

Why Fresh Fuel Matters

Fresh Fuel Can Save You Time, Money and Frustration

One of the most common causes of equipment problems we see in our workshop isn't a major mechanical failure. In many cases, it comes down to something much simpler – old or poor-quality fuel.

Modern fuel doesn't last forever. Even when stored in a fuel container, petrol can begin to deteriorate over time. As fuel breaks down, it can create issues throughout the fuel system and affect how your equipment starts, runs and performs.

Whether you're using a chainsaw, brushcutter, blower, mower or ride-on mower, using fresh fuel is one of the easiest ways to help protect your equipment.

What Happens to Old Fuel?

Over time, petrol can lose its effectiveness and begin to leave deposits throughout the fuel system.

This can lead to:

- Hard starting
- Poor performance
- Rough running
- Reduced power
- Fuel system blockages
- Carburettor issues
- Increased workshop costs

Equipment that sits unused for extended periods is often the most affected.

Many machines only get used seasonally or during certain times of the year. Unfortunately, fuel left sitting in the tank for months can often create problems before the machine is even started.

Not All Equipment Is Used the Same

A contractor using equipment every day may cycle through fuel quickly and rarely experience fuel-related issues.

However, many homeowners, acreage owners and rural property owners use their equipment less frequently.

This means fuel may sit in the tank or fuel container for longer periods, increasing the risk of deterioration.

Understanding how often your equipment is used can help determine the best fuel management practices for your situation.

Signs Fuel May Be Causing Problems

Some common warning signs include:

- Equipment that was running fine previously but now won't start
- Excessive pulling on the starter cord
- Engine surging or hunting

- Poor throttle response
- Equipment stalling unexpectedly
- Difficulty restarting after use

While these symptoms can have other causes, fuel quality is often one of the first things worth checking.

Simple Ways to Avoid Fuel Problems

Fortunately, preventing fuel-related issues is usually straightforward.

Use Fresh Fuel

Purchase fuel from a reputable supplier and avoid storing it for extended periods where possible. (Not longer than a month is a good general rule)

Store Fuel Correctly

Keep fuel in approved containers and store it in a cool, dry location away from direct sunlight.

Follow Manufacturer Recommendations

Different equipment may have different fuel requirements. Always refer to the manufacturer's recommendations for your machine.

Use Equipment Regularly

Running equipment regularly can help keep fuel moving through the system and reduce the chance of problems developing.

Only Fill Tank Half Way

Only fuelling with as much fuel as you need or emptying the fuel tank after use, can help reduce the chance of problems developing.

Don't Ignore Early Warning Signs

If your equipment starts becoming harder to start or isn't performing as it should, addressing the issue early can often prevent larger repairs later.

What We See In The Workshop

Fuel-related issues are among the most common problems we encounter.

In many cases, customers believe their equipment has suffered a major failure when the actual issue is stale fuel, fuel contamination or deposits within the fuel system.

The good news is that many of these issues are preventable with good fuel management and regular servicing.

Related Equipment

Fresh fuel is important for a wide range of outdoor power equipment, including:

- Chainsaws
- Brushcutters
- Blowers
- Hedge trimmers
- Push mowers
- Ride-on mowers

- Zero-turn mowers
- Pumps
- Generators

No matter the brand, all petrol-powered equipment benefits from clean, fresh fuel and proper storage practices.

Need Help?

If your equipment is becoming difficult to start, running poorly or has been sitting unused for an extended period, our team may be able to help identify the cause.

Regular servicing, proper fuel management and routine inspections can help keep your equipment performing at its best and reduce the likelihood of avoidable repairs.

An Alternative Option – Pre-Mixed Fuels

For customers who use their equipment less frequently, pre-mixed fuels can be worth considering.

Products such as STIHL MotoMix are manufactured fuel blends designed specifically for outdoor power equipment. Unlike standard pump fuel, they offer a much longer storage life when stored correctly and can help reduce some of the issues associated with stale fuel.

Potential benefits include:

- Longer fuel storage life
- Consistent fuel quality
- Reduced risk of fuel deterioration
- Convenient ready-to-use mix
- Suitable for occasional users who may not regularly use large quantities of fuel

Many customers with chainsaws, brushcutters, hedge trimmers and blowers find pre-mixed fuel particularly useful because their equipment may only be used seasonally or for specific jobs throughout the year.

While fresh pump fuel remains suitable when managed correctly, pre-mixed fuels can provide an alternative option for those looking to simplify fuel storage and maintenance.



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