

We wanted to take this opportunity to share a little information about a fairly controversial issue – namely the use of ethanol in today’s fuel.



Ethyl alcohol has become a mainstay as a means to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels and is being used throughout the United States and many other countries around the world. Today, the fuel being pumped from most gas stations is E10 – this indicates a mixture of 10% ethanol and 90% gasoline. Many fuel stations also sell E85 – (85% ethanol content) which can be used in Flex Fuel vehicles with engines and systems designed to be compatible with high ethanol content fuels.

The United States and Brazil are the two largest producing and consuming nations of ethanol. Ethanol represents about 10% of our country’s current fuel supply. The addition of ethanol to gasoline is the result of government mandates on fuel suppliers – as such ethanol is a reality for the foreseeable future.

Cautions

Ethanol is alcohol, which makes it a solvent. Ethanol can be harmful to plastic, rubber, fiberglass, and the like. Essentially the vehicle manufacturer must construct engines and fuel components to resist the otherwise damaging effects that are possible with ethanol.

Vehicles not designated flex fuel that have been produced since 1999 have engines and systems that are generally compatible with ethanol fuels up to and including E10.

There are certain scientific facts about ethanol fuels that can cause concern and should not be ignored.

Ethanol absorbs water. As the fuel absorbs water, a condition called *phase separation* occurs. This is when gasoline containing even small amounts of Ethanol comes in contact with water, either liquid or in the form of humidity; the Ethanol will pick-up and absorb some or all of that water. When it reaches a saturation point, the Ethanol and water will Phase Separate, actually coming out of solution and forming two or three distinct layers in the tank.



This condition can occur in your vehicle fuel tank and result in hard starting and, over time, gum and varnish can impede fuel system operation.

Remedies

The shelf life for E10 is 90 to 100 days, so replace the fuel in your tank every two to three weeks.

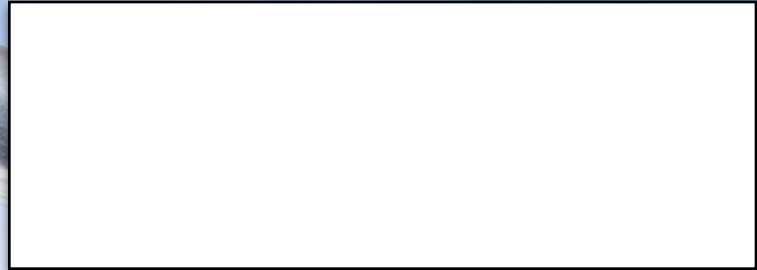
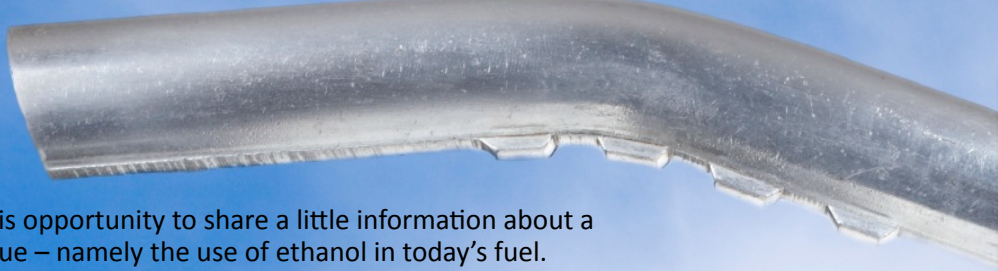
Be especially careful about storing ethanol fuel or using fuel that has been stored for extended periods. This is particularly important for small engines used in lawn maintenance equipment and the like.

Since ethanol absorbs moisture from the surrounding air, keep your tank above half full as a way of reducing the amount of air in the tank.

There are some fuel stations that sell 100% gasoline. Go to www.pure-gas.org for a list of these stations.

Please feel free to call anytime to discuss the solutions we have for preventing damage from ethanol blended gasoline or to deal with some of the issues it can cause in relation to deposit formation in the fuel system.

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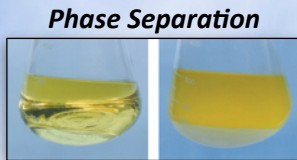
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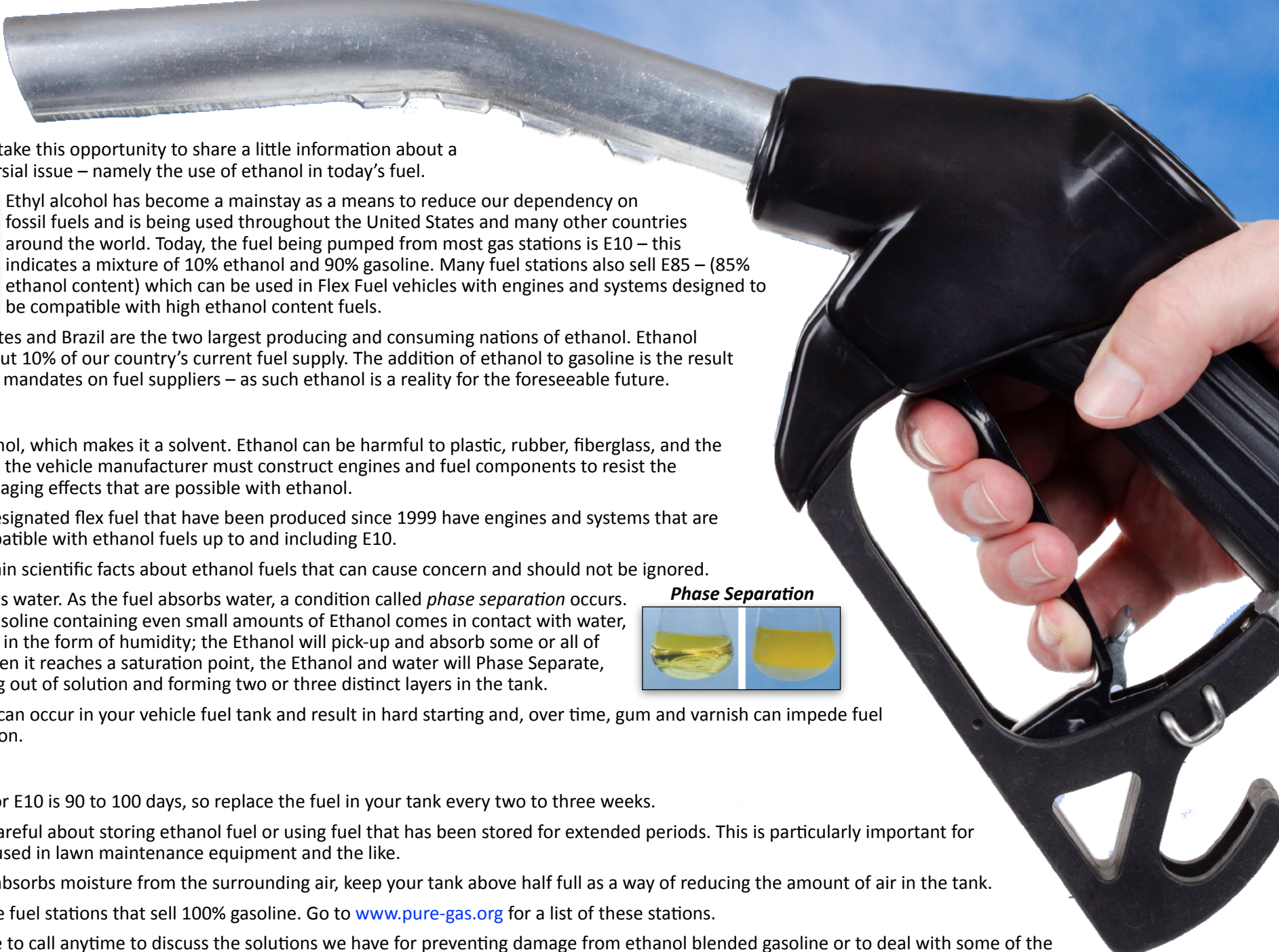
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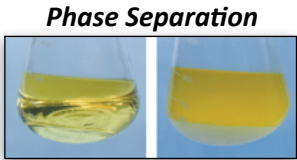
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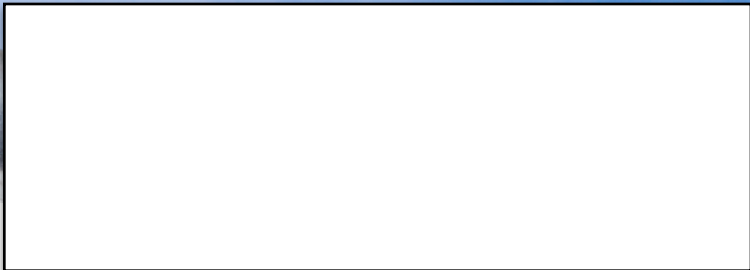
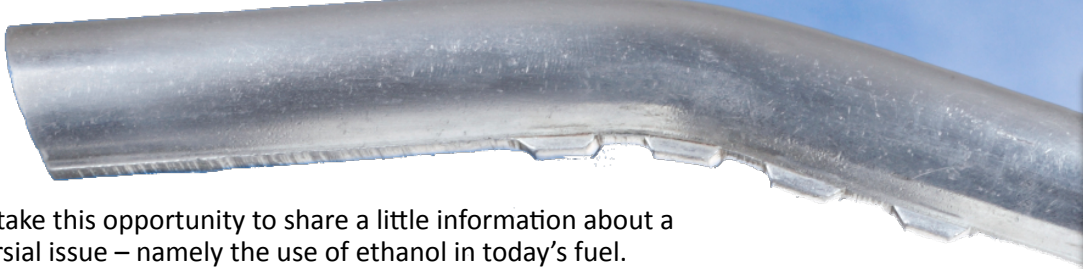
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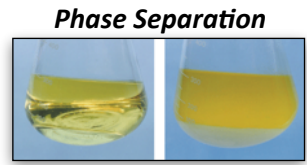
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