



NEW MEADOWS  
MARINA

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## Ethanol Bulletin: Don't Let It Keep You Off The Water!

To Our Customers:

Like many of you, we have found ourselves dealing with the effects of ethanol gasoline again and again. It has, amongst other things, created added frustration for our technicians and our customers, alike. For that reason we thought that we would share some of the things that we have learned from dealing with this type of gasoline.

We have noticed some main issues that arise from the presence of ethanol in gasoline: water in the gas, destabilization of gas resulting in separation and loss of octane, delaminating fiberglass tanks resulting in sludge in the gas and 'scrubbing' of tanks resulting in particulate matter in the gas.

Unfortunately, we have not come across a single additive or preventive method that will cure all of the negative effects of ethanol blended gasoline. After extensive additive testing and experiments with precautionary techniques we have some helpful tips that can combat ethanol related problems. We understand that there are many opinions on how to deal with ethanol related issues. These are the methods, however, that we have found to be the most practical and effective in dealing with ethanol.

1. **Check your fuel/water separating filter regularly.** In the 'old days' the practice was to check this once a season. Now we recommend checking your filter regularly to monitor any water in the gas or particulate matter or anything else that shouldn't be in there. Filters with clear sight bowls on the bottom are a great way to monitor your gas. These filters have a valve that can bleed off water that has separated and is visible in the sight bowl. If what you see in the bowl looks dirty then it is time to change the filter.



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Keeping a spare filter on your boat is a good idea and make sure it is 10-micron!

2. **Stabilize your gas, even in season** if you aren't burning through it regularly. Ideally, when you put gas in your tank you will then burn through it within a few days. Gas that sits for even three weeks can destabilize, separate and attract water that will create problems for your engine.
3. **If you have a large inboard tank, don't fill up if you aren't going to burn through it all quickly.** Letting this type of gas sit for any length of time can invite problems.
4. **Be careful of what you put into your gas.** There are many additives on the market right now that claim to cure the negative effects of ethanol. There are some that work, and some that don't and can actually exacerbate water problems. If you have questions about what additives you should use, stop in or give us a call and we will be happy to give you some recommendations.
5. **As winterization time approaches, keep in mind that whatever gas is left in your tank will be sitting idle for months.** Although stabilizing the gas will help, take into consideration that you may end up with some water in your gas next spring. For that reason the less gas you have to stabilize, the better. And before you run your engine next spring and potentially risk getting water or particulate matter into the carburetors, change your fuel/water separating filters and have your tank dipped to check for separation.
6. **Be wary of old tanks.** Above deck portable tanks are often easier to monitor than below deck tanks. There are tank and fuel polishing services that we can recommend that we have seen be very effective in cleaning older aluminum tanks.



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We hope these suggestions are helpful in avoiding future problems. Please understand, however, with fuel issues there are no guarantees. Issues can arise at any time. Having your carburetors cleaned of particulate matter will not prevent them from getting gummed up again in the future if the gas that is being run through them at any given point has attracted water, sludge or more particles. Additionally, 'fresh gas' doesn't necessarily mean clean gas. What ethanol does to your tank, it does to the other tanks that it has been sitting in.

We look forward to helping you have a great time on the water. Please let us know if you have any questions and we will gladly get you the information you need to boat safely and efficiently.

Thank you,

The New Meadows Marina Crew

**NEW MEADOWS COUPON!!**

You deserve a hassle free boating experience. Don't let ethanol get in your way. If you have a new engine that you want to protect, or an old one that you need help to maintain, stop in for a free consultation. We will give you helpful tips to keep you on the water. And when you are ready for a new outboard, we will help you with that as well. Come see us for service that you can trust from a family business that understands what you need.

**To get you started, bring in this coupon for 10% off your Yamaha Stabilizer purchase!**

**Valid through 8/30/16**



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