



INSTALLATION ALERT

HARD TO REACH LOCATIONS OF SPIN-ON OIL FILTERS REQUIRE EXTRA CAUTION WHEN INSTALLING ON A WIDE RANGE OF GM APPLICATIONS

For a wide range of GM applications from 2000-2024, many spin-on oil filter locations are difficult to reach, making hand-tightened filter replacement difficult if not impossible.

GM acknowledged the issue in a March 2023 technical service bulletin, **GM TSB 22-NA-009**, which was published due to leakage complaints originating at GM dealerships. Their solution was to change the filter labels' installation instructions to specify that once the filter gasket has met the surface of the mounting plate the filter should be rotated 1 full turn if hand tightening, or 10Nm if using a wrench.

This recommendation runs contrary to long-held and widely recognized conventional wisdom that spin-on oil filters should only be tightened by hand, requiring no more than 3/4-1 turn once the gasket meets the mounting plate on the housing.

The installer should beware that for many of these GM applications the mounting plate isn't visible. In these cases, a cap wrench should be used to torque the filter to the specification on the label; Failure to do so could result in leakage.

For any of the applications specified in the previously mentioned GM TSB, NAPA recommends the following actions when installing spin-on oil filters:

1. Follow OEM specifications for safety when performing oil change service.
2. Before attempting installation ensure that the area surrounding the oil filter is free of dirt and debris.
3. Apply a thin layer of clean oil to the gasket of the new filter to prevent pinching when it meets the mounting plate.
4. Carefully thread the new filter onto the mounting stud of the filter adapter by first rotating it counterclockwise to catch the first thread, then screw the filter on clockwise until the gasket meets the mounting plate.
5. Hand-tighten the filter by rotating 1 full turn past contact with the mounting plate if possible. If hand-tightening is not possible to reach a minimum of 1 full turn, use a strap wrench or cap wrench to tighten the filter 1 full turn past contact.



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