

THE TORONTO STAR  
**WHEELS**

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## AutoKnow

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**Q** Since reading about it in Wheels in 2001, I have been using Molyslip E Oil additive with every oil change.

Should I wait a certain number of kilometres before using it in my new vehicle, or can I begin immediately? Will this have any impact on my warranty? I've also been following some other advice from Wheels and use Higher Mileage engine oil in my 1994 Dodge Caravan. While I have no actual evidence of this, I believe both of these products have improved the performance of my van. Would you recommend that I use higher-priced synthetic oil right from the start in my new Honda Pilot?

**Frank Fazzari,**  
Unionville

**A** Stephen Joyce, president of Molyslip Canada ([www.molyslip.com](http://www.molyslip.com)) in Scarborough, advises that you wait until a new car has completed its break-in phase – 5,000km to 10,000km or as specified in your owner's manual – before using Molyslip. Otherwise, the friction-reducing additive can impair the initial seating process required in new engines. Generally, this means you can start using Molyslip at your first scheduled oil change.

Molyslip will not affect your new car warranty, states Joyce. "Molyslip has never had a warranty claim against any of their products, which have been sold in Canada for over 40 years."

Higher Mileage engine oil, offered by many brands, is specially formulated with extra detergents and seal-swelling additives geared for older engines (over 100,000km). Alternatively, a consumer might choose a thicker grade of regular oil, such as 10W30 instead of 5W30, in a well-worn engine. This is safe to do as long as it is an acceptable grade as noted in your owner's manual. A thicker oil can improve compression and reduce oil consumption in an older engine.

As for synthetic oils, these aren't really necessary in our climate — except for turbocharged vehicles, those driven on the track, or where called for by the automaker. Synthetics are advisable for those living in the far north where arctic winter temperatures are common.

It's important to note that regular oil changes are necessary to get rid of harmful contaminants that accumulate in oil over time — not because the oil has lost its ability to lubricate. Whatever type of oil you use, it must still be changed at the time or mileage interval, whichever comes first, as specified in your vehicle owner's manual.

To ask **Eric Lai** a question, visit

[www.consumersource.net](http://www.consumersource.net). Or write to AutoKnow, 350 Highway 7 E., Unit PH9, Richmond Hill, Ont. L4B3N2.