
SB	Obsolete	For older engines. Use only when specifically recommended by the manufacturer.
SA	Obsolete	For older engines; no performance requirement. Use only when specifically recommended by the manufacturer.

Note: API intentionally omitted "SI" and "SK" from the sequence of categories. For more information about API's Engine Oil Program, call the American Petroleum Institute at 202-682-8516 or visit our website at www.api.org/eolcs. This guide is provided as a service to the motoring public courtesy of the American Petroleum Institute.

Diesel Engines		
Category	Status	Service
CI-4	Current	Introduced September 5, 2002. For high-speed, four-stroke engines designed to meet 2004 exhaust emission standards implemented in 2002. CI-4 oils are formulated to sustain engine durability where exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) is used and are intended for use with diesel fuels ranging in sulfur content up to 0.5% weight. Can be used in place of CD, CE, CF-4, CG-4, and CH-4 oils.
CH-4	Current	Introduced in 1998. For high-speed, four-stroke engines designed to meet 1998 exhaust emission standards. CH-4 oils are specifically compounded for use with diesel fuels ranging in sulfur content up to 0.5% weight. Can be used in place of CD, CE, CF-4, and CG-4 oils.
CG-4	Current	Introduced in 1995. For severe duty, high-speed, four-stroke engines using fuel with less than 0.5% weight sulfur. CG-4 oils are required for engines meeting 1994 emission standards. Can be used in place of CD, CE, and CF-4 oils.
CF-4	Current	Introduced in 1990. For high-speed, four-stroke, naturally aspirated and turbocharged engines. Can be used in place of CD and CE oils.
CF-2	Current	Introduced in 1994. For severe duty, two-stroke-cycle engines. Can be used in place of CD-II oils.
CF	Current	Introduced in 1994. For off-road, indirect-injected and other diesel engines including those using fuel with over 0.5% weight sulfur. Can be used in place of CD oils.
CE	Obsolete	Introduced in 1987. For high-speed, four-stroke, naturally aspirated and turbocharged engines. Can be used in place of CC and CD oils.
CD-II	Obsolete	Introduced in 1987. For two-stroke-cycle engines.
CD	Obsolete	Introduced in 1955. For certain naturally aspirated and turbocharged engines.
CC	Obsolete	For engines introduced in 1961.
CB	Obsolete	For moderate duty engines from 1949 to 1960.
CA	Obsolete	For light duty engines (1940's and 1950's).

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