

Service Alert

Mazda North American Operations
Irvine, CA 92618-2922

**Subject:**

REAR DIFFERENTIAL OR PTO OIL BECOMES DARK OR BLACK
AFTER FEW HUNDRED MILES OR AT FIRST SERVICE

Service Alert No.: SA-056/25

Last Issued : 11/26/2025

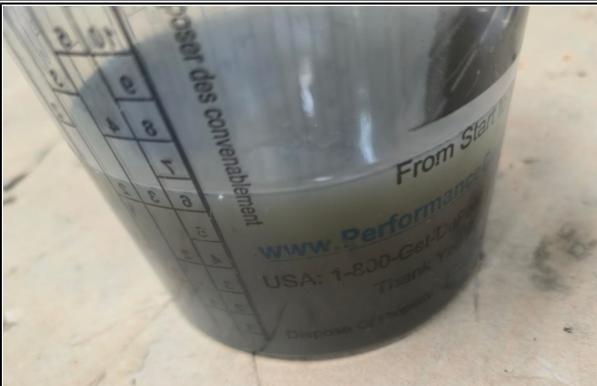
BULLETIN NOTES**APPLICABLE MODEL(S)/VINS**

2016-2021 CX-3	2017-2025 CX-5	2023-2026 CX-50 (All)
2016-2023 CX-9	2019-2026 Mazda3	2024-2026 CX-90 (All)
2016-2026 MX-5	2020-2026 CX-30	2025-2026 CX-70 (All)

DESCRIPTION

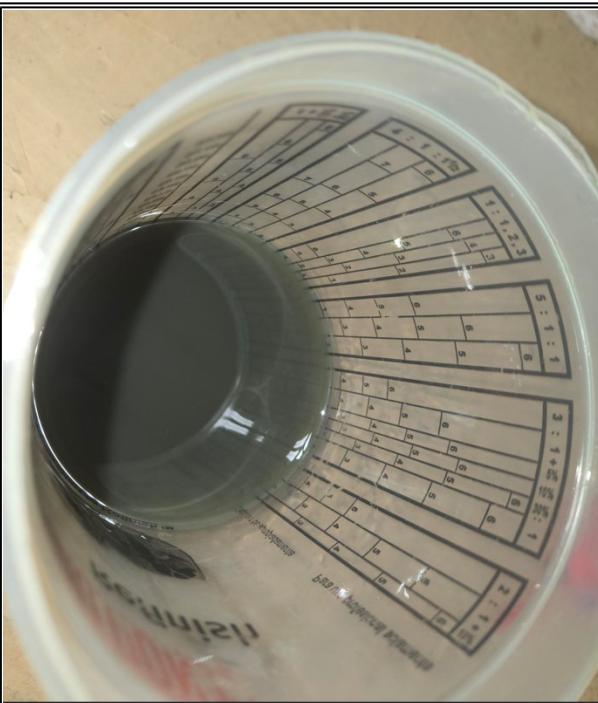
When inspected, the differential or PTO oil is dark or black. This is considered normal and NO repair should be performed. During production, differential ring and pinion gears receive a manganese phosphate coating (commonly referred to as black oxide). This coating forms a porous, oil-retentive surface that improves boundary lubrication and reduces adhesive wear during initial contact cycles. Designed as a sacrificial layer, it is gradually removed under load throughout the break-in process. As a result, after the first few hundred miles, or at the initial gear oil service interval, the lubricant may appear darkened by the worn-off coating. It will contain trace ferrous particles from the normal run-in of the gear teeth and bearing surfaces. This condition is expected and does not, by itself, indicate an issue with the differential or PTO gears.

Differential oil sample @ 200 miles



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Drain plug debris removed @
200 miles



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