

**Wheels:** What other specifications should readers look for when purchasing oil?

**Halderman:** The American Petroleum Institute (API) has standardized tests and if passed, can be shown on the container. This symbol is two circles, one inside the other. In the center is the SAE viscosity rating and between the inner and outer circle at the top is the API rating. The current rating is SM for gasoline-powered engines and CF-4 for diesel-powered vehicles.

API tests samples of the oil to make sure that it meets the specification. I recommend that you do not purchase oil that does not have the API circles. Several brands, including some synthetic oils, state that they “meet or exceed” the API standards, but without the API symbol, there is no verification of the quality of the oil.

