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FUEL ~ Gasoline Basics

Gasoline is a product of refined crude oil. An ideal gasoline has these properties:

- Easy starting
- Low detonation
- Resistant to vapor lock
- Leaves minimal deposits in the combustion chamber & fuel system
- Low cost vs. energy output

Gasoline is made up of hydrocarbons and carbon compounds. When these compounds react with oxygen, they release energy. The combustion reaction of gasoline produces byproducts which include water along with various pollutants.

To reduce byproducts, engines and fuels today must meet rigid standards set by the EPA and CARB. To make engines meet standards evaporative emissions and catalyst exhaust systems are becoming more common and changing our industry.

PRESERVATIVES

Gasoline is made of unstable organic compounds which deteriorate and change into other compounds over time. Oxygen is the main cause of gasoline deterioration. Refineries add oxygen inhibitors to the fuel to stabilize it for three months. However, it usually takes that long for fuel to reach consumers.

Many consumers may not seal the can after fueling or purchase more fuel than they consume in a month of use. For these reasons, a fuel preservative must be added.



ONLY GOOD FOR 30 DAYS: Would you drink milk that was 30 days old? Milk and gasoline are both organic compounds that change over time.



OLD FUEL: Fuel that is old can cause deposits. Old fuel is also hard to burn. Above is a picture of an intake valve that is coated with a varnish like deposit that made the intake valve stick.



WHICH OCTANE SHOULD YOU CHOOSE?

HIGH OCTANE FUEL:

- Will NOT create more power
- Will NOT burn cleaner
- Is NOT more refined