



TT451: BIG TWIN HYDRAULIC CAM CHAIN TENSIONER STICKING

January 14, 2016



APPLIES TO	SYMPTOMS
All 2007 and Later Models with Big Twin Powertrain	• Abnormal or Excessive Noise

Symptom

Noise from the cam chest area possibly accompanied by milky engine oil.

Issue

Moisture can cause slight swelling in the tensioner causing it to stick in the housing. A vehicle that makes repeated short trips can have this condition because the engine does not reach normal operating temperatures, allowing condensation and moisture to build up in the engine oil.

Resolution

If the oil is milky, change the oil and filter. Ride the vehicle until oil reaches 180 °F (82 °C) or higher to evaporate the residual moisture in the oil. This can require riding 20 miles (32 km) or more to reach this temperature. The tensioner should then operate normally.