EDUCATION

Mopar Oil Filter Guide

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Introduction: The Importance of a Quality Oil Filter

When it comes to maintaining the health of your vehicle's engine, the oil filter is just as critical as the motor oil itself. This small, often overlooked component is responsible for removing contaminants—such as metal shavings, dirt, and sludge—that can accumulate during combustion and normal engine wear. If your filter fails or becomes clogged, those contaminants can bypass the system and cause abrasive damage to bearings, camshafts, and other moving parts.

For owners of Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, and Fiat vehicles, one name stands above the rest: **Mopar**. As the official parts and service division of Stellantis (formerly Fiat Chrysler Automobiles), Mopar produces genuine replacement components that are engineered to exact factory specifications. In this comprehensive **Mopar Oil Filter Guide**, we will explore everything you need to know about selecting, installing, and maintaining these filters. Whether you are a weekend DIY mechanic or a fleet manager, understanding the nuances of Mopar oil filters can help you extend engine life, preserve warranty coverage, and ensure peak performance.

What Is a Mopar Oil Filter?

A Mopar oil filter is a genuine OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) component designed specifically for vehicles produced by the brands under the Stellantis umbrella. The term "Mopar" itself is a blend of "Motor" and "Parts," and the brand has become synonymous with reliability and factory-grade quality. Unlike aftermarket filters that must meet a wide variety of applications, Mopar filters are calibrated to the exact flow rates, bypass valve pressures, and anti-drainback valve characteristics of each engine family.

Mopar oil filters come in two primary form factors: spin-on canister filters and cartridge (or element) filters. Spin-on filters are the traditional metal canisters that thread directly onto the engine block. Cartridge filters, increasingly common on modern engines, use a replaceable paper element housed inside a permanent cap or housing. Each design has its own advantages, but both are available as genuine Mopar parts.

Spin-On Filters

These are the classic, twist-on filters that have been used for decades. Mopar spin-on filters are identified by part numbers beginning with "MO-" (for example, MO-339, MO-285, or MO-349). They typically feature a high-strength steel casing, a silicone anti-drainback valve to prevent dry starts, and a relief bypass valve that opens only under extreme conditions to ensure oil flow continues even if the filter becomes plugged.

Cartridge Filters

Many newer Chrysler, Jeep, and Ram engines, especially those with the Pentastar V6 or HEMI V8, use a cartridge filter. These look like a cylindrical pleated paper element that slides into a housing on top of the engine. Mopar cartridge filters are designed to provide superior filtration efficiency and are often more environmentally friendly since only the element is replaced. Common part numbers for cartridge filters include MO-744, MO-749, and MO-796.

Which Vehicles Use Mopar Oil Filters?

Mopar oil filters are the recommended choice for any vehicle produced by the following brands:

- Chrysler (300, Pacifica, Voyager, etc.)
- Dodge (Charger, Challenger, Durango, Grand Caravan, etc.)
- Jeep (Wrangler, Grand Cherokee, Cherokee, Compass, Renegade, Gladiator)
- Ram (1500, 2500, 3500, ProMaster)
- Fiat (500, 500L, 500X)
- Some older Mitsubishi models (when they were part of the joint venture with Chrysler)

Even if you own a vehicle from another manufacturer that uses a compatible filter thread, it is generally best to stick with the filter specified for your engine. Mopar filters are not universal—they are engineered for specific oil flow and pressure requirements.

Benefits of Using Genuine Mopar Oil Filters

Preserves Factory Warranty

Using aftermarket parts can sometimes void or complicate warranty claims. Many dealerships require proof that a genuine Mopar filter was used during oil changes. If something goes wrong, having a Mopar filter on the vehicle can simplify the claims process and protect your investment.

Precision Engineering for Your Engine

Mopar engineers test each filter design on actual engines to ensure it meets exacting standards for filtration efficiency, dirt-holding capacity, and oil flow. The bypass valve opens at a precisely calibrated pressure—not too early (which would allow unfiltered oil to circulate) and not too late (which could starve the engine). Similarly, the anti-drainback valve keeps oil in the filter when the engine is off, preventing a dry crank on startup.

High-Quality Materials

Genuine Mopar filters use synthetic media or a blend that captures microscopic particles down to 20–30 microns, while still allowing adequate flow. The metal casings are coated to resist corrosion, and the gaskets are made from durable nitrile rubber or silicone that won't harden or leak over time.

Consistent Performance Over Service Intervals

Many aftermarket filters show a sharp drop in efficiency after 5,000 miles, whereas Mopar filters are designed to maintain performance for the entire recommended oil change interval (often 7,500 to 10,000 miles on modern engines). This is especially important if you use synthetic oil and extend drain intervals.

How to Choose the Right Mopar Oil Filter

Selecting the correct filter for your vehicle is straightforward when you follow these steps:

1. Check your owner's manual — the manual lists the exact Mopar oil filter part number for your engine.
2. Use an online parts lookup — on the official Mopar website or trusted retailers, enter your vehicle's VIN to get the recommended filter.
3. Read the current filter — if you are changing the filter yourself, look at the part number printed on the side (usually begins with "MO-" or "Mopar").
4. Know your engine — for example, the 3.6L Pentastar V6 takes a MO-744 cartridge, while the 5.7L HEMI V8 uses a MO-339 spin-on. However, there are exceptions depending on the model year.

Common Mopar Oil Filter Part Numbers

Part Number	Type	Typical Applications
MO-339	Spin-On	5.7L HEMI, 6.4L HEMI, 3.6L Pentastar (some years)
MO-285	Spin-On	3.0L Diesel EcoDiesel, 6.7L Cummins (some)
MO-349	Spin-On	4.0L Straight-6 (older Jeeps), 3.8L V6
MO-744	Cartridge	3.6L Pentastar (many 2011+)
MO-749	Cartridge	2.0L Turbo (Hurricane), 2.4L MultiAir
MO-796	Cartridge	3.0L Turbo Diesel (Ram 1500 EcoDiesel)

Note: This list is not exhaustive. Always verify with your VIN.

Installation Tips for Mopar Oil Filters

Changing your oil filter is a simple task, but following best practices can prevent leaks and ensure long-term performance.

- Warm the engine slightly before draining oil — warm oil flows faster and carries more contaminants.
- Lubricate the new gasket with fresh oil before installing. This prevents the rubber from sticking and ensures a proper seal.
- Hand-tighten only for spin-on filters — about 3/4 to 1 full turn after the gasket contacts the mounting surface. Over-tightening can crush the gasket or damage the threads.
- Replace the O-rings on cartridge filter housings if the kit includes them (most Mopar cartridge filters come with a new O-ring).
- Pre-fill the filter if possible (for spin-on types) to reduce the time the engine runs without oil pressure on startup. For cartridge filters, pour a small amount of oil into the housing before inserting the element.

Maintenance Schedule: When to Change Your Mopar Oil Filter

Most modern Stellantis vehicles have an oil change interval of 7,500 to 10,000 miles when using synthetic oil and a genuine Mopar filter. However, you should consult your owner's manual for your specific model. Severe driving conditions—such as frequent short trips, towing, dusty environments, or extreme temperatures—may require more frequent changes (every 3,000 to 5,000 miles).

Many newer vehicles also have an **Oil Life Monitor**system that calculates remaining oil life based on driving habits. When the system indicates 15% or less, it's time for an oil and filter change. Always reset the monitor after the service.

Where to Buy Mopar Oil Filters

Genuine Mopar filters can be purchased from:

- Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, or Fiat dealerships — guarantees authenticity but often at higher pricing.
- Online retailers — sites like Amazon, RockAuto, Summit Racing, and Mopar eStore offer competitive prices.

Look for "sold by Mopar" or verified sellers to avoid counterfeits.

- Auto parts stores — some chains like AutoZone, O'Reilly, or NAPA stock Mopar filters, but availability varies by location.

Beware of counterfeits. Fake oil filters are a growing problem. They may look similar but use inferior media, weak valves, and thin casings that can fail. Always check the packaging for holographic labels, part numbers, and consistency with official Mopar branding.

Mopar vs. Aftermarket Oil Filters: What the Data Shows

Many drivers wonder whether a premium aftermarket filter—such as Mobil 1, Purolator, or Wix—can outperform a Mopar filter. Independent tests (such as those from 540 Rat Blog and Engineering Explained) have shown that genuine OEM filters often have better bypass valve calibration and anti-drainback valve reliability than generic alternatives. That said, some aftermarket

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