

Lube Minder® Questions & Answers

Why is it necessary to oil my chains and sprockets?

You should consistently lubricate your chain drives for six important reasons.

1. To resist friction and wear between moving parts.
2. To flush away dirt and foreign material.
3. To lubricate chain-sprocket contact surfaces.
4. To retard rust and corrosion.
5. To carry heat away from bearings.
6. To cushion load impact areas of running parts.

If I manually oil my chains every day, why do I need the Automatic Lube Minder®?

A chain assembly is a series of traveling metal bearings requiring proper lubrication to give maximum service. The lubrication forms a separating wedge between the pins and bushings in the chain joints—much like that formed in journal bearings. Oil applied manually to the rollers will not flow between the chain link plates and fill the critical pin bushing joints—ultimately causing constant metal-to-metal contact and debris build-up. As a result of this build-up, chain elongation or “stretch” occurs. Metal wear and debris build-up cause a small distortion at the load area on every pin bushing. A #60 chain has 36 pin bushings per foot. Over a 15 foot length—that equals 540 potential distortion points. This condition directly affects your equipment. As the chain gets longer—it rides too high on the sprocket and often the sprocket teeth begin to look like a wheat sickle. The affected sprockets can cause timing problems or chain and teeth breakage—resulting in costly down time for you and your equipment.

How can the Lube Minder® increase the life of my chains and sprockets?

The Lube Minder® applies oil when the chain is warm and running. This is the best time to apply lubricant because you get the proper lubrication. Consistent oiling minimizes metal-to-metal contact and provides cooling. Oil pumped to a brush located next to the chain maximizes the amount of debris cleaned off the chain while it disperses the oil to the pin bushing joint to help eliminate chain stretch.

Is the Lube Minder® adjustable?

YES. We preset the Lube Minder® at the factory to deliver the maximum amount of oil, which is 0.5 oz (15 ml) per stroke. The Lube Minder® can be adjusted all the way down to zero. This is done by simply turning the brass adjusting screw on the bottom of the pump. This will modify the oil dispensing rate to fit your specific operating conditions.

How long does a full reservoir last?

The standard reservoir is 64 oz, which is 2 quarts (1892 ml = slightly less than 2 liters). This rate will vary by the way you adjust the pump's dispensing rate and the number of cycles your equipment uses.

What does a Lube Minder® kit contain?

The Lube Minder® Kit is a complete system. You will need two quarts of new oil to fill the reservoir. Never use “used” oil.

How long will it take to install a Lube Minder® on my equipment?

A dealer will require about 2 hours to install the Lube Minder® Kit.

What type of oil should I use?

SAE 30 is the most common oil used. Most chain manufacturers recommend a good grade of clean petroleum chain oil without additives. Additives generally leave a varnish or gum residue which prevents oil from penetrating the chain joints. The highest viscosity oils flow best between the chain link plates, filling the pin-bushing areas—providing the best wear life.

How does the Lube Minder® cycle?

Lube Minder® pump cycles by tying into any double-acting hydraulic cylinder on your equipment. For example, on a combine, you would use the cylinder which swings the unloader auger back and forth. On a round baler, use the cylinder which opens and closes the tailgate. On a mower-conditioner, use the cylinder which raises and lowers the cutting head.

What pressure is required to cycle the Lube Minder® pump?

The most common Lube Minder® pump sold with kits for round balers and combines requires about 300 PSI (21 BAR).

Does the Lube Minder® use hydraulic fluid?

It uses hydraulic fluid only to actuate the Lube Minder® pump within a closed system.