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## Health Checklist For Stored Fuels

We know that many of our customers keep fuel in storage tanks for short- and long-term use. They need to keep their stored fuels in prime condition for as long as possible. So we're here to help with some important things to keep in mind. What are the most likely problems you'll face if you store fuel? What's the worst that might happen if you do nothing? What should you do to take action?

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### The Top Problems People Storing Fuel Are Likely To Face

*What are the most common issues that stored fuel in storage tanks that you'll have to deal with.*

- Fuel contamination from microbes and water
  - Corrosion of storage tanks and surfaces
  - Fuel sludge buildup (especially with biodiesel blends)
  - Phase separation and octane loss (in stored ethanol blends)
  - Fuel gelling in cold weather
  - Uncertainty over viability of stored emergency fuels
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### The Most Likely Problem Scenarios Experienced If Action Isn't Taken

*Do nothing, and you might be faced with any one of these problems. Or more.*

- Accelerated tank damage from corrosion due to water and microbial action
  - Excessive filter plugging from microbes and sludge
  - Negative changes in equipment performance (lower mileage, more black smoke), especially with common rail diesel systems.
  - Inability to use fuel in emergency situations (for backup generators and emergency systems)
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### Best Practices For Protecting Your Stored Fuel Quality

*Preventing problems can be pretty simple if you incorporate one or more of these steps.*

- Monitoring and removal of water in storage tanks (helps prevent corrosion and prevent microbes)
  - Quarterly treatment with biocides (the only thing guaranteed to kill fuel microbes)
  - Use of stabilizers for diesel and biodiesel blends (keeps them from breaking down in the storage tank)
  - Cold flow treatment for diesel fuel in storage tanks in winter climates (keeps them from gelling)
  - Annual fuel testing to confirm minimum fuel properties (for peace of mind)
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**Want to know more? You're in luck. Check out these helpful video summaries of important things to keep in mind when storing fuels.**

**Keeping Fuel Healthy In Storage:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MC5uVeuEb0g>

**Stored Diesel Fuel Overview:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SfErM6P8s1U>

**Watch This If You Store Biodiesel Blends:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBE6KVnaRE8>