

## ***Pulling A Proper Oil Sample***

***LubeDoc 5***

A lot of equipment does not come with sampling ports or valves from the OEM so it is up to us to determine how or where to pull an oil sample from.

There are engines, sumps, pipes, tanks etc. for oil to be sampled from, but how do you get a clean, proper oil sample? One of the most common methods of pulling an oil sample is the "drop tube method" by using a vampire pump and some clear tube to obtain the sample. While this is ok, it is not always the most sanitary method of getting a clean oil sample. The tube may turn in your sump and you could pull oil from the bottom or top of your reservoir. The tube could be handled for long periods of time and a high potassium reading could show up on your report. The dipstick could be full of dirt or soot and give you a false reading also. So try to make the drop tube method one of your last options for obtaining oil.

If possible always try to install a sample port valve. This will assure that your oil sample is clean of Mother Nature's particles. There are many styles of valves you can use. The pushpin valve, push button valve, and turn valve are some of the most popular used in the equipment / industrial applications.

One of the bad habits when oil sampling is: Putting the cap of the bottle in your pocket, which usually gives us a high copper or nickel count depending on the change in your pocket. Lint, silicon, and PPM readings are usually a factor that can give you a false reading on your equipment reports too.

Using sample port ID tags are always an important part of setting up a sampling program. Sample port ID tags help minimize confusion regarding the actual location of a sample port on the equipment and ensure samples are drawn from the correct location. When installing your sample port always check with a professional to ensure proper positioning of the sample valve. Try to keep away of dead flow areas where oils might settle. This is wear you will find wear debris settling; water and other particle that will show abnormal wear on your machine. Make sure the oil is flowing and always take a warm oil sample when possible. Keep your oil sample tube in a clean area, such as a plastic bag. Never use the same tube to pull different oil samples. This will cross contaminate your sample. Always clean your vampire pump after each use. And always use clean, approved bottles for sampling. Never reuse your sample bottles you will always get a false reading.