

## **Could Half An Approach Be A 100% Mistake**

***Before you take action to protect your storage tanks, make sure you avoid these mistakes***

When it comes to treating your storage tanks and the fuel therein, it's important to get things right. Making the right choices will cause you fewer headaches and save you money over the long haul. Making the wrong choices can be more trouble than it's worth. For best results, make sure you avoid these common mistakes and shortcuts when maintaining your storage tanks.

### **#1 - Neglecting the diagnostics, especially on emergency back-up systems**



Just like your car, it's never a good idea to ignore preventive maintenance of your storage tanks. Checking the health of the tank and its contents on a regular basis is the first step to heading off serious problems before they start. Check for water. Do a monthly microbe test on the tank contents. Take the fuel pH. And at least once a year (or however often you're required by law), do simple tests (i.e. cetane, stability) on the fuel inside your tank to make sure it's still good.

***Unsure of which ones you should do? We can help.***

### **#2 - Thinking a little water in the tank won't hurt**



Water in storage tanks, especially where fuel is concerned, is the gateway to a lot of problems. It's essential for microbes to grow in, leads to expensive tank corrosion, and if you have stored ethanol gasoline, can lead to phase separation of that fuel.

It used to be that a little water (i.e. half an inch) was considered acceptable for storage tanks. But times have changed. You want as little water in the tank as possible.

### **Not killing microbes when you have the chance**



Microbes grow easily in storage tanks and cause big problems. But they're not hard to get rid of provided you know what to do. The problem is that this kind of thing is typically far from the tank owner's mind. Making the mistake of ignoring a potential microbe problem can easily mean a much bigger problem down the road.

### **Polishing without chemical back-up (and vice versa)**



Fuel polishing and fuel chemical treatment shouldn't be at odds with each other. The most effective storage tank health programs use both. Fuel polishing is very effective at removing asphaltenes and sludge, but doesn't solve microbe problems and won't keep fuel stable in the future. Pumping of water gets out most of it but can become cost-excessive. Combining the mechanical (fuel polishing and pumping) with the chemical (treatment with biocides, water absorbers and fuel stabilizers) gives fuel tank owners the best of both world and maximum protection for their stored fuel.

***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>