Decoding the 3 main engine oil types

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| **1 Conventional** | • Basic protection for a variety of engines  
  • Mineral-based  
  • Around since the dawn of cars  
  • Average cost is $46 ($25 being the cheapest and $50 being the most expensive)  
  • Typically, every 5,000 miles or so | • Less frequent than conventional, but more often than fully synthetic | • Cheaper than all other engine oil types  
  • Ideal for people with "ordinary" driving styles and for cars with very simple engine designs | • Doesn’t offer as much protection as synthetic  
  • Takes 10 minutes of circulation before the engine is well protected  
  • More expensive than conventional |
| **2 Synthetic blend** | • Better protection than conventional oils  
  • A combination of conventional and synthetic  
  • Average cost ranges from $45 to $70 | • Compared to conventional oil, reduces engine wear by as much as three times | | • Doesn’t offer as much protection as synthetic  
  • Takes 10 minutes of circulation before the engine is well protected  
  • More expensive than conventional |
| **3 Fully synthetic** | • Produced in a lab by a licensed chemist  
  • Ensures engine is protected from wear and deposit build-up  
  • Average cost ranges from $60 to $100 | • Typically, between 7,500 and 10,000 miles | • Better fuel efficiency  
  • Enhances engine performance  
  • Gets to moving parts of the engine quickly  
  • Ensures good cold starting in freezing temperatures | • More expensive than conventional or synthetic blends |

*It is best to always follow your vehicle manufacturer’s recommended oil change frequency.