

Are you taking care of your heat transfer oil?

There are many different types of heat transfer oil, and just like anything else, it doesn't last forever. Still, there are things you can do to make it last as long as possible, and protect your plant equipment from subsequent damage.

Some heat transfer oils begin to break down at a microscopic level at 200 degrees F. Over time, that breakdown contributes to buildup along the inner surfaces of your hot oil piping, as well as particulate matter that floats along with the oil flow.

The buildup inside the piping reduces heat transfer efficiency, driving up your energy consumption, (and driving up your fuel bill along with it).

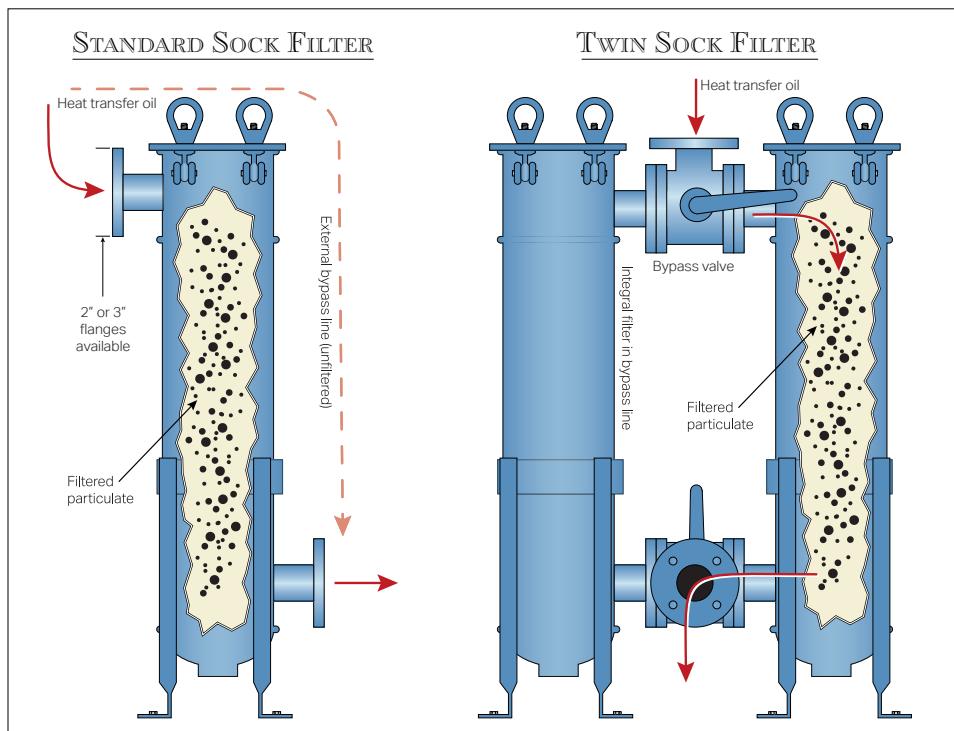
The floating particulate matter can damage your hot oil pumps.

Given enough time, all this chemical breakdown will reduce your heat transfer oil to a thick sludge that has lost much of its properties for efficient heating — the very reason you're using it in the first place.

What can you do?

1. Filter your heat transfer oil. Installing a sock filter in your hot oil piping will go a long way toward protecting your hot oil pumps. These filters trap the floating particulate matter before it can cause more damage. Standard models include a bypass line so that you can change or clean filters without shutting down your hot oil system. Twin filter models include a filter in the bypass line, so that the oil flow is filtered at all times. CEI offers both models with 2" or 3" flanges.

2. Clean your heat transfer oil. Some producers of heat transfer oil offer cleaning fluids that can be injected into your hot oil system. These fluids clean away the buildup that may be clogging up your hot oil piping, and return your oil to a more efficient state. This is a good option to try before simply replacing your transfer oil altogether, because new oil in clogged piping will still cause problems. Check with your transfer oil supplier or your CEI Service Technician to see what options are available. ♦♦♦



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