

Wheels: Jeff of Springboro asks, “It seems strange to me that you recommend changing oil four times a year, but then immediately say that you change the oil every six months and use Mobil 1. Why are you saying two different things?”

Halderman: That is a good question and I apologize for being vague when it comes to oil change intervals. The old recommendation of every three months or 3,000 miles is still valid but in my opinion, not really necessary due to the changes in today’s engines and oils. Most vehicle manufacturers now recommend that the oil be changed every 5,000 miles to 10,000 miles or twice a year, whichever ever comes first. The old standard of every 3,000 or 3 months was based on oil that did not have the amount of friction reducers that are currently formulated in the oil. Another major change was in engine design. In older vehicles, carburetors were used and they provided more fuel than was needed because it did not deliver fuel to each cylinder like today’s fuel injection systems.

A lot of the extra fuel condensed and flowed past the piston rings and into the oil. This gasoline in the oil reduced the lubricating properties of the oil until the engine warmed up and the gasoline evaporated.

