

2 + 2 = Good PM!



Operators, to keep your backhoe loader (BHL) on the job, read and heed all the good info in TM 5-2420-231-10 (Feb 09). But you'll need to pay special attention to how you start up and shut down the vehicle. That's where the 2 + 2 minute rule comes in handy.

Right after startup, give the BHL about **two minutes** to warm up. That gives the oil time to lubricate parts. It also boils off condensation caused by normal engine breathing. Then you don't have to worry about condensation mixing with the oil and forming a sludge that's sure to clog the engine.

During that warm-up, eyeball the low engine oil pressure warning light. If the light comes on and stays on, the engine oil pressure is too low. An alarm should also sound. If either or both happen, shut down the engine pronto and call in your mechanic.



If light stays on
or alarm sounds,
shut down!



After running the BHL at the worksite, let the engine cool down before shutting it off. Idle the engine for at least **two minutes**. Without that cool-down period, the heat can crack the block, warp a head or valves, or bake the oil until it's no longer slick enough to lube the bearings.