

Story #3

The Family Car

George loves his family and shows it by keeping the family car maintained and by not polluting the environment. *He changes the oil every 3,000 miles or every 3 months, whichever comes first.* John, the oldest son, wants to drive the family car. George wants John to learn car maintenance. Today, George's children are going to learn how to change the car's oil. George patiently demonstrates each step.

You will need:

- a clean screw-top plastic container to hold the dirty oil
- a clean zip-lock plastic bag for the dirty oil filter
- a clean oil drain pan
- a funnel (optional)
- a rag for possible spills
- 4-6 quarts of new oil (*The amount depends on your car or truck.*)
- a new replacement oil filter
- *If you jack up your car, always use 2 jacks.*

Steps:

1. Put *the* oil drain pan underneath the car engine.
2. Make sure the engine is warm so all the dirty oil empties from the car engine into the oil drain pan. (*To warm your engine, run it for 1-2 minutes before draining the oil.*)
3. *Remember that your engine is HOT.* Remove the oil drain plug and allow the oil to drain until it becomes a slow drip. (*5-10 minutes*)
4. Put the oil drain plug *back* on.
5. *Be careful as you remove the dirty oil filter. It is full of oil. Place it in your clean zip-lock plastic bag, and seal.*
6. Attach a new oil filter.
7. *To minimize spills, use a funnel to add the new oil. (Some people can pour the new oil without spilling.) Put the funnel in the mouth of the screw-top plastic container.*
8. *Make sure the funnel and the container will not tip over.*
9. *The oil is HOT. Carefully pour the used motor oil through the funnel into the screw-top plastic container.*
10. *Careful secure the screw-top on the plastic container.*
11. Take the *screw-top plastic container full of dirty oil*, and the *used oil filter in its sealed, zip-lock plastic bag* to the oil recycling center.

George finishes the lesson by saying that oil gets dirty in the car engine but can be re-used if it is recycled. The oil is made of steel and can be recycled to make cars and construction materials.

1. www.ehow.com/how_11_change_motor-oil.html
2. www.earth911.org/master.asp?s-lib&a=oil.doityourself.asp
3. www.suscon.org/autorecycling/index.asp (This site has some Spanish.)