

Averages: Both the universal and unit averages are running averages and change with the number of samples analyzed.

Elements: Elements are quantified in the oil at part per million levels (PPM). This list shows the most common sources of the elements from an aircraft engine. They are grouped by category. Following each element is a description of where it comes from.

Engine Wear Metals

Aluminum: Pistons, piston pin plugs, bearings, and the case. Chromium: Rings, (replacement) cylinders, an alloy in steel.

Iron: Cylinders, rotating shafts, the valve train, and any steel part sharing the oil.

Copper: Brass or bronze parts, bushings, bearings, and oil coolers.

Lead: Primarily leaded gas blow-by, (traces from) bearings.

Tin: Bearings, bronze parts (with copper), anti-wear coatings.

Nickel: Valve guides, trace element in steel.

Trace Elements

Manganese: Grease additive.

Silver: Trace element in some types of bearings. Titanium, Potassium, Boron: Trace elements.

Molybdenum: Traces of anti-wear coatings, some cylinder types.

Contaminants

Silicon: Abrasive dirt (via intake air), silicone sealers, and gaskets.

Sodium: Contaminants common to anti-freeze and brine-filled valves.

Oil Additives

Calcium/Magnesium: Oil additives, rare in aircraft engine oils.

Phosphorus: Common anti-wear additive in aircraft oils.

Zinc: Component of brass (with copper), oil additive common to auto engine oils.

Barium: Additive used in some synthetic oils, not common to aircraft oils.

Physical properties:

Viscosity/Flashpoint: If fuel is present in the oil, the viscosity and flash point will often be lower than what is stated in the "Values Should Be" line. A high viscosity may show oil stress from heat or contamination.

Fuel %: Indicates the amount of volatile gas found in the oil.

Water %: Indicates the amount of moisture found in the oil.

Insolubles %: Insolubles are solid materials present in the oil. They are typically free carbon from the oxidation of the oil itself, along with blow-by products past the rings.

Understanding Your Aircraft Oil Report

