



Disposal of Old, Unusable Gasoline

**By law, phase-separated
or contaminated fuel is
considered hazardous
waste and must be
disposed of properly.**

The Environmental Depot in Lewiston accepts such waste. It is open May to November on the first and third Saturdays of the month. www.envdepot.com

Or, look for a local household hazardous waste program where you can bring the gasoline for safe disposal at: www.maine.gov/spo/recycle/municipalities/hhwindex.htm .

The Maine Clean Boatyards & Marinas Program along with the Maine DEP urge recreational boaters to protect water quality by always using safe fuel handling and disposal practices.

**Please contact your local
marine mechanic for
technical assistance if
you experience
problems with E10.**



**You can find general
information on
Ethanol fuel topics at:
www.mainedep.com**

Ethanol Fuel & Your Boat



**What problems
might boaters
experience?**





photo credits: Friends of Coseo Bay

Problems boaters might experience...

"Traveling at 40 knots (stopping abruptly, in rough water), it's like striking a cement wall with your car, causing passengers to be thrown forward or even overboard." Stonington Harbormaster, Steve Johnson

Fuel (phase) separation can occur because ethanol absorbs water and then separates. Once the fuel has separated it is unusable. First, it appears cloudy and eventually the gasoline floats on top while the water sinks to the bottom of the tank. Because most small engines receive their fuel from the bottom of the tank, the engine will sputter and stall.



Engine damage can be a concern because ethanol is a powerful solvent that will clean out the buildup of particles (gunk) in fuel tanks and engines. That results in clogged fuel filters, and if the fuel becomes phase-separated, the more concentrated ethanol can damage engine components.

Fuel system problems can be caused by increased water in the fuel tank which promotes corrosion that clogs filters, and fuel systems.

E10 can cause corrosion or breakdown of tanks (metal, plastic and pre-1984 fiberglass), creating holes and leaks. Rubber hoses and gaskets can degrade, causing fuel leaks.

Prevent problems with your boat and E10

- ◆ Know the type of fuel you're using.
- ◆ Make sure your tank is compatible with E10 before fueling up.
- ◆ Use a non-alcohol marine fuel stabilizer with each tank of fuel.
- ◆ Install a water separating fuel filter.
- ◆ Carry spare fuel filters and the tools to change them when at sea.
- ◆ Inspect and replace older rubber fuel lines and gaskets to ensure against fuel leaks.
- ◆ If you winterize your boat or don't plan on using it for a while, keep your tank 95% full to prevent condensation but leave room for fuel expansion.

Blended E10 fuel is changing the way boaters must manage their fuel use. By taking certain precautions you can avoid potentially dangerous problems such as gas leaks or stalled engines that could leave you adrift or stranded on the water.

Common E10 problems:

- ◆ Sputtering, stalling motor.
- ◆ Engine fails to accelerate when pressing on the throttle.
- ◆ Increased stalling, hesitation, misfiring and difficulty maintaining speed.
- ◆ Rusting, deterioration of parts.
- ◆ Fuel system clogs and fuel leaks.

