

SAVVA Technical Tip 180- over oiling

An article in a recent motoring magazine reminded me of the importance of making sure the oil level in our engines is correct. We are always concerned that there is enough oil in the sump - but over oiling can also present problems. We recently had a gentleman very concerned because his engine was smoking badly and thought he had broken rings, the problem however was cured by correcting the oil level. The level was way over the high mark on the dip stick.

In the past I have come across two problems:

One being that some engines should only be checked when they have been standing for some time – In some cases overnight. Many enthusiasts have purchased a Rolls or Bentley with the V8 engine, checked the oil at the service station whilst refueling and thought it needed copious amounts of oil to bring it up to the correct level only to find that when cold it actually had considerably more than what was required.

Regardless of the make of vehicle it may be a good idea to check the oil level in the morning after the vehicle has been standing overnight.

The other problem being, in extreme cases, especially with vintage cars, being that over the years the dip stick could have been changed for whatever reason and the current one is giving an incorrect reading.

Attached is a picture of a dip stick where the “stop” can be moved up and down giving a variable reading. How much oil there is in the sump is any one’s guess! Beware of these problems!

