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Differential Fluid Leak?

Hi I have a 2006 avalanche Z71, last week when I went for an oil change they told me to that my front and back differential fluids are low. Been reading all these horror stories on internet about oil change places.....my question is: If there is no leak visible any wherein my truck, can differential fluid... [show more](#)

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Answers

Relevance



Best Answer: Hello,
Differential fluid is a petroleum product and it doesn't evaporate. However, there are a couple places that it can leak. One is the differential cover(the big melon looking thing right in the middle of the axle) located on both axle's front and rear. If it is leaking the bottom of it will look wet. The second is the axle shaft seals located at the end of the axle. This would require removal of the wheel and hub assembly to diagnose. I wouldn't be too worried about the leaking of differential fluid. This is a fairly normal thing that happens. Checking the level of fluid in the differentials is somewhat easy. On the differential there is a 1/2 to 3/4 fitting that is loosened by a 1/2 to 3/4 inch ratchet. Stick your pinkie finger in the differential, if your finger is wet, then it is full. If it's dry, then the fluid is low. You can fill it @ home by going to an auto parts store and asking them the recommended gear fluid for your vehicle. Then you buy a little pump with a hose attached(also @ the auto store) so you can pump fluid in yourself. This will save you money by not having the dealership do it, and it will save your truck from abnormal wear.

N.I. Tech89 · 7 years ago

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Asker's rating *****



By differential I assume you mean rear differential. It is in use all the time and not just with 4x4. It is VERY common for differentials to leak and they should be checked at least once a year. The fluid (90w gear oil) doesn't evaporate. Look for wetness around the rear diff as diffs mostly just seep fluid over time.

BrettH8sU · 7 years ago

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for starters, **differential oil doesn't evaporate or get used up.**
Over a long period of time, the level might get a bit low, but nothing serious to worry about, and not in 3 years.

Usually any leaks on the cover will be obvious. on the rear, any leaks could be also on the rear axle seal, but you'd know pretty quick if that was leaking.. your brakes would be coated with grease and stopping would be slushy.

to check, find the fill plug, and stick your finger in. you should feel oil, if you don't, add 80w90 until it starts to dribble out, then it's full.

Eric F · 7 years ago

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the fact of the matter is this. some places say they check all the fluids and others actually check them.the fluid can be seeping out and not actually leaking, or could have been low from day 1. top off the fluids and keep an eye on them. it could just be blowing away as you drive down the road if it is seeping.

bajakma · 7 years ago

0 0

Comment



There's the input shaft seal, the two output shaft seals, and the differential cover (aka pumpkin) gasket. There's usually a vent tube on top, but you shouldn't be losing any fluid from there.

vrrJT3 · 7 years ago

0 0

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they usually start around the inspection plate leaking.

bandit_60 · 7 years ago

0 0

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