



# The Quick Guide to Biodiesel



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### What is biodiesel?

Biodiesel is diesel fuel made from plants and other biological materials. The most common form of biodiesel is FAME (Fatty Acid Methyl Ester). However, biodiesel is rarely used in its pure form.

### How is biodiesel used?

Biodiesel is added to petrochemical diesel to make the fuels we use. Different 'B' numbers are used to designate how much biodiesel the fuel contains: B7 uses 7% biodiesel, B20 uses 20% biodiesel, and so on.

### Why is biodiesel used?

New fuel types have been developed in response to our desire to reduce the cost and environmental impact of diesel power. As with so many changes made with the best intentions, the introduction of biodiesel leaves many commercial and domestic users confused.

### Why does biodiesel present a problem?

Biodiesel is more vulnerable to contamination than petrochemical diesel because it has a higher water content.

Water causes two problems: it can damage engines during the combustion process and it encourages the growth of microbial contamination (a.k.a. the diesel bug) in storage tanks.

Please refer to OEM's Quick Guide on how a fuel maintenance programme addresses this problem.

### Is contamination a real or theoretical risk?

OEM serves organisations that provide critical power to oil and gas platforms hospitals, government facilities, military installations, banks, datacentres and other commercial sites.

When mains power fails these sites already face severe problems. They cannot afford any possibility that their backup power will fail too. Because biodiesel is so easily contaminated it is unquestionably a potential point of failure.

### Are there other types of contamination?

When it is stored, biodiesel suffers from the same forms of particulate contamination as petrochemical diesel: rust, dirt, wax, sand, clay, asphaltines, colloid carbon, etc.

OEM's Diesel Defence fuel polishing systems combat particulate and water-based contamination.

### How can you detect contaminated?

Testing! A comprehensive fuel maintenance programme includes regular tank-side testing to ensure your fuel can run your generators.

Please refer to OEM's Quick Guide on fuel maintenance programmes.

### Other Quick Guides

- Fuel Maintenance Programmes
- Fuel Testing
- Fuel Polishing
- Diesel Defence on-tank fuel polishing
- Fuel polishing buggies
- Tank cleaning

