

Biodiesel Beats the Cold

Hot Tips for Using Biodiesel in Cold Weather

Biodiesel Basics

A domestically produced, renewable fuel, biodiesel is not only better for your engine, it's better for the environment and the economy. It results in a substantial reduction of unburned hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and particulate matter. Every gallon you pump puts money into local agriculture and the domestic economy, rather than going overseas.

Biodiesel can be used in any diesel engine. It is usually blended with regular diesel fuel, most commonly at blends of 20 percent biodiesel or less.



Biodiesel Blends: A Fuel For Any Season

High quality biodiesel blends can be used successfully year-round, even in the coldest climates. Like regular #2 diesel fuel, biodiesel can gel at very low temperatures. But, with good fuel management and fuel that consistently meets the ASTM D 6751 specification, B20 (and below) users can count on a trouble-free winter, regardless of the climate.

The composition and cold flow properties of diesel fuels vary widely, as do the cold flow properties of biodiesel. Biodiesel blend users and fuel distributors must recognize these variations and develop a cold weather management plan well before cold weather sets in.

Hot Tips for Cold Weather

Quality fuel is absolutely critical to successful cold weather operability of biodiesel blends. Here are some tips that can help keep your engine running smoothly all winter long:

- Use high quality biodiesel fuel that meets the national standard, ASTM D 6751.
- Blend biodiesel with kerosene.
- Blend biodiesel with diesel that has been treated with cold weather additives.
- Use block and filter heaters.
- Store your vehicles indoors.
- Use a B20 blend or below.
- Visit www.bq-9000.org to learn more about the biodiesel industry's quality assurance program and which companies participate.

“Cool Customers” Rely on Biodiesel

Colorado's Aspen Resorts; The City of Keene, New Hampshire; Harvard University and Yellowstone National Park are just a few examples of B20 users who rely on the fuel year-round.

National Biodiesel Board's Web site, www.biodiesel.org/cold, highlights additional examples of cold weather successes and includes more information about the use of biodiesel blends in cold climates.

Steve Lawrence, Superintendent Operations and Maintenance for the City of Brooklyn Park, Minn., another B20 user, says the reason the city made the switch is simple.

“We wanted to eliminate the cloud of black soot that used to fill the garage when we started up our vehicles each morning. With biodiesel, the sooty cloud is gone and the air the drivers breathe is cleaner.”