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How to drain oil from lawn mower

When tipping the mower to remove oil, the oil drain is located via the dipstick tube. Tipping the engine and draining the oil through the dipstick tube is done by removing the dipstick cap, and tipping the mower to the correct side. The correct side is established by noting which direction will cause the air filter and/or spark plug to be up and the dipstick tube to be closest to the ground. Locate your air filter, spark plug and dipstick tube Place a drain pan on the floor Tilt the engine so that the dipstick tube is towards the pan and drain the oil through the dipstick tube If while tipping, some oil drains from the muffler, wipe the access oil with a rag, when restarting the engine, allow the oil to burn off as smoke. If the engine smokes excessively, see your local Briggs & Stratton Dealer. Using the Oil Drain Plug Not all engines have a drain plug, your operator's manual will help identify the location and type of drain plug, if equipped. Depending on the age and type of your motor, you may have one of several types of drain plugs. Each drain plug uses a different tool. If your engine is equipped with a drain plug, it would be located under the lawn mower deck. Look carefully as the drain plug may be obstructed by clumps of turf or debris, the belt guard or the mower blade (use caution when moving the blade). Note: if you must move the blade to get at the drain plug, do so slowly and with the spark plug removed. Moving the blade may cause excess oil to appear in the muffler, if this occurs, the oil will smoke in the muffler the next time the engine is started. This is only temporary, the smoking will subside and soon stop. Place the drain pan under the deck, remove the drain plug and drain the oil. You may also purchase any of the widely available oil extractors to remove oil from the engine. Filling the Oil Tank After draining the oil, you are almost ready to start your small engine again. If you removed the drain plug, reinstall and tighten. Place the mower on a level surface, add the required amount of oil, check the oil level, replace the dipstick, reconnect your engine spark plug, remove the plastic baggie from the gas tank and start your engine. To help protect the environment and conserve valuable resources, recycle your used engine oil. Briggs & Stratton has made recycling used engine oil even easier. You can recycle your used oil free of charge at any participating local Briggs & Stratton Dealer. Oil recommendations are located in your engines operator's manual. You should see your local Briggs & Stratton Dealer if your oil level is too high and you did not overfill the engine with oil, your oil level is consistently too low and there are leaks on the engine or stains underneath, your engine smokes excessively. Routine lawn mower maintenance, like changing your oil, can help extend the life of your machine. There are two different methods to choose from when you're learning how to change the oil in your walk-behind mower. Depending on the model you have, either the siphon/pump method or the tilt method will work better for you. Check out the descriptions below to decide which is best for your outdoor power equipment. Siphon/Pump Method: Use a siphon, such as the Arnold Siphon Pump, to remove the oil directly from the oil fill tube and deposit it into an approved container for disposal. Tilt Method: Tilt the mower on its side and using the dipstick tube as a drain, empty the oil into an appropriate container. If you choose this method, it's best to wait until the mower runs out of fuel. All of these instructions on how to change the oil apply to self-propelled and push mowers alike. Depending on the model of your walk-behind lawn mower, the instructions in this video may vary slightly. Both methods work best if the engine and oil are warm. After mowing, place the mower on a flat, level surface. Remember, if you'll be using the tilt method to change the oil, you should run the mower until it is out of fuel. Then, lay down newspapers or other material to catch any oil that may spill. Step 2: Remove the spark plug wire for safe lawn mower maintenance Disconnect the spark plug wire and keep it away from the spark plug to prevent unintended starting. Step 3: Clean the area around the oil tank Wipe down the oil fill area to remove any debris. Step 4: Remove the dipstick and prepare to drain the oil Preparing to Change the Oil for the Siphon Method: Using the Arnold Siphon Pump, insert the pump/siphon tube into the dipstick tube until it reaches the bottom of the engine. Place the other end of the pump/siphon tube on the bottom of the approved oil container. Preparing to Change the Oil for the Tilt Method: Place a container designed to catch and store used oil under the dipstick tube. Also, make sure that this is opposite the air filter so it does not become contaminated by the old oil. Step 5: Drain the Oil How to Change Oil Using the Siphon Method: Manually siphon out the oil by manipulating the pump handle. Be careful as the oil may be hot and could cause burns if it is too warm. Tilt the unit towards the side the dipstick tube is located to remove as much oil as possible. How to Change Oil Using the Tilt Method: Carefully tip the mower in the direction of the catch container. Keep tilting the mower, making sure the oil is going into the catch container. Hold in this position until the oil flow slows to just a drip. Step 6: Return the mower to an upright position Carefully tilt the mower back in the opposite direction to rest on the wheels. If you were using a siphon pump, remove it from the dipstick tube now. Step 7: Refill your machine with fresh oil Refer to your operator's manual or engine owner's manual for the type and amount of oil needed to refill. You can order the recommended oil for your walk-behind mower and other outdoor power equipment from MTD Parts. Then, fill the mower with the specified grade and amount of oil. Note: Do not overfill your oil tank as that can be as harmful to an engine as under filling. Step 8: Let the oil settle Wait one to two minutes for the oil to settle into the engine of your walk-behind mower and then follow the instructions in the manual for checking the oil level. After you're finished, replace the dipstick. Step 9: Clean up the work area Properly dispose of the newspapers or other material you used to catch any drips. Wipe up any oil spilled on the mower or floor if needed. Seal up the container you used to catch the oil, or pour it into a separate container for disposal and set it aside to be recycled. Step 10: Reattach the spark plug wire Reconnect the spark plug wire and refuel the engine if you used the tilt method so you're ready to mow. Fix equipment issues quickly When you need parts for your walk-behind lawn mower, you can use the MTD Genuine Parts Part Finder to find the correct one. Common parts include: Shop equipment and parts Resolving outdoor power equipment problems as soon as they arise will prolong the life of your machine. The MTD Genuine Parts Knowledge Center provides do-it-yourself instructions for performing many basic maintenance items, including replacing cutting blades, drive and deck belts, and engine oil. If you find your machine has a bigger problem, use our service locator to find a qualified MTD service provider in your area. Briggs and Stratton lawn mowers are one of the most reliable and popular brands around. As such these engines tend to last over 20 years if maintained properly. How to drain oil from Briggs and Stratton lawn mower. There are three ways to change the oil in your Briggs and Stratton lawn mower engine. Each has pros and cons which we will go over in detail. Drain plug method.Vacuum pump dipstick method.Tilting the lawn mower over to drain the oil from the dipstick. Make sure to heat up the engine oil first by running your lawnmower for 5-15 minutes. This will mix up any carbon and sludge contaminants in the oil and make it easy to drain. In this post we will be showing you how to drain oil from a Briggs and Stratton lawn mower engine once a year or every 50 hours of use. This is to prevent carbon and sludge build-up in the engine. Briggs and Stratton oil drain valve location Most Briggs and Stratton small engines will have an oil drain plug either on the bottom or the side of the engine depending on the model. Most of the time the lawn mower oil drain plug will be under the engine. You can find it by tipping the lawn mower on its side and locate the oil drain bolt. Depending on the model and type of lawn mower you will either have a 3/8 socket drain plug, 7/16 square head, or 1/4 hex head Allen drain plug bolt. Go ahead and warm up the lawn mower for a few minutes. Shut down the lawn mower and remove the spark plug lead for safety. Tilt the lawn mower to one side and remove the drain plug. Place an oil pan under the lawnmower and tilt it back down to let the oil drain. I like to lift each wheel up with a few bricks to allow the oil drain pan to fit under the lawnmower. Once all of the oil has been drained replace the drain plug and tighten it up. A new washer or o-ring will help prevent leaks. How to change oil in lawn mower without a drain plug If your Briggs and Stratton has no oil drain plug like my lawnmower, then you will have to use a vacuum oil pump to pull out the oil from the dipstick tube. The oil will flow better if it is warmed up so start the lawn mower for 5-10 minutes to heat up the oil. How to change oil in lawn mower without drain plug I use this dipstick oil change pump with a small tube to drain the lawnmower engine oil. Once all of the oil is drained, you can top it up with some new 10W-40 or 10W-30 engine oil. I love my oil drain vacuum pump as it gets used often to change the engine oil in my Jet Ski as well as my cars without removing the drain plug. Well worth the investment. Change your lawnmower oil every year. New oil vs old oil. As you can see from the above image the oil was extremely black, this was after 1 year of lawn mower use once a week. With heavy usage, you should change the oil every 6 months. I use Castrol Magnatec part synthetic engine oil. If it is good for my car it's good for my 4-stroke lawnmower. Looks like I will start changing the oil every 6 months now. Lawn mower recommended oil viscosity chart. If you are very fussy you could use fully synthetic engine oil. But let's face it most lawnmowers do not have high-performance engines. When was the last time you changed the oil in your lawn mower? Briggs and Stratton lawn mower oil capacity Briggs and Stratton have a huge variety of different size lawn mower engines. So for a standard size 375 small engine lawn mower the oil capacity is 0.65 us quarts or 0.6L, so buying a 1L/Quart of oil will do the job nicely. Remember to check the level on the dipstick to get a true and accurate oil level. Tilting the lawn mower over to drain oil Generally, it is not recommended to tilt a lawn mower over to drain the engine oil but it can be done. This is because upon startup the lawnmower will smoke for a few minutes while it burns off the spilled oil. In 4-stroke engines, this engine oil is used to lubricate the piston, rings, bearings, valves, springs, camshafts, pushrods, and seals. When you tip a lawnmower over oil can tend to be trapped in various places. This can cause hard starting and blowing of smoke when running for a while. To change the oil warm up the engine for 5-15 minutes and turn it off. Pull off the spark plug lead for safety. Remove the oil filler cap and tilt the lawnmower over to drain the oil into a drain pan. Make sure the oil drain tube is on the low side and the exhaust muffler is on the high side. Be careful as the engine may be hot. It will be easy if you have someone else there to help you. Once all of the engine oil has been drained you can pour in some 10-40 4-stroke engine oil. Be sure not to overfill the crank case and check on the dipstick for the correct level. Briggs and Stratton blowing oil out carburetor There are two main reasons your Briggs and Stratton is blowing oil out of the carburetor. You either have worn piston rings that are pressurizing the crankcase causing engine oil to pass up and through the carburetor. Or you have overfilled the engine crankcase with oil past the high level on the dipstick. If you have worn piston rings then you most probably will have a hard time starting your lawn mower and it will be blowing smoke. Having an overfilled crankcase with oil can be an easy fix of just draining some engine oil by using a vacuum pump or removing the small engine drain plug. Briggs and Stratton blowing oil out exhaust This can happen if you have tipped your lawnmower on its side to remove the oil out of the dipstick filler hole. Run it for a few minutes and it should clear up. If your Briggs and Stratton are blowing oil out of the exhaust after every use then check that it is topped up to the correct level. You could also have worn piston rings. Conclusion Hopefully, the above tips and tricks will help you to drain the oil from a Briggs and Stratton lawn mower. It really is easy and you will save yourself \$100 from taking it to the lawnmower service center. You really can do your own 4-stroke lawnmower service. It is easy and fun. Nothing hard about it. I find that the most easiest way is to use the oil drain vacuum pump. It is cleaner and faster. Just remember to warm up your lawn mower first to aid in extraction and to stir up all of the impurities into the oil. If you take care of your lawnmower it will last you over 20 years. I am a qualified Industrial Electrician for the past 20 years and I love to share my knowledge on home repair jobs. I love fast toys like Motorcycles, Cars, Jetskis, and Boats so writing about them is easy. To keeps costs down I do all my own mods, repairs, and servicing. These skills I want to share with everyone. DIY is a skill everyone can learn.

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