



## **MISFUELLING AT RETAIL SITE**

This Fuel News outlines actions to be taken in the event of misfuelling your vehicle at a retail site.

### **Types of misfueling**

It is harder to misfuel a late model petrol vehicle with diesel fuel due to the nozzle on a diesel pump being too large to fit into the petrol filler. However classic and pre 1986 vehicles which were designed for leaded petrol have larger petrol filler holes so they will easily take the diesel nozzle. Petrol fuel nozzles easily fit into diesel filler holes and as a result this is the most common form of missfueling.

### **Why people misfuel**

It's an easy mistake to make. Fuel pump colours vary with fuel companies, ranging from yellow, green, and black to blue. Many homes now own, a mix of diesel and petrol fuelled vehicles. Hiring a vehicle that uses a different fuel or just simply being in a hurry with 21st century distractions, only add to the the possibility.

### **DIESEL INTO A PETROL VEHICLE**

#### **I've just put Diesel into my Petrol vehicle**

**Do not start the engine!!!** This will stop diesel getting through the fuel system which can cause damage.

Have your vehicle towed to the nearest repairer, who will be able to drain and clean the fuel tank and refill with the correct fuel.

#### **I've started my Petrol car with Diesel fuel in the tank!**

If you have started your car turn it off and have it towed to the nearest repairer, as to limit any potential damage. Change the oil because Diesel will not completely burn and will dilute the engine oil

#### **Note: is there a max % contamination that a petrol vehicle can tolerate.**

In our experience Pre 2000 vehicles that are recommended to use Premium fuel have a 0% tolerance for contamination.

Vehicles that are recommended to use Regular fuel have a tolerance of 5% contamination, we recommend changing the oil because Diesel will not completely burn and will dilute the engine oil.

## **PETROL INTO A DIESEL VEHICLE**

### **I've just put Petrol into my Diesel Vehicle**

#### **DO NOT START THE ENGINE!**

This will stop petrol getting through the fuel system causing costly damage. The minim repair needed is to drain and flush the tank and lines, replace the fuel filter, the high pressure pump and the injectors. On average a contamination repair can cost between \$10,000 - \$20,000 **we suggest you also contact your insurance company.**

Have your vehicle towed to the nearest repairer, who will be able to drain off and clean the fuel tank and refill with the correct fuel.

If you have started and driven your car turn it off and have it towed to the nearest repairer.

This will require the complete fuel system to be flushed and cleaned.

For information on a device that can assist in safeguarding your vehicle Visit.

<http://www.dieselguard.com/>

### **Note: is there a max % contamination that a diesel vehicle can tolerate**

In our experience Pre 2000 vehicles can tolerate 1-5% contamination.

It is advised that when sufficient room is available in the tank that it is topped up with the correct fuel, as the flash point of the diesel is lowered and rough running maybe experienced.

Post 2000 vehicles have a **0% tolerance** for contamination due to the complexities of modern fuel systems.

### **I've just put the wrong grade of petrol in my petrol vehicle**

Check the owner's handbook or the information on the fuel cap for recommended grades. Most cars sold after July 1986 can use 91 octanes regular unleaded but there will be a performance loss so running a lower octane fuel for one tank will cause no problems.

However the majority of pre July 1986 vehicles and some high performance cars only 98 octane or 95 octane fuel is acceptable.

In this case the fuel tank will need to be drained and refilled with the correct octane fuel.

If you have put in a higher octane fuel don't worry as all petrol powered vehicles can run on higher octane petrol without problems of harm to the vehicle.

**I've put 91 Octane E10 petrol into my pre 1986 petrol vehicle.**

One tank of E10 petrol in a pre 1986 vehicle that has a minimum octane requirement of 91 will not cause any damage although some filter blockage may occur due to normal build up of dirt and gums being washed through to the engine. You can run the vehicle and then dilute with normal petrol as soon as space is available but there may be a requirement to change fuel filters if the car runs rough. IF your pre 1986 vehicle requires 95 or 98 Octane fuel then the fuel tank will need to be drained and refilled with the correct octane fuel.

**I've put 91 Octane E10 petrol into post 1986 model car but its manufacturer does not recommend E10 petrol.**

If 91 Octane fuel is suitable for your post 1986 model car one tank of an E10 blend will not cause any damage and it can be used however it should be diluted as soon as possible. If your car requires 95 or 98 Octane fuel then the fuel tank will need to be drained and refilled with the correct octane fuel.

**For further information, please call the  
BP Lubricants and Fuels Technical Helpline  
1300 139 700**

Local call cost except mobiles