

Oil (chemical substance)

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A [fluid mixture](#) of mid-density and/or high-density [alkanes](#) that stays mostly [liquid](#) or [semi-solid](#) at [Normal Surface Conditions](#) (NTP).

The usual composition ranges from C_1 to C_{32} and [API gravity](#) is between 4° and 42° ([Specific Gravity](#) is $0.816 \div 1.0$).).

It may also include minor [organic](#) and [inorganic](#) chemical substances (usually < 7% in weight).

The total range of oil densities is often classified into the following sub-ranges (see also **Fig 1**):

Extra Heavy Oil (Bitumen)	Heavy Oil	Medium Oil	Light Oil
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Fig. 1 – A range of different gravity [oil compositions](#) from heavy (with dark brown colour at the left side of a bar) to the light (with yellow colour at the right side of a bar).
(the picture is taken from Dubost et al (2007) in [SPE-108494](#))

In case [oil](#) does not contain [dissolved gas](#) it is called [Dead Oil](#) otherwise it is called [Live Oil](#).

The heavier [oils](#) are usually met in [Black Oil Reservoirs](#) and lighter [oils](#) are in [Volatile Oil Reservoirs](#).

See also

[Natural Science](#) / [Physics](#) / [Chemistry](#) / [Chemical Substance](#)

[Petroleum Industry](#) / [Upstream](#) / [Subsurface E&P Disciplines](#) / [Petroleum Geology](#) / [Petroleum fluids](#)

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