

FAQ's

Q: What is re-refined oil?

A: Re-refined base oil is the end product of a long process involving used oils. These oils are first cleansed of their contaminants (such as dirt, water, fuel, and used additives) through vacuum distillation. The oil is then hydrotreated or solvent refined to remove any remaining chemicals. This process is very similar to what traditional oil refineries do to remove base oil from crude oil. Finally, the re-refined base oil is combined with a fresh additive package by the blender.

Q: Is re-refined oil as good as virgin oil?

A: YES. Test after test has shown that an API certified re-refined oil is of equal or better quality than an oil made from a virgin base stock. API licensed re-refined oils must pass the same cold start and pumpability tests, rust corrosion tests, engine wear tests, high temperature oil thickening tests, deposit tests, and phosphorous tests that virgin oils do.

Q: Will re-refined oil affect my warranty or hurt my engine?

A: Re-refined lubricants must pass the same cold start and pumpability tests, rust corrosion tests, engine wear tests, high temperature oil thickening tests, deposit tests, and phosphorous tests that virgin oils do. The normal OEM Warranty will be supported provided you use oils which comply with the service requirements specified in the equipment handbook or relevant OEM publications.

Vehicle and engine manufacturers such as Ford, GM, Chrysler, Mercedes Benz, Caterpillar and Detroit Diesel have all gone on record to state that using certified re-refined oil does not affect warranty coverage. In fact, Detroit Diesel prefers re-refined oil because of its superior consistency.

Q: Is the quality of re-refined lubricants consistent?

A: Actually, re-refined products are more consistent, provided the re-refining is carried out correctly. By subjecting the used oil to the same processes as those applied to produce virgin base oils, re-refined base oils are more consistent. Detroit Diesel point out in their vehicle handbook that "Waste oil provides a more consistent feedstock, compared to the geological crudes that a refinery typically processes. As a result, the finished oil should also be consistent in properties and quality."

In Australia, Government compliance requirements require very tight control of the re-refining process from collection to delivery of the end product. The issue is to select the performance characteristics and services from the supplier of choice.

Q: Does re-refined oil cost more?

A: There is no real price difference between re-refined and virgin oils. In fact, at current oil prices re-refined oil is cheaper. The final cost is dependent on factors such as blend, quantity and supplier.

Q: How many times can oil be re-refined?

A: Used oil can be re-refined over and over with no compromise in the quality of the lubricant. Remember: oil never wears out, it just gets dirty.

The American Petroleum Institute (API) reaches the same conclusion: "Motor oil doesn't wear out - it just gets dirty... It can be used in lubricating oils that meet the same specifications as virgin motor oil ..."

Q: Is re-refined oil OK to use in my car?

A: Yes. You can achieve the same level of performance from a re-refined oil product as you can from virgin oil.

Q: Why use re-refined oil?

A: Re-refining is an energy efficient and environmentally beneficial method of managing used oil.

Re-refining requires approximately one third of the energy resources compared to the refining of crude oil on a lifecycle basis.

About 75% of the used oil collected can be converted back into base oil, extending the life of a non-renewable resource.

In summary, there is no more reason to be concerned about the performance of a wine bottle (made of 68% recycled glass) or a newspaper (made of 57% recycled paper) than there is for proprietary lubricating products that may contain some re-refined base oils. The issue is to select the performance characteristics and services from the supplier of choice.

For further information please go to our website www.envirooil.com.au, call EnviroLube Technical Support on 1300 723 190 or call our office on 02 9416 0628.