



The Hazards of Using Biodiesel

Although biodiesel is a great alternative to petroleum diesel, there are known hazards with using it in vehicle engines.

Solvent Properties of Biodiesel

Biodiesel acts as a lubricant, which means that it can loosen deposits that are stuck in fuel lines and in the fuel tank, which in turn could clog fuel filters, injectors or other parts of the fuel system. Experts indicate that this is a greater issue with older diesel vehicles (because the higher mileage generally means greater deposits) and with the newest technology for fuel injection, such as Mercedes-Benz's new compressed direct injection diesel engines, where the pressure of the fuel being forced through the injectors is much greater than in the older-style diesel engines. It is critical that owners watch for signs that fuel filters and systems are clogging, particularly when biodiesel is first used.

Because of its solvent quality, biodiesel can damage the paint on your vehicle. Any spills should be cleaned up immediately with soap and water.

Warranty Issues

If biodiesel is deemed to be the cause of malfunction, your car warranty may become null and void. Federal law prohibits the voiding of a warranty just because biodiesel was used—it has to be the cause of the failure. If an engine experiences a failure caused by biodiesel use (or any other external condition, such as bad diesel fuel), the damage will not be covered by the OEM's warranty.

Rubber & Biodiesel

Biodiesel will degrade natural rubber hoses and tubes over time. You will eventually need to change your natural rubber fuel lines to a synthetic rubber brand.

Fuel Storage

Biodiesel will degrade over time. Do not use biodiesel if it has been sitting for months. Biodiesel can grow mold and cause harm to your vehicle.

Cold Flow Properties

100% biodiesel can gel at temperatures as high as 30° F. When gelled, biodiesel will not run in your engine. To avoid gelling, use an anti-gelling additive, or blend with petroleum-based diesel fuel.

Taxes and Incentives

Biodiesel is not exempt from federal excise taxes and it is not exempt from most state or local taxes. That means that biodiesel and biodiesel blends are taxed at the same rate as diesel fuel and the taxes are handled in the same manner. Fuel purchased from EcoDiesel includes all taxes.

Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) Emissions

Biodiesel may increase nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions in many engines.

Liability Acknowledgement

I have read, and understand the known and unknown issues with using biodiesel in my vehicle. I further understand that biodiesel is considered an experimental fuel and will not hold EcoDiesel or any of its members liable for any problems associated with my choice to use biodiesel in my vehicle.

Printed Name

Signature

Date