

On the 1st January 2019 there was an increase in the Biofuel content in Auto Diesel from 6% to 10%, to meet the requirements of the Irish Government's Biofuels Obligation Scheme.

Auto Diesel containing Biofuel is known to have an increased risk of micro-biological growth, which grow at the interface between the fuel and water.

Water is present in fuel through the natural process of condensation resulting from temperatures rising and falling over a period.

Biofuel, which now makes up 10% of Auto Diesel, absorbs 30 times more water than standard fuel. This can lead to the blocking of tank strainers, vehicle fuel filters and injectors by forming a glue like substance.

The good news is that this growth can easily be curtailed and prevented by making sure that good housekeeping is maintained. Key to this is ensuring that any water present is removed periodically.

To ensure the integrity of the fuel:

- Where possible keep the tank full to reduce the build-up of water from condensation.
- Drain water from the tank on a regular basis.
- Empty and clean the tank every 5 years or earlier depending on the amount of water build up.

Where fuel is stored for longer periods, the purchase of winter grade fuel is advised to ensure that the fuel does not wax in colder conditions.