

fact sheet



a safer petrol for remote communities

Opal™ fuel - a safer petrol for remote communities

BP remains committed to working with communities and government agencies to address the issue of petrol sniffing in remote communities.

Opal fuel is the first of its kind and has been available since January 2005. Opal fuel is not available for general distribution, but is available to all remote communities who participate in the Petrol Sniffing Prevention Program managed by the Department of Health and Ageing.

Opal fuel maintains the same deterrent aspect of Comgas whilst also removing the lead component.



What does the doctor say?

BP has consulted a professional toxicologist to assess how Opal fuel compares to other types of fuel.



On the basis of the assessments conducted, the toxicologist stated that *'all fuels are potentially toxic, but that in terms of chronic exposure [Opal] is the least toxic of all the fuels assessed'*.

Prof M Moore, Report to BP on Comgas, October 2004.

Does Opal™ fuel cost more?

No. Opal fuel is subsidised under the Australian Government's Petrol Sniffing Prevention Program. This financial support allows Opal fuel to be priced at an equivalent local price to regular unleaded fuel.

What will happen if I mix other things with Opal™ fuel?

It is safe to mix Opal fuel with your tank of regular unleaded when you fill up. Opal can only be made sniffable by the addition of an already sniffable compound. It cannot be altered by using polystyrene or other solid materials.

What about my car or outboard?

Opal fuel is an unleaded product and can be used in all applications that require regular unleaded petrol including two and four stroke motors.

These are:

2 strokes:

- Lawn mowers
- Outboards
- Chainsaws, Whipper snippers etc.

4 strokes:

- Passenger vehicles
- Vans
- Petrol 4WDs



Independent testing was commissioned by BP in October 2004. The testing found that *'There is no significant difference when a vehicle runs on Opal fuel compared to the same vehicle running on regular unleaded petrol.'*

*Independent automotive testing laboratory report,
October 2004*

How does my community get supply of **Opal™** fuel?

For your community to be approved to receive Opal under this scheme please contact the Department of Health and Ageing on (02) 6289 4197. Once your community has been approved, order Opal through your regular fuel supplier.

Where can I buy **Opal™** fuel?

For an up-to-date list and map of communities and roadhouses supplying Opal fuel please visit the website of the Department of Health & Ageing at www.health.gov.au/petrolsniffingprevention.

Going on a trip?

You can fill up with Opal fuel in Alice Springs. If you go to another town or community that doesn't have Opal fuel, take jerry cans of Opal fuel with you so you don't bring regular unleaded back into the community. To let people know your car is using Opal fuel & for added protection, Opal fuel stickers are available from Opal fuel outlets.

Are less young people sniffing petrol?

"There has been vastly less sniffing in the communities that have got Opal, it's the best chance for stopping sniffing" Blair McFarlane, Central Australian Youth Link Up Service (CAYLUS).

"Where Opal has been supplied it has made a positive impact." Hon. Tony Abbott, MHR

For more information

BP enquiries

BP welcomes enquiries about Opal fuel. For more information please contact:

- **Media enquiries** Chandran Vigneswaran (03) 9268 3534
- **General enquiries** Jan Sperling (03) 9268 3236
- **Technical enquiries** BP Fuels & Lubricants Technical Helpline on 1300 139 700.

Mail: BP Australia Pty Ltd
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Or please visit www.bp.com.au

Government enquiries

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