

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

DIESEL TANK FUEL SLUDGING

All diesel fuel tanks are prone to contamination from a variety of bacteria, algae and microbes technically known as hydrocarbon utilizing micro-organisms.

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Most at risk fuel systems

Diesel tanks most at risk of bug contamination are the ones that have poorly maintained and tested fuel tanks and systems.

Tanks like marine fuel tanks and generators tanks that reside in high humidity areas are more prone to issues if they don't operate very often, thus allowing diesel old fuel to "go off" over time.



How it all starts

Water can and does enter tanks through air vents or during the transport of fuel to and from sites or just during the day to night cycle of hot to cold temperatures as water condensates on the inside walls of the tanks and ingress into the fuel thus allowing bugs to develop and grow.

Talk about rabbits reproducing, these bugs can replicate faster than bunny rabbits given the right conditions, traces of water and warm temperatures are the ideal factors for bugs to grow in your fuel.



The damage done

The formation of thick, slimy clusters of bugs can block fuel filters and produce acidic components that can damage fuel systems.

This may just cost you heaps of money in repairs and also downtime lost by equipment that is out of service while repairs are carried out.

Diesel fuel pumps and injectors are the most expensive components on an engine to repair and maintain.



Warning signs to look for

The most common tell tales of fuel bugs are above normal filter blockages which result in low engine power or your engine stopping completely.

An easy test is to draw a fuel sample and check it with our diesel fuel bug tester. You can also remove a fuel filter, cut it open and inspect the cartridge element for sludge, this is a bit of a messy check and a lot more work to do obviously.



Treatment options for fuel bugs

The big daddy treatment of major problems includes the draining / pumping out of all fuel, pressure cleaning of the tank and changing of all filters. This may be complicated if the tank does not have a good access cover.

The old fuel may need to be replaced or cleaned with a fuel polisher unit to remove contamination and pumped back into the clean tank.

If you have light bug problems the treatment with just a biocide may be possible.

The use of biocide alone is not recommended if you have major bug issues as it can lead to ongoing fuel system blockages from the bugs being dislodged "shocked" from the bottom of your tank and entering the filtration system.

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