

**Fuel Containing 10% Ethanol
E10 Ethanol Fuel Guidelines****Contents**

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1. Fuel Containing 10% Ethanol

Many areas of the country now have mandates in effect for oxygenated fuel and are introducing fuel that contains 10% ethanol, sometimes referred to as "E10 fuel". Users of STIHL power equipment are becoming concerned that these fuels will damage their equipment's engine. With a minor amount of care and a little preventative maintenance, fuel containing 10% ethanol can be used in STIHL power equipment.

Oxygenated and E10 fuel is designed to burn cleaner and reduce air pollutants. These fuels have been available in regional areas of the country for many years and are becoming more common throughout Australia.

2. Guidelines for Using E10 Fuel

If the proper precautions are taken, fuel containing a 10% quantity of ethanol should not generally cause a problem in STIHL products. The following simple precautions will help to avoid major engine damage when using today's 10% ethanol blended fuel in STIHL power equipment engines.

- Make sure the carburettor is adjusted properly for the fuel that is being used. Oxygenated fuel and fuel containing ethanol has a tendency to "lean out" the carburettor mixture when compared to non-oxygenated fuels. A slight carburettor adjustment may be needed.

- Use good quality oil designed for use in air-cooled mix lubricated engines. All STIHL oils readily mix with fuel containing 10% ethanol.
- Keep your fuel fresh. Only buy enough fuel that you can easily use up in a two-month time period.
- Shake your fuel container well, not only when first mixing the oil, but also every time before you fill up your equipment. This is a good habit to get into and will help keep the oil well dispersed in the fuel.
- Properly store your equipment. If your equipment is not going to be used for 60 days or more, the remaining fuel that is in the machine should be drained from the tank and properly disposed of. This will ensure that you will not have fuel going stale in the tank and gathering moisture.
- Water or condensation in the fuel container storage can, or the machine's fuel tank can cause ethanol to separate from the fuel/oil mix. If this occurs, the ethanol will settle to the bottom of the tank and will have little or no lubrication mixed with it. Using this separated mixture will cause overheating, engine running problems, piston seizures, or other major engine damage. It is important to keep a fresh mixture and to avoid getting water in the fuel. If this occurs, the fuel should not be used and properly disposed of. Engine damage caused by water/moisture and separation of ethanol from the fuel/oil mixture is not covered by STIHL's Limited Warranty Policy.

Stihl Pty Ltd Technical Information

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- Equipment should be checked over periodically by a STIHL dealer. Items such as fuel filters, tank lines, carburettor diaphragms, and spark plugs should be checked and replaced if necessary as part of a normal engine tune-up.

3. Summary

There are quite a few myths surrounding ethanol containing fuels. By following the guidelines previously mentioned, you can use fuel that contains 10% ethanol in STIHL power equipment.

Fuel containing higher than 10% ethanol content (e.g. 85% ethanol-E85) cannot be used in STIHL power equipment. Doing so will cause major engine damage and is not covered by STIHL's Warranty Policy.