

# TECHNI/TIPS

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## OIL HOSE LEAKS

When a lube oil hose starts leaking, heat is often the culprit. Over a period of time, heat from circulating oil tends to harden hoses by continuing the curing process of the rubber. Eventually, the rubber can become so brittle that a slight jar can result in a cracked hose. Although there is no cure for heat-hardening, the conditions associated with it can be minimized by following these precautions:

- Use quality, high-temperature hose adequate for the pressure needs of the lube oil system. On engines subject to extreme heat, the use of high temperature Teflon hose may be indicated.
- Inspect all hoses periodically, checking for cracks and loss of hose flexibility. Heat-aged hose is brittle and will crack when flexed. Replace hoses that are brittle, cracked, kinked or which show signs of wear or other damage.
- Replace any hoses that show evidence of oil leakage. If neglected, loss of lubricating oil from a damaged line will lead to overheating and cause piston, pump or bearing seizure.
- Before replacing a hose, make sure the strength of the replacement is equal to or better than the original, and that it is the right length and diameter. Use sufficient tie straps and clips to properly support the hose and prevent chafing.
- Route hose lines away from hot exhaust manifolds or other high temperature engine components. Where this is not practical, provide a protective sleeve or baffle to shield the hose.
- Maintain lube oil at the recommended level. Failure to keep oil at the proper level may allow it to become aerated. The combination of oxygen and high heat in aerated lube oil can not only speed up the hardening of the inner hose liner, but may also cause serious component damage and operational difficulties.
- Replace lube oil hoses at the time of a major (out of vehicle) engine overhaul on regularly scheduled outages. This will prevent unscheduled downtime.



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