

Technical Bulletin

Mistaken Identity

As a leading supplier of filters to the automotive aftermarket for over 30-years, Comline has seen most things when it comes to filter installation. However, one of the age-old problems that continues to rear its head to this day is the issue of mistaken identity.

Aesthetically, and even dimensionally, many filters may appear identical, but the internal design and the actual functionality of the filter can differ greatly. This is particularly prevalent with spin-on oil filters where similarities in canister and thread size result in many different filter references looking very much alike.

The clear advice when selecting the right filter for a vehicle is clear; do not choose the filter based solely on size, shape or even appearance. Each filter is carefully designed to a specification that will perform effectively for the chosen engine so, whilst it may be physically possible to install a different filter part number, there are grave risks in doing so because it is not designed to perform with that engine type.

To avoid a potentially costly case of mistaken identity, be sure to access our comprehensive filter catalogue available via TecAlliance, MAM v8 and on the Comline website. This in-depth data set will quickly and easily enable you to select the correct filter for the make, model, year and engine of the vehicle.



FIRST_{FOR} FILTERS

Filter designs vary in two crucial aspects:



Valves

Depending on specification, spin-on oil filters are equipped with anti-drainback, anti-syphon and/or bypass valves that are designed to function based on the pressures of the prescribed engine type. Using a filter that has not been designed to complement the engine type can cause the valves to malfunction, or not operate at all. As these valves play crucial roles in maintaining both oil filtration and oil flow to the engine, the potential risk of having the wrong oil filter fitted to an engine cannot be understated.



Media

The media, or paper, chosen for a filter is selected to cater for the requirements of the prescribed engine. If the wrong filter is used, the media may simply not be compatible with the needs of the engine and this will lead to inefficient filtration, which again can increase the potential for engine damage.

