

Low Hub Oil Levels Are A Recipe For Disaster

Most steer and trailer axles are lubricated with oil rather than grease. If a hub runs low or out of oil, the results can be catastrophic: in some cases the entire hub, wheel, and tire can separate and roll uncontrollably until they strike something that stops them. This can cause serious injury or death. Properly checking hub oil levels and the vent plug is essential.

Vent Plugs

Vent plugs Hubcap vent plugs may occasionally show small amounts of oil on their exterior. The amount can vary with environmental conditions or plug age. Small amounts of oil on the outside of the vent plug are a normal result of pressure venting within the hub cavity.

For an example of normal vent plug appearance, both of these are acceptable



The images below show signs of a leaking vent plug.



If you see signs of leaking, the vent plug must be replaced before the vehicle is driven.

Checking the Hub Oil

The following is the recommended procedure as detailed in the Freightliner Maintenance Manual

The following recommended procedure is taken from the Freightliner Maintenance Manual:

- Only remove vent plugs by hand. Using tools can damage them.
- Wipe the hub and plug area clean before checking oil.
- Do not use a pressure washer on the hub/plug area; water can be forced through the vent and contaminate the oil.

Procedure:

1. Park the vehicle on a level surface, shut down the engine, and set the parking brakes. Chock the tires.
2. Inspect the axle hub cap and vent plug for evidence of excessive leakage.
3. Wipe the hub cap and vent plug clean with a rag.
4. Remove the vent plug and check the oil for evidence of water contamination.
 - a. If find water-contaminated oil, the truck or trailer is **Out-Of-Service**, do not drive until repaired

Once the vent cap has been removed, it is recommended to use a flashlight to check levels



You are looking for the “Minimum Oil Level”, It is not easy to see in this image but the level on this truck is displaying at the minimum line.