Using biodiesel blends

Can biodiesel blends be used in non-vehicle engines?

Biodiesel blends can be used in many diesel engines, including earth moving equipment, tractors, generators and boats. If you have any doubts, check the equipment handbook or with the equipment supplier.

Storing biodiesel blends

Biodiesel blends should be looked after in same way as ordinary diesel. They should be stored in closed containers, in cool and dark spaces. Store for no longer than three months, otherwise they may absorb moisture from the air.

Some simple tips

When you first start using a biodiesel blend, follow these simple tips. To make it as easy as possible, these can be done when your diesel engine is next serviced.

1 Change your fuel filter
   Because biodiesel blends have stronger cleaning properties than diesel, they can loosen dirt and carry it through to the fuel filter. If your fuel filter hasn’t been changed recently, it should be changed after the first few fills of a biodiesel blend.

2 Check your fuel system
   If your fuel system is old or in poor condition, it may be worth flushing it out before using a biodiesel blend. A mechanic can easily do this for you.

Want to know more?

Visit the ENERGYWISE™ website at www.energywise.govt.nz for information about this new fuel, and to find out where you can buy it.
One of the easiest things New Zealand drivers can do to help the environment is to use sustainable biofuels. Switching from fossil fuels to biofuels results in fewer greenhouse gas emissions, so your choice of fuel can help fight climate change, without compromising how your vehicle performs.

**What biofuels are and how they help**

Biofuels are produced from renewable material, such as plants, used cooking oils and fats, instead of from fossil fuels.

Biofuels usually come in the form of biodiesel (as an alternative to diesel) and bioethanol (as an alternative to petrol). Biofuels are normally used as a blend with ordinary diesel or petrol.

**What are biodiesel blends?**

Biodiesel is similar to ordinary diesel, but it is made from vegetable oils or animal fats. When biodiesel is mixed with ordinary diesel it is called a biodiesel blend.

Biodiesel blends are often referred to as B5 or B20. These names relate to the percentage of biodiesel in the blend. B5 means 5% of the blend is biodiesel, and the remainder is ordinary diesel.

Biodiesel is available for retail sale in New Zealand in blends of up to 5%. Some commercial customers who buy fuel in bulk may use higher blends of biodiesel. Higher percentage blends are not permitted for retail sale.

**A good choice for the environment**

New Zealand is known for being clean and green, and biodiesel blends will increase New Zealand’s use of renewable energy, while reducing our reliance on imported fossil fuels.

Biodiesel blends have many benefits. They:
- help reduce New Zealand’s overall emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is the main gas contributing to global climate change.
- are cleaner burning fuels, and help improve air quality.
- are more biodegradable than ordinary diesel.
- have good combustion and lubrication properties, making them good for your engine as well as for the environment.

Biodiesel available in New Zealand is from sustainably produced sources. For more information on the sustainability of biofuels sold in New Zealand please visit [www.energywise.govt.nz](http://www.energywise.govt.nz)

**Biodiesel is widely used**

Over 100 million vehicles around the world are regularly filling up on biodiesel blends. Biodiesel has been proven to be safe and reliable around the world and it is now available to Kiwi motorists.

**Biodiesel blends: Using B5 in my vehicle**

Virtually all diesel engine vehicles can use biodiesel blends of up to 5% without any engine or fuel system modifications. EECA recommends you check with the vehicle or engine manufacturer about using biodiesel blends in your vehicle.

Any reference to biodiesel in the owner’s handbook may be in relation to 100% biodiesel, rather than a B5 blend, as some countries retail 100% biodiesel. This can also be confirmed with the manufacturer.

Contact details for vehicle manufacturer representatives can be found in the owner’s handbook or online at the vehicle manufacturer’s New Zealand website.

You can be confident about the quality of biodiesel blends for sale in New Zealand as they must meet fuel specifications regulated by the government, just like ordinary diesel. B5 must meet the same specifications as ordinary diesel, such as those relating to fuel performance in cold temperatures.

You can switch between using biodiesel blends and ordinary diesel in your vehicle at any time.