

In this article, Envirotek delves into a recent case of diesel-bug contamination in Queensland.

Diesel bug is a common term used to cover the fungi, bacteria and yeast that can and will grow in diesel fuel if the conditions are right.

The contamination is often introduced to the fuel system via contaminated fuels, bowser nozzles and jerry cans and the presence of water allows the micro-organism to grow and multiply in the tank.

Diesel-bug contamination in the fuel tank grows and develops in the layer between diesel and water, where the micro-organisms break down the alkanes in the fuel using oxygen from the water.

This process multiplies and creates black sludge that forms in the fuel tank – this is what we identify as ‘diesel bug’. The sludge can grow at a rapid rate and block fuel filters, fuel lines and pick-ups, as well as creating adverse running conditions or even stopping the engine.

Many of us have heard of the term ‘diesel bug’ but have not had the distinct pleasure of coming across it, nor do you want to.

One thing we have learnt from the recent experience with a customer of ours is some technicians might not be familiar with the best way to completely eradicate diesel bug from a vehicle.

This is a very persistent bacteria and without a proper course of treatment it will just keep coming back.

The course of action our customer took wasn't the wrong one but they just didn't quite finish it off in a way that was going to stop the bug from coming back.

The vehicle was a 2005 Nissan Patrol. This 4WD had recently been purchased from North Queensland and been sitting for a while before the new owner started using it on a regular basis again.

Diesel bug contamination



With the vehicle once again on the road, it started having problems. It broke down a few times before the diesel-bug issue was diagnosed.

The fuel tank was removed and cleaned with petrol until no sign of the bug was left, then the tank was reconnected and the car handed back to the customer.

The problem, however, returned and the process was repeated a second time. The third time it happened was when we got the call.

In our experience what was done to eradicate the diesel bug was the correct process but they also needed to treat the entire fuel system with a powerful diesel biocide. Killing off every minute trace of the diesel bug is the only way to stop recontamination from happening again and again.

When the tank was cleaned the third time, they also added a 350mL shock treatment of Envirotek Diesel Conditioner, which contains a powerful biocide, to the new diesel fuel.

Furthermore, the vehicle's owner was also given a treatment of Envirotek EDC (Envirotek Diesel Cleaner) to dose the tank when filling up with diesel from service stations.

EDC is used as an in-tank treatment at ratio of 1:1000 to kill off remaining diesel bug in the fuel system (75L tank equals 75mL of product).

This treatment process has now seen this car free of diesel bug and back driving problem-free once again.

The owner of the vehicle also decided to keep using the Envirotek EDC product it at a ratio of 1:2000 (75L tank = 37.5mL) on every tank full to ensure the problem doesn't return again and keep his vehicle in best possible condition at all times.

For more information call Envirotek on **1300 584 665** or go to envirotek.net.au

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