Changes in fuel

Current law in the UK states that BS EN 228:2008 (Unleaded) or BS:7800 (Super Unleded) can contain up to 5% ethanol. It seems that this can be increased at any time without informing the consumer.

If you are not in the UK please check with your fuel retailers before filling the tank.

Terms of Use and Warnings for Fibreglass Tanks

Due to problems with the ever increasing amount of ethanol in modern fuels the compatibility of our tanks have been tested up to 15% ethanol, 85% petrol. This is the maximum recommended percentage for use with standard vehicles, although some other fuel components on Classic bikes may not withstand such a high percentage.

If you notice any bubbling on your tank, or if you see a sticky substance in the carbs you should disconnect the tank immediately, empty the fuel and wash the tank out with washing up liquid.

The modern resins which our tanks use are not covered in any way if fuel has been used over the 15% ethanol level, nor is the sealant which should be used before use.

See below for details on sealing your tank.

Terms of Use and Warnings for Steel/Alloy Tanks

As with fibreglass tanks, the ethanol in fuel is having an effect on steel and alloy tanks. Those which have previously been sealed with a non-ethanol resistant sealant will see symptoms similar to those of untreated fibreglass tanks. For untreated tanks you might find the inside of the tank will rust and then be stripped off each time the tank is emptied and refilled. This can happen for a long period of time before causing leaks, but all of the rust can deposit in filters etc.

It is recommended that all steel and alloy tanks are cleaned and sealed before first use. We can no longer protect the inside of the tanks from surface rust before sale as this may have an effect on the sealant used.

Tank Sealants

It is essential to seal your tank with an ethanol resistant sealer. This will need to be compatible with the material of your tank. It should be noted that many traditional sealants will not resist ethanol.

Please read the small print on any sealant as some are not recommended for use with some fuels and additives.

Even with a sealed tank, leaving fuel in the tank for long periods is not recommended.

More information on ethanol in modern fuels can be found on our website, http://www.burtonbikebits.net/ethanol-in-fuels.htm

All of the above is correct to the best of our knowledge as of 06/07/2011