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Leaking Front Crankshaft Seals



If you encounter a 2.5 liter DOHC Subaru engine with a leaking or dislodged front crankshaft oil seal, consider the oil pump as a possible cause. It may be necessary to remove the oil pump and examine the oil pump rear sealing plate before installing a new seal. The screws holding the rear sealing plate may be loose (by as much as 1/16-inch in some reported cases).

This allows oil to exit the pump rotor area, then get into the oil pump body where it is pressurized. The pressurized oil pushes on the front crankshaft seal, causing it to leak or pushing it out of its mounting.

There have been field reports indicating that the inner spring may be missing from some replacement front crankshaft oil seals intended for 2.2 liter Subaru engines. Be sure to carefully inspect this seal the next time you are ready to install one, just to make sure the spring is present. At the present time, reports of missing springs are confined to 2.2 liter engines only.