

Diesel for Cleaning?

Posted by SteveH - 2012/08/09 14:54

Quick one gents

A neighbour of mine has always cleaned the internals of his engine with diesel (dayshil for the country boyz).

His process is: drop the old oil, replace with pure diesel (4 litres for us), run for 15-20 minutes with no load (no driving or revving), drop the diesel with every bit of grime from the engine, replace with cheapo oil to clear out all diesel, run for a few miles, trip to the shops whatever, then replace with the good oil and filter.

He has done this on all of his American V8s and his 2009 Renault Laguna diesel and will be doing it on his 2008 Chrysler 300C. Has never had any problems.

Thoughts?

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Re: Diesel for Cleaning?

Posted by slipsliderg - 2012/08/09 15:28

SteveH wrote:

Thoughts?

First thought is why, I bought my car and the oil was clean even after driving it for circa 1000 miles.

I replace the oil and filter regulary (perhaps 3000kms) and it is still clean, but it gets used hard that is why I replace it.

I would not be inclined to do what he suggests to a Jap engine with mileage on it. The theory is it removes crude from inside the engine. It does, but maybe that crud is preventing a leak somewhere inside the engine. That in turn may buy you problems.

Engines are designed to run on oil, nuff said in my book. Interested to hear what other think though.

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Re: Diesel for Cleaning?

Posted by mjmitch - 2012/08/09 16:15

Ive heard of it being done to old tractors etc but i wudnt dare to it to a modern engine.

Anyway theres no need, ever look inside an engine? its spotless in der, the oil filter keeps any dirt or grime out, i wud and have dropped the sump pan and clean and build up of grime that accumalates there but thats about it.

Also petrol engines are alot cleaner and an mr2 engine will be spotless inside.

maybe an old diesel may need a clean out and even at that id only turn it over with diesel in the oil system, not allow it to start.

The 3s engines achilles heel is the soft bottom end bearings and i think ur asking for trouble running one even for a min on a liquid with a similiar viscosity as water.

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Re: Diesel for Cleaning?

Posted by cozy90 - 2012/08/09 21:43

it wouldnt be any benefit thats what the filter is for keeps the shit out of the engine other than the filter and the sump their isnt any grime. waste of good diesel B)

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Re: Diesel for Cleaning?

Posted by SteveH - 2012/08/10 00:08

Main reason is that the car sat up for a good few years and I just want to make sure its running as healthy as possible

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Re: Diesel for Cleaning?

Posted by cozy90 - 2012/08/10 00:20

id say just put cheap oil through it first leave it sit im it for an hour or so than drive a few miles drain the cheap oil and put in the good stuff :)

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Re: Diesel for Cleaning?

Posted by slipsliderg - 2012/08/10 06:17

SteveH wrote:

Main reason is that the car sat up for a good few years and I just want to make sure its running as healthy as possible

Which car is it for SteveH.

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Re: Diesel for Cleaning?

Posted by Spanky - 2012/08/10 10:02

It's worth bearing in mind that diesel is pretty much identical to engine oil, so I doubt there would be any harm in doing what this guy is doing. That said, diesel is refined and designed for combustion not lubrication so I would seriously doubt there is any benefit.

Seems like a waster of money on diesel to me as well.

If a car has been sitting up for a while then an oil 'flush' would be a good idea but with appropriate filters in place isn't going to do any awful lot.

If it were me then I would use the correct oil for whatever car it is and change the filter. Drive it as normal then change the oil after about 1000miles. You could leave the filter in or change it as well.

The diesel you save could go into my daily driver B)

Re: Diesel for Cleaning?

Posted by Marty J - 2012/08/10 10:56

I would not do it. The bearings rely on a thin film of oil to prevent them from wear. Diesel is too thin (no protection) to do this and I'm guessing that the wear by using diesel would be equivalent to doing big miles.

Like mentioned earlier, if you want to flush the engine then use some cheap thin oil for about fifteen minutes. Warm the engine with it on idle only, do not drive.

Re: Diesel for Cleaning?

Posted by SteveH - 2012/08/10 12:23

Its for the motor i got off Garry earlier in the year. Its my daily as well so want to lookafter her!

Cheers for the info lads

Re: Diesel for Cleaning?

Posted by slipsliderg - 2012/08/10 13:32

SteveH wrote:

Its for the motor i got off Garry earlier in the year. Its my daily as well so want to lookafter her!

Cheers for the info lads

All you need do is service it then and regularly, don't forget my mantra >

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Re: Diesel for Cleaning?

Posted by Quandry - 2012/08/10 16:00

Interesting idea. I have no scientific knowledge of it it's good or bad but brought me some entertainment on a Friday afternoon :)

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Re: Diesel for Cleaning?

Posted by TurboD - 2012/08/10 19:20

I have known a lad who used to put diesel oil in his petrol cars and just run the car for a few miles . Then drop the oil and put in the good stuff and he said that even months later when he`d check the oil it was always like new , clear as if it was just put in , but I`ve never tried it .

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Re: Diesel for Cleaning?

Posted by cathalferris - 2012/08/24 23:59

It's fine to soak the engine parts in diesel as a cleaner, but there's no way in hell that I'd run an engine with diesel in place of the oil. Especially a modern diesel engine!

There's a lot more to how oil works in an engine than the viscosity. I had discussions before on other forums with a tribologist who specialised in car engine lubrication, and it was an education.

Tractor engines tend to have huge tolerance gaps between mating surfaces and are not as well machined as a modern car engine. Tractors are designed from the ground up to have low maintenance requirements and part of that is large bearing surfaces and low bearing pressures. Crap oil will work okay in these engines.

Car engines have much tighter tolerances, and work with higher local pressures. E.g. the cam lobes on a PD TDI have a huge local pressure between cam and PD injector to give fuel pressure in the region of ~1000 to ~2000 bar. These situations really need the right lubrication, and diesel is certainly not that. Fuel pumps are designed to use the fuel as a lubricant, but that is inherent to the design that allows that.

Another danger of running that type of a solvent through an engine, is that unless the solvent guarantees to dissolve everything unwanted there will be problems with oilways blocking up. Apparently some of the varnishes and crud that can come free when flushing with various solvents can end up too large to get through narrow oilways to bearings and oil cooling jets to cylinder undersides. This would have a detrimental effect on the long-term life of an engine..

If you wanted to add an oil additive to clean the engine, you're better off using something like AutoRX instead of a solvent. I've used this in my Passat at 160,000 miles, and it did work well at cleaning without screwing up.

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Re: Diesel for Cleaning?

Posted by slipsliderg - 2012/08/25 10:10

Nice post Cathal, well put. Kc'd

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