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Q: What tips can you offer to help me keep my aircraft's engine in top condition?



Paul Royko
Shell Aviation Guru

Paul: When we're talking about keeping an engine in top shape, no one knows better than an engine overhaul company. Ram Aircraft is a long-established engine company with a reputation for quality work and straight talk. They have had a long-standing association with AeroShell. Wayne Hammermeister is the Customer Service Manager for Ram.

Wayne: Most important to keeping your engine in great mechanical condition is always operating your aircraft within the guidelines of the OEM Operator's Manual and any FAA approved supplements. Most pilots know about shock cooling/heating and how to run sufficiently rich

fuel flows to protect their engines from temperature associated damage. Of course, keeping your engine properly lubricated is critical as well.

Paul: What is most important concerning oil and lubrication?

Wayne: First, always change your oil and filter every 25 hours. Oil and filter changes remove metal particles and acid contamination from the engine.

Also, during a start, you should have an indication of oil pressure within 10 to 15 seconds. If not, shut the engine down and do not attempt another start until you have identified and corrected the problem. Losing prime in an oil pump is not unheard of.

We normally recommend only dispersant mineral-based oils such as AeroShell W100 Plus and W80 Plus. However, when temperatures stay below 40° F, switch to a multigrade oil and preheat. There are many feet of oil passages. Some are very small in diameter and cold, thick oil simply cannot pump fast enough to provide the necessary lubrication.

Finally, fly your airplane often. If that's not possible, be sure to follow OEM service instructions. During periods of extended storage, you should use a preservative fluid to protect your engine. An excellent choice is AeroShell Fluid 2F because it also serves as a flyaway oil. AeroShell.com provides appropriate usage guidelines for AeroShell Fluid 2F.

Paul: Wayne, thanks for your valuable insights and for reinforcing the importance of frequent oil changes to the long-term health of aviation engines.



Wayne Hammermeister
Ram Aircraft

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