

Rain Lamp: How Much Oil to Use

Rain Lamps hold approximately 1 to 3 pints of oil. There are a couple different types of oil that can be used in a Rain Lamp. The procedure for adding oil is slow and careful to ensure the correct amount is added. The amount of oil to use depends on the size of the Rain Lamp and how low the oil is at the time. Adding oil to a vintage Rain Lamp is a simple procedure.

Rain Lamp Oil Overview

There are two oil pans in the lamp that accumulate oil. Oil is force into the pan in the top of the lamp by a pump. A hidden tube keeps the oil from overflowing the pan by moving excess oil back down to the pan in the bottom of the lamp. From the top pan the oil flows into small drip holes which disperse oil drops to each piece of fishing line. Oil travels down the fishing line and accumulates in the bottom pan. This simple seamless process of moving the oil repeats. The light in the top of the lamp makes the moving oil sparkle and helps to create the effect of rain.

Type of oil to use

The original oil made for and used in a vintage Rain Lamps was Drakeol #35 oil. Today this oil is impossible to find. However Drakeol #35 oil is very similar to mineral oil and paraffin oil. Glycerin has been a modern day substitute for the original Drakeol #35 oil. Water is not used because it evaporates too quickly. The recommended oil today is Mineral oil. There is commercially produced replacement oil available named Rain Lamp Fluid that comes in a quart bottle (32 ounces) bottle and claims not to clog like regular mineral oil.

How much oil to use

Rain Lamps come in different sizes making it difficult to give an exact measurement of the oil needed. The large size lamp usually holds between 1 and 3 pints of oil.

How to add the oil

Oil is added to fill holes in the bottom collection pan. Regardless of the size of the lamp the oil should be added carefully and slowly. With the lamp on, slowly pour the oil. Listen to the sound of the pump which will change when there is enough oil to begin pumping. Stop pouring after the first pint and wait a few minutes for the lamp to begin to raining. If nothing happens add another half pint of oil and wait a few minutes. If the oil level still seems low add a little more oil, wait, and repeat if necessary being cautious not to overwhelm the pump with too much oil. Expect to pour at least one pint of oil but no more than three pints.

Tip: Cover the floor beneath the Rain Lamp with plastic to protect the floor or carpet from oil drips or spills.

References

How to replace fishing line in a Rain Lamp <http://www.travels.com/destinations/africa/replace-fishing-line-rain-lamp/>

Rain Lamp Fluid

http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=130353454957&rvr_id=&crp=1_263602_263622&UA=WXF%3F&GUID=a814f38c1240a043722292a2fffc467e&itemid=130353454957&ff4=263602_263622

Resources

Rain Lamps http://www.simnia.com/rain_lamps/

Keywords: rain lamp oil, how much oil to use, rain lamp fluid and oil