



<b>Subject:</b>  REAR DIFFERENTIAL OR PTO OIL BECOMES DARK OR BLACK AFTER FEW HUNDRED MILES OR AT FIRST SERVICE	<b>Service Alert No.:</b> SA-056/25
	<b>Last Issued :</b> 11/26/2025

BULLETIN NOTES

APPLICABLE MODEL(S)/VINS

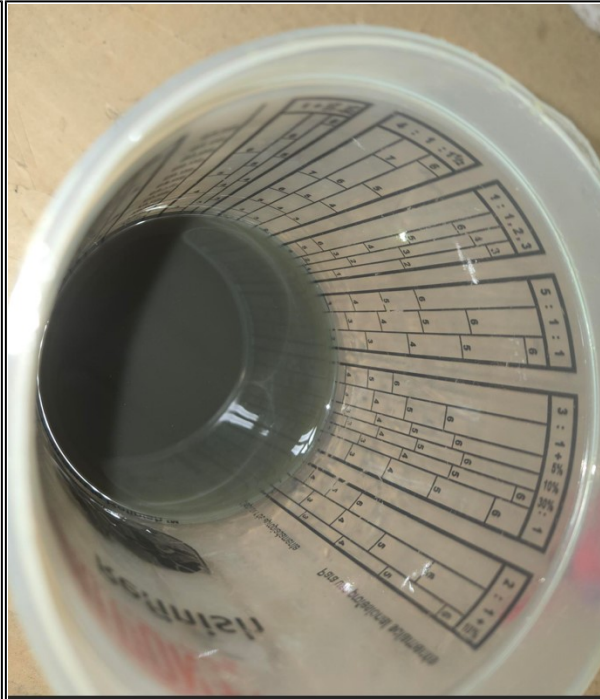
2016-2021 CX-3	2017-2025 CX-5	2023-2026 CX-50 (All)
2016-2023 CX-9	2019-2026 Mazda3	2024-2026 CX-90 (All)
2016-2026 MX-5	2020-2026 CX-30	2025-2026 CX-70 (All)

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

**CONSUMER NOTICE:** The information and instructions in this bulletin are intended for use by skilled technicians. Mazda technicians utilize the proper tools/ equipment and take training to correctly and safely maintain Mazda vehicles. These instructions should not be performed by "do-it-yourselfers." Customers should not assume this bulletin applies to their vehicle or that their vehicle will develop the described concern. To determine if the information applies, customers should contact their nearest authorized Mazda dealership. Mazda North American Operations reserves the right to alter the specifications and contents of this bulletin without obligation or advance notice. All rights reserved. No part of this bulletin may be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical---including photocopying and recording and the use of any kind of information storage and retrieval system ---without permission in writing.



Drain plug with particles @ 200 miles



**CONSUMER NOTICE:** The information and instructions in this bulletin are intended for use by skilled technicians. Mazda technicians utilize the proper tools/ equipment and take training to correctly and safely maintain Mazda vehicles. These instructions should not be performed by "do-it-yourselfers." Customers should not assume this bulletin applies to their vehicle or that their vehicle will develop the described concern. To determine if the information applies, customers should contact their nearest authorized Mazda dealership. Mazda North American Operations reserves the right to alter the specifications and contents of this bulletin without obligation or advance notice. All rights reserved. No part of this bulletin may be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical---including photocopying and recording and the use of any kind of information storage and retrieval system ---without permission in writing.

Drain plug debris removed @  
200 miles



**CONSUMER NOTICE:** The information and instructions in this bulletin are intended for use by skilled technicians. Mazda technicians utilize the proper tools/ equipment and take training to correctly and safely maintain Mazda vehicles. These instructions should not be performed by "do-it-yourselfers." Customers should not assume this bulletin applies to their vehicle or that their vehicle will develop the described concern. To determine if the information applies, customers should contact their nearest authorized Mazda dealership. Mazda North American Operations reserves the right to alter the specifications and contents of this bulletin without obligation or advance notice. All rights reserved. No part of this bulletin may be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical---including photocopying and recording and the use of any kind of information storage and retrieval system ---without permission in writing.