



Fluid Leak Diagnosis

Meets NATEF Task: (A8-A-4) Inspect engine assembly for fuel, oil, coolant, and other leaks; determine necessary action. (P-2)

Name _____ Date _____ Time on Task _____

Make/Model/Year _____ VIN _____ Evaluation: 4 3 2 1

Engine oil is usually amber in color when new, but quickly becomes darker and often black when used in an engine. Before trying to repair an engine oil leak, make sure that the leak is actually engine oil and not some other fluid such as the following:

- **red** – automatic transmission fluid (also used in some power steering units)
- **green** – antifreeze coolant
- **orange** – antifreeze coolant
- **blue** – antifreeze coolant or windshield washer fluid
- **yellow** – antifreeze coolant or windshield washer fluid
- **clear** – condensation from the air-conditioning system (normal)
- **dark brown or black** – engine oil

_____ 1. Raise the hood and carefully inspect the areas where oil is likely to leak including:

valve covers	– OK _____	NOT OK _____
intake manifold area	– OK _____	NOT OK _____
oil pressure-sending unit	– OK _____	NOT OK _____

_____ 2. Safely hoist the vehicle and carefully inspect the underneath of the engine.

_____ 3. Where is the highest, most forward area of the leak? (describe) _____

_____ 4. If the exact location cannot be located, lower the vehicle and add fluorescent dye to the engine oil. Drive the vehicle for 10 to 15 minutes and hoist the vehicle.

_____ 5. Using black light, locate the area of the leak by looking for the yellow/green areas highlighted by the dye. Describe the leak location:

_____ 6. Based on the test results, what is the necessary action? _____
