Chevrolet Spark Oil Change **SRTViperDude**

Performing an oil change on the Chevy Spark is very easy. The owner's manual recommends that the oil be changed every 7,500 miles or when the Oil Life Monitor indicates to do so. A P82 code will appear on the DIC when the oil life percentage has reached 0%. At this point the oil needs to be changed within the next 600 miles as per the manual.

4 Quarts Mobil 1 and GM Oil Filter:

Chevrolet recommends 5w-20 weight oil for year round operation, unless the temperatures reach -20F or below. In an area of extreme cold, such as in Canada, 0w-30 oil is recommended.

- The Spark's 1.2L engine requires four quarts of oil.
- 5w-20 is the preferred viscosity grade for the vehicle.
- The part number for the Spark's oil filter is GM96985730.

The oil life monitoring system may not indicate that an oil change is needed for up to a year. However, Chevrolet recommends that you change the oil once a year due to the contaminants that may accumulate in the oil. Furthermore, warranty coverage may be affected if the oil is not changed at least once per year.

Tools you may need:

1. 15mm Socket and Ratchet (or Torque Wrench)
2. Oil Filter Removal Tool
3. Automotive Jack
4. Jack Stands
5. Funnel

A mechanic's tool set is highly recommended instead of purchasing individual sockets. It can come in handy for other maintenance items such as changing the brakes or transmission fluid.

Before you begin, make sure that the parking brake is engaged and the transmission is placed in 1st gear (Manual) or Park (Automatic) so that the vehicle will not roll. Support the vehicle with bricks or wheel chocks for your safety.

Turn off the engine and make sure the keys are not inside the car or near the ignition. You do not want anybody starting the car without oil in the crankcase, which could lead to a very costly repair. Bring your oil jugs to the front of the car and place it on the windshield as a reminder.

Start Jacking the Car:

Find a flat, level surface (driveway or parking lot is preferred) and place your floor jack under the right side of the vehicle where the jacking point is located. This can be located by finding the indentation under the passenger's side door near the front wheel well.

1. Start jacking the car from the passenger side.
2. Support the vehicle with jack stands as the vehicle is lifted up.
3. Lower the vehicle on the jack stands so it is not resting on the jack alone.
4. NEVER get under a vehicle that is supported by a jack only. The jack may fail.
5. Only raise the vehicle high enough to allow access to the drain plug. Remember that the parking brake only locks the rear wheels so it is a good idea to block all four wheels.

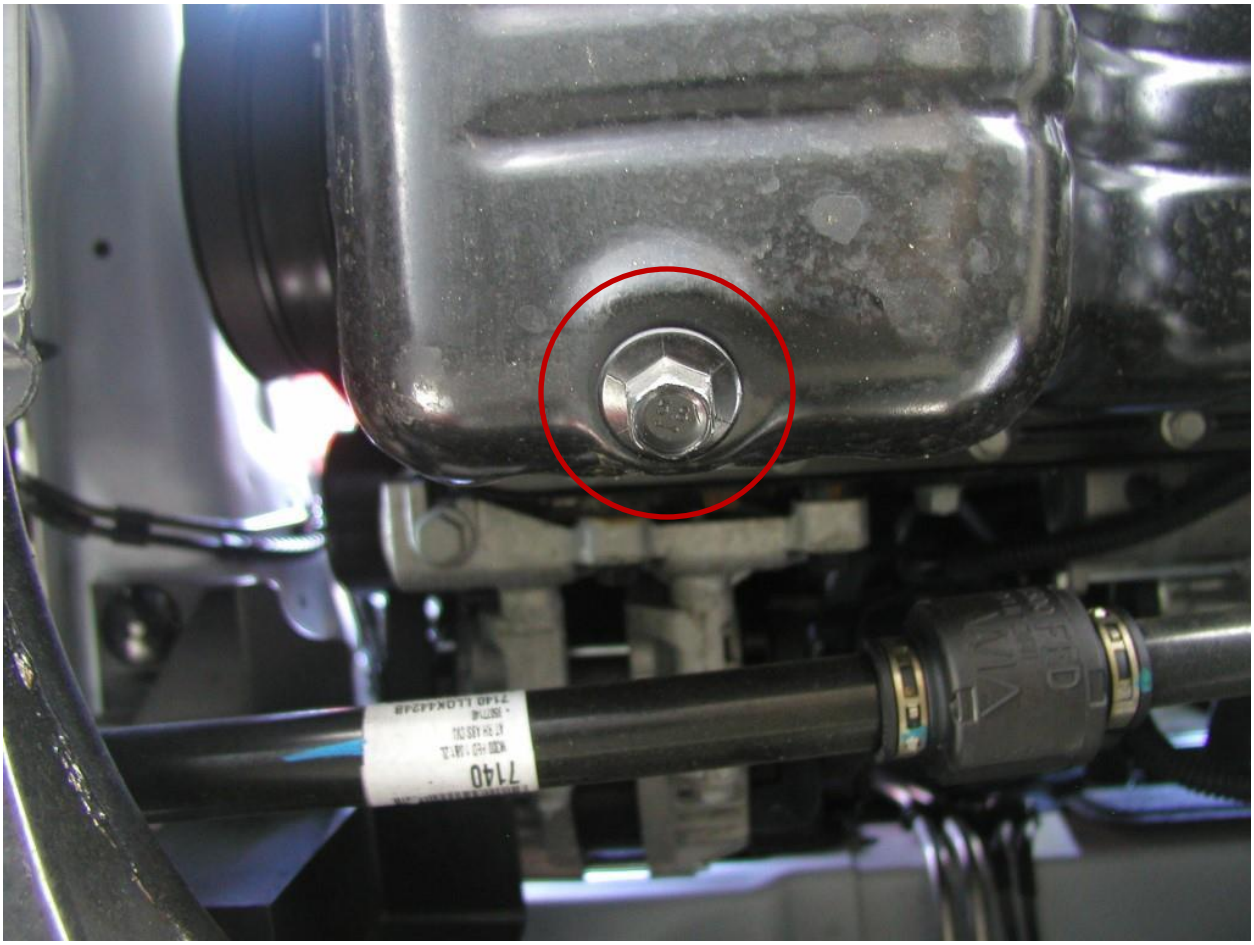
Jack Stands:

Once the car is off the ground, find the drain plug located at the rear of the oil pan. The drain plug requires a 15mm socket. As it is very tight from the factory, a ½" wrench is recommended.

It is a good idea to place a large pan under the car as the oil tends to drain out quickly and if it's windy outside, will get all over the driveway or garage floor. Be prepared to clean up any spills.

Recycle your used motor oil. Used motor oil is carcinogenic and very toxic for the environment. If it comes in contact with your hands it can cause cancer. Wash your hands.

Loosening the Drain Plug:



Loosen the plug by turning counter-clockwise with the wrench and then remove the plug with your hands. Drain the oil into a suitable container and then dispose of the oil properly. Your local gas station or auto parts store should accept used motor oil for recycling.

1. When the oil has finished draining, replace the drain plug and tighten with your ratchet.
2. There is a rubber washer on the drain plug that helps to seal the drain plug in place.
3. Do not over tighten the drain plug, as the washer may become fatigued and stretch.
4. If the washer appears to be damaged, replace it with an equivalent one from your local auto parts store. This is essential to prevent leaks from occurring.

Next, remove the oil filter. The oil filter is the blue canister in front of the oil pan, next to the air conditioning compressor. Since the oil filter area in our cars is very tight, it is not recommended to remove the filter by hand. Instead, use an oil filter removal tool.

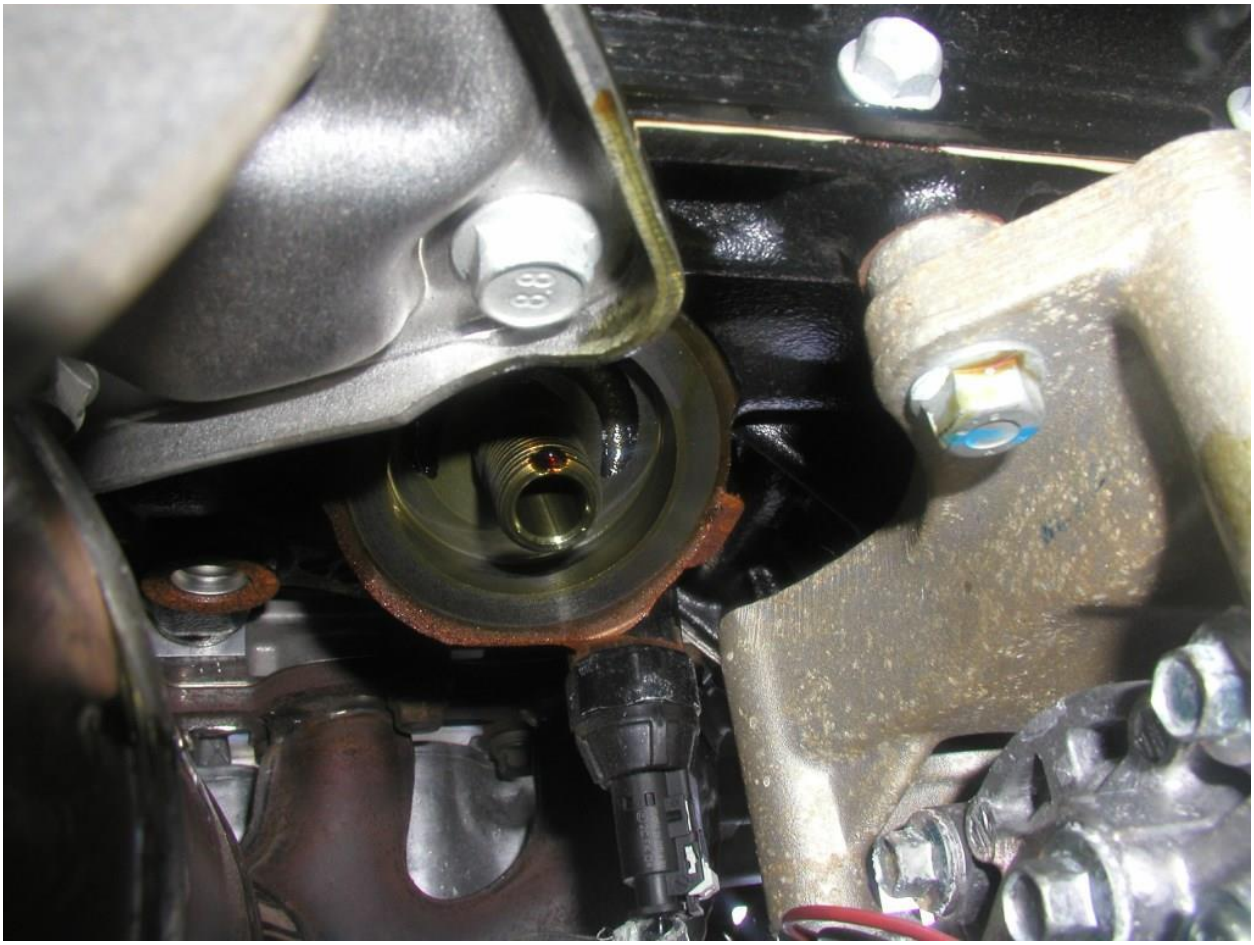
1. You may need to use a grip wrench or oil filter removal tool to get the oil filter off.
2. Turn counterclockwise to loosen the filter and then remove the filter with your hands.

Loosen the Oil Filter:

Once the oil filter is removed, check to make sure that the gasket has not separated from the filter and is stuck to the engine block. If this is the case, remove the old gasket carefully and clean the area. Prepare the new oil filter by placing a few drops of motor oil on the gasket.

1. Placing oil on the new filter gasket allows it to seal better. This helps to prevent leaks.
2. Tighten the new oil filter by using your grip wrench and rotate it a half turn. Do not over tighten! This will make it very difficult to remove the filter at the next oil change.
3. Once this is complete, check to make sure that the filter and drain plug are tight. A leak resulting in oil loss could damage the engine.

Oil Filter Removed:



The above picture shows the oil filter removed. Note that the surface should be clean and free of any gasket material. When installing the new filter, make sure that it is threaded properly.

1. Clean up any excess oil that may be around the alternator, air conditioning compressor, and drive belts. Oil in the alternator could cause it to smoke upon start up.
2. If there is oil on the exhaust system, a smell may be observed for miles while the oil burns off. Check to make sure that there is no oil on the catalytic converters.
3. Check to make sure there is no oil on any electrical connectors. If so, clean them with dielectric grease. This also helps to prevent rust and corrosion on the pins.

Now is a good time to check the area for any other leaks such as from the transmission, shock absorbers, and cooling system. It is also a good time to go over the tire pressure and do a visual check of underbody components.

Add New Oil:

Loosen the oil fill cap and add 4 quarts of motor oil to the crankcase. Check with the dipstick that the oil is at the right level. It should be between the dots on the dipstick which indicate the minimum and maximum level.

- Too little oil may result in oil starvation when driving on hills or making sharp turns. It can cause severe engine damage not covered by warranty.
- Too much oil may cause the engine to smoke upon start-up. It can also cause engine damage not covered by warranty.

Now that the oil is filled, tighten the oil fill cap and replace the dipstick. Take the car for a test drive to make sure everything is functioning properly. Look under the car while the engine is running to see if there are any leaks. Record the date and mileage in your owner's manual.

Reset the Oil Life Monitor:

Last, the Oil Life Monitor needs to be reset. This is important for your personal records and also for OnStar to recognize that an oil change has been performed.

1. Press the MENU button on the DIC until the Oil Life Remaining is shown.
2. Press and hold the SET/CLR button for more than five consecutive seconds.
3. The Oil Life Remaining should change to 100% and “RESET” should appear.

You’re done. Grab a beer and enjoy!