

E-10 Ethanol Blended Gasoline

On April 17, 2010 Producers Cooperative began retailing E-10 ethanol blended gasoline (90% gasoline and 10% ethanol) at the fuel pumps as well as delivery, since conventional gasoline is no longer available. The Producers Cooperative Fuel Center has been prepared for this change with recently cleaned tanks and the appropriate filters on the fuel dispensers to prevent water and contaminants from entering your vehicles and equipment. This fuel is readily compatible with most modern automobiles and with a little preparation and modification it can be stored in existing tanks.

Here are some important facts about ethanol blended gasoline:

E-10 Affinity to Water:

- Gasoline distribution systems are not completely water tight and allow small amounts of water (*condensation, for example*).
- The ethanol portion of E-10 is highly water-soluble while gasoline has negligible solubility in water.
- Water can cause separation of the gasoline and ethanol (called phase separation). Water can find its way into vehicles or equipment by being drawn directly from the bottom of the tank or by being stirred up after delivery.
- Contamination with water can put the E-10 blend out of specification by lowering the octane rating and impacting engine performance.

E-10 Solvency:

- This mixture has excellent solvent properties. Its presence tends to loosen rust, scale, gum, varnish and other deposits in storage tanks, vehicle tanks and fuel systems which may cause filter plugging. This can be more problematical for older vehicles, older equipment and storage tanks.

E-10 Filtration:

- Prior to accepting the first delivery of E-10, the tank should be cleaned of water, rust and other foreign particles. Make sure to have a quality filter rated for ethanol blend gasoline (*10 micron with water separator*) on your storage tank. It is important that a filter rated for ethanol is used to take out any water, rust, scale or dirt loosened from the tank walls by the ethanol. Filters may need to be changed several times after the first load of E-10. Be sure to keep several filters on-hand at all times, as water can clog filters without warning and fuel cannot be pumped until the filter is changed.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Petroleum Division at Producers Cooperative.

Phone: (979) 778-6000

Email: petroleum@producerscooperative.com