

WHY IS THERE MAYONNAISE IN MY GENERATOR?

Mayonnaise: a thick, white sauce used especially in salads and on sandwiches and made chiefly of eggs, vegetable oil, and vinegar or lemon juice

Engine Oil: a type of oil that makes the different parts in an engine, machine, etc., run smoothly

We have received many questions asking why the oil in the generator breaks down so quickly, especially since it is synthetic oil that is used, here are a few of those questions.

I change my oil every year, and it comes out very white and creamy. Is there something wrong with the engine?

Every year when I changed my oil, I noticed it had a whitish look to it. Am I using the wrong oil?

I never lost power last year, but when I changed my oil, it looked like it was years old. What would cause this?

Customers many times try and compare a generator to a car. Like batteries, the oil in your generator breaks down quicker in your generator than in your car.

Although there are many similarities between a generator engine and a car engine, there are many differences.

What causes this mayonnaise?

It is a break down of the oil, even if you didn't have any power outages. When your engine runs it heats up. After that it cools down.

Whenever warm air cools down, it will leave moisture behind, such as condensation. This condensation forms on the inside of your engine. Condensation is water.

Repeat this many times, and especially in the colder months, and quite a bit of water builds up and mixes with the oil.

This water and oil mixture churned up creates this mayonnaise, and is not good for any engine. Once this happens, the oil has broken down, and is not doing its job. This will shorten the life of your generator.

How can you prevent this? You can't, however, there are steps you can take to minimize the damage.

1. Use the correct oil, most generators take 5-30 synthetic.
2. Don't buy the 'bargain' brand. Even though it may be 5-30 synthetic, the properties are not the same. It's a bargain brand for a reason.
3. Use manufacturer's brand when possible, as these are specific for generators
4. Perform a full service in the fall, and an oil and oil filter in the spring to minimize the accumulation of moisture in the oil
5. If you have long power outages, do an oil and oil filter change after the power outage. I recommend after 48 hours.
6. Do not use regular oil, that will break down within a few hours of usage

The majority of our customers do a full tune up in the fall (a level 3), and an oil and oil filter change in the spring (a level 1). I also have customers who will call us for a level 1 service after a long power outage. These customers want to keep fresh oil in their generators, and as a result add years to the life of their generators.

Lubricate your generator with oil and not mayonnaise. Keep fresh oil in your unit.

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If you have any questions, please forward them to dirtygenerators@yahoo.com, and we will try to answer them. Is there a specific topic you would like us to cover? E-mail us and we will try and cover it