

Factors Affecting the Contamination of Clean Fuel in Storage Tanks

The following points can all contribute to the contamination of good clean fuel supplied from bulk storage tanks. Fuel contaminated by water or dirt can lead to loss of efficiency, engine malfunctions and premature clogging of vehicle filter systems.

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| Rate of Usage | The longer the fuel spends sitting in the tank the more likely it is to build up contamination through condensation and microbiological growth. |
| Above or Below Ground Tanks | Condensation builds up when the tank breathes ie let air in and out as fuel is used, replenished, and as the fuel shrinks and expands with temperature. Above ground tanks are more susceptible to condensation buildup as the temperature of the fuel is more prone to change. |
| Location of Tank | An above ground tank sited in the sun will breathe more than a tank sited in a more sheltered location and therefore will be more prone to condensation buildup. |
| Age of the Tank | The longer the tank has been in use the greater the buildup of internal silt and scale. Although this usually collects out of harms way at the bottom of the tank, deliveries to the tank stir up this sediment and over the years the depth of silt can start to reach the outlet level. |
| Frequency of Cleaning | Obviously the more often the tank is cleaned the less risk of contamination. However even regular annual cleaning cannot prevent a rapid build up of contamination |

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| Tank Maintenance | If the tank is not properly maintained it is likely to corrode, adding further to the contamination levels. |
| Weather Tightness of Tanks | The better the weatherproofing the less chance of rainwater seepage into the tank. Leaky vents, tank gauges and pipe joints will all let water in. |
| Quality of Fuel Purchased | The fuel dispensed can only be as good as the fuel that you buy. Ensure you purchase fuel from only reputable sources. |