

Briggs LO206 Engine Oil

At Kart-Start we are often asked about maintenance schedule for changing oil. Three key questions we would like to cover and provide recommendations on are:

1. What engine oil should I use?
2. How often should I change it?
3. How much oil should I put in?

1. Engine Oil Brand

Amsoil Briggs 4T Racing oil is the best and only oil you should use in your Briggs LO206. We have raced with a number of 4-cycle oils that most folks have been using for many reason. Thor and Cool Power are oils we have used for years. Starting with our days running alcohol Briggs Animal engines. However, when Briggs and Amsoil got together to develop this oil, it really changed the game. It will provide much better protection and performance than other oils. Some folks can be turned off by the considerably higher price, however since you will be changing oil less often, it is actually more economical to use in the long run.

Most karting oils are PAG based. This is a base material typically used in the compressor industry. It was never designed for combustion engines and it isn't used in ANY other type of engine because they have serious shortcomings. First, they are hydroscopic in nature. They attract water right out of the air. They typically have a low TBN (The Base number) so they cannot neutralize the by-product of combustion (what might get past your rings). That being said water in you oil kills your film strength. Water and the by-product of combustion become a mild acid. PAG karting oils also vaporize at our operating temperatures. Losing what protection, you have to the atmosphere is never a good thing! Lastly PAG karting oils have a low solubility so that means that additives cannot be added to overcome the shortcomings. The reason people have been using these other oils is they are cheap to make. What people have done to overcome the shortcomings is to change their oil quite often, which shouldn't be necessary.

Briggs & Stratton 4T is designed for racing. You get the same performance as a karting oil but also better wear protection, rust inhibitors, and longer change intervals because the quality of the product. You could easily get multiple race weekends out of this oil. Most serious racers using other oils are changing their oil every couple track sessions. This robs you of track time. Time that you could be using to do others things to make you fast. With Amsoil Briggs 4T oil you could easily run 20-40 hours on without changing and still have adequate protection for your engine. In the racing world, 20 hours is an eternity and could be a full season of racing for some.



Also an important note on changing oils. Some oils will not mix well. We strongly recommend against mixing and changing oils. Because a LO206 engine is sealed and you can't open it up, it will not be possible to get all the oil out of the engine. So, if you have been running with PAG oil for years, you may want to just stick with it. If you get a new engine, start right away with Amsoil Briggs 4T oil and never change. If you do change oil, we recommend you put the new oil in and then drain it out immediately. Best to do this actually a couple of times to ensure you have all the old oil out.

2. Oil Change Interval

We recommend you change your oil before or after every track day. Probably best to do after the day to get the dirty oil out and for the engine to sit with good oil in it between races. However, starting out the day with fresh oil would work as well. If you are going to use PAG based oils, then we recommend changing every 2-3 sessions. As you can see this is less than desirable on a busy race day when you should be focusing on setting up and getting the best performance out of your kart. Often times people will forget between sessions which could lead to risking your engine to damage from worn out oil.

We also highly recommends using a magnetic drain plug if you don't have one. This will catch any metal shavings in the engine and help keep them from damaging your engine. Especially when an engine is new and breaking in you are likely to get some shaving in your oil.

3, Engine Oil Capacity

The max oil engine capacity on a Briggs is about 16oz. Most folks change the oil by adding 14-16oz of replacement oil. We have heard of some racers having success with as low as 12oz.

We recommend using 14oz of Amsoil Briggs 4T when changing your oil. This will provide very good engine protection and will easily be good for a full day of racing.

But wouldn't 15oz or 16oz be even better? Well, yes and no. More oil would give good engine protection, however moving oil retards the engine. So you are going to get the best engine performance out of less oil. That is why you see some folks running as low as 12oz. However, being more conservative, we believes 14oz is a good trade-off between engine performance and protection.