MERCURY MerCruiser

Service Bulletin

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Oil Requirements for Gasoline Engines and Preventing Contamination of Engines with Emissions Control

Models Affected

Model	Serial Number Range
Gasoline Sterndrive	All
Gasoline Inboard	All
Gasoline Tow Sports	All
Gasoline Sterndrive with Emissions Control	All
Gasoline Inboard with Emissions Control	All
Gasoline Tow Sports with Emissions Control	All

Situation

The following crankcase oil recommendation includes newly available engine oils, and supersedes all previous crankcase oil recommendations for MerCruiser gasoline engines.

This service bulletin contains the best available recommendation from Mercury Marine as of February 2008. If the owner's manual, which is updated from time to time, is not consistent with recommendations made in this bulletin, follow the recommendation of this bulletin.

Newly introduced engine packages with Emissions Control have catalysts that will be rendered ineffective if they become contaminated with certain elements or compounds. These packages require special lubricants as described in this bulletin.

Engine Oil Recommendations for MerCruiser Gasoline Engines

For optimum engine performance and maximum protection, use the following oil:

Application	Recommended Oil
All MerCruiser engines	Mercury MerCruiser Full-Synthetic Engine Oil, 20W-40, NMMA FC-W rated

IMPORTANT: Lubrication requirements for catalyzed engines differ from the requirements for non-catalyzed engines. Some marine-grade lubricants contain high levels of phosphorus, which can damage the catalyst system on MerCruiser engines. Although these high-phosphorus lubricants may allow acceptable engine performance, exposure over time will damage the catalyst. Catalysts damaged by lubricants containing high levels of phosphorus may not be covered by the MerCruiser Limited Warranty.

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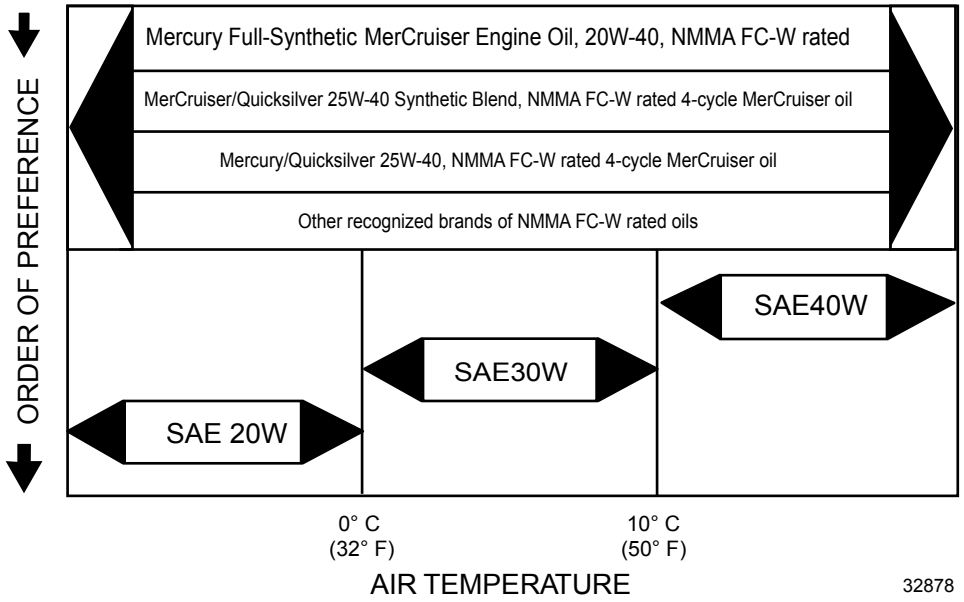
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If Mercury MerCruiser Full-Synthetic, 20W-40 oil is unavailable, use the following lubricants, listed in order of recommendation. If you are servicing a catalyst engine, use these for short periods of time only.

1. Mercury/Quicksilver 25W-40 Synthetic Blend, NMMA FC-W–rated 4-cycle MerCruiser oil
2. Mercury/Quicksilver 25W-40, NMMA FC-W–rated 4-cycle MerCruiser oil
3. Other recognized brands of NMMA FC-W–rated 4-cycle oils
4. A good-grade, straight-weight detergent automotive oil according to the last row of the operating chart below.

NOTE: *We do not recommend non-detergent oils, multi-viscosity oils (other than as specified), non FC-W–rated synthetic oils, low-quality oils, or oils that contain solid additives.*



Preventing Contamination of the Emissions Control System

Catalyst and oxygen sensors can become contaminated, leading to component failure. Phosphorus, found in some marine-grade oils, and other compounds will damage or destroy a catalyst's ability to clean the exhaust. Catalyst-friendly oil, like Mercury Full Synthetic MerCruiser Engine Oil, prevents this damage. Approved synthetic oils must be used in MerCruiser engines with emissions control.

Acetoxy silicone sealants and other compounds in the exhaust stream can damage oxygen sensors and catalysts. Do not use non-approved compounds and sealants. Oxime silicone sealants and Loctite 587 High Performance Blue can be safely used with catalyzed engines.

Fiberglass, a silica-based material, can contaminate the catalyst and the oxygen sensors. To reduce the possibility that the engine will ingest harmful fiberglass and thereby poison the emission control components, protect the engine from fiberglass dust and debris during construction and clean-up.

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